



2008 Mahogany St. Ste 3  
Mora, MN 55051  
320-679-1391  
Deanna@Kanabecswcd.org

## COLA Meeting Outcomes July 13<sup>th</sup>, 5-6 pm, 2023

Meeting at Kanabec Soil & Water Office  
or remotely via. Google (login on below)  
Kanabec County - Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA)  
Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

### Kanabec Lakes & Rivers:

Ann Lake Watershed Alliance  
Fish Lake Improvement Assn.  
Knife Lake Improvement District  
Lewis Lake Property Owners' Assn.  
Mora Lake  
Pomroy Lake Assn.  
Quamba Lake Assn.  
Kanabec Rivers

**Kanabec County COLA Identity:** Concerned citizens of the lakes in Kanabec County working towards better water quality for the common good. Focusing on preventing the introduction and limiting the spread of AIS.

Civic Organizing Purpose: To broaden governing responsibility to include those impacted, but not replacing existing governing responsibilities of board members and supervisors.

In Attendance: Deanna Pomije, Jon Sanford, Kanabec SWCD; Oren Larson, Lewis Lake; Kevin & LuAnn Johnson, Knife Lake; Chris Jahnke, Pomroy; Ray Penwarden, Ann Lake; Paul Weingart, Kanabec Rivers

\*Remote attendees

### **Agenda Items:**

1. Call Meeting to Order 5:00PM – Sanford chaired the meeting
  - Pledge to the Flag
2. \*Approve Agenda – Any additions...

Johnson motioned to approve the agenda as is, seconded by Weingart, motion passed.

3. \*Approve outcomes, May 18, 2023 - corrections and additions

Johnson motioned to approve the 5/18/23 meeting outcomes as is, seconded by Penwarden, motion passed.

4. \*Treasurer's Report & Expenses  
Any invoices from Lake Associations?

Pomije provided a brief summary on the treasurer's report. The boat inspector salary and mileage has been added to the report as a running total on these expenses throughout the summer.

Penwarden motioned to approve the 7/13/23 treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Weingart, motion passed.

5. Ambassador Training input – Pomije sought input from the group on their wants and interest for ambassador training, possibly for early next spring. No overwhelming interest was seen. Will plan to ask again come early next spring.
6. Fair booth preparations, July 27-30<sup>th</sup> – Booth Volunteers Needed  
A partially filled in booth sign up sheet was passed around. Thank you for Volunteering!
7. Boat Inspector Update – Three boat inspectors are trained and now working weekends at our boat accesses. Three seems to be a good number of inspectors to allow for more access coverage while also providing more flexible time off for them when needed.
8. Self-Service Sign Update – Steph in our office is working with the DNR to finalize the DNR approved sign design before sending to them to Blue Star Graphics in Mora for making them. It's unsure if these signs will be ready for this summer's boating season.
9. Blue-Green Algae on Knife – Pomije updated the group on the confirmed blue-green algae on Knife Lake. The health dept. installed a warning sign by order of the sheriff for no swimming. Knife Lake sees blue-green algae every summer. Others mentioned whether they see blue-green algae on their lakes and their concerns for dealing with it. A Sonic Waves device was mentioned as an option to deal with algae control.

Weingart asked for an update on the Snake River planning effort. Pomije mentioned that the plan is approved and being adopted currently by the watershed govt. partners. Currently working with the eight partners in formulating the partnership organization in preparation for seeking the funds to begin implementation. We anticipate seeking / receiving the funds before the end of 2023. With the start of the plan's implementation, we anticipate hiring an additional watershed staff person. The plan's primary tier 1 lake focus will be for Fish, Ann, Pokegama and Cross Lakes. Quamba and Knife Lakes are tier 2 focus in about 5 years down the road.

10. Update on Bait Bags (Johnson) – Johnson provided an update on his visiting the local (6) bait shops to distributing AIS educational materials (posters, bait bags) and talk with them on their interest in sharing this with their customers. He said this material has been well received. He plans to make multiple visits with them throughout the summer for follow-up. Thank you, Kevin for volunteering to do this leg-work for us in spreading the AIS message!

#### **Lake Assn. Check-Ins / Discussion:**

- ✓ Ann Lake: Penwarden said their spraying for curly-leaf pondweed resulted in a successful die off this year. They can now access a new bay on the lake. He described briefly the presentation they heard on the core sample study that was completed in 2022. Mark Edlund from the Science Museum of MN did a great job presenting and explaining the study and lake processes. Ann Lake's Paleolimnological Study was completed by the St. Croix Watershed Research Station with funding from the MN Pollution Control Agency.
- ✓ Pomroy Lake: Jahnke mentioned he is waiting to hear back on a vegetative survey done on the lake on whether or not there is a concern with curly-leaf pondweed and their AIS available funds. If they do not have curly-leaf pondweed they will consider again turning back their AIS funds. He inquired about the cost per acre to spray. Others shared their cost for spraying. Walleye fry have been stocked on the lake and additional rocks have been added to the access landing.

- ✓ Knife Lake: Their spraying of curly-leaf pondweed this year had good results. Their plant delineation accounted for 50 acres with that same amount sprayed. Toward the end of June they are planning their nuisance weed spraying with ~230 landowners who signed up for this service.
- ✓ Lewis Lake: Oren mentioned they are seeing black blobs in their south bay. Their lake's water monitoring from this year is showing Chlorophyll-a and phosphorus levels up, but this may be due to sampling error. He brought up for discussion their lack of a portable toilet at the access this year. It was shared that the DNR had to cut back on accesses with portable toilet because of lack of funds. They are now required to install only Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible portable toilets, which are more expensive. The DNR will accept donations to go toward boat access toilets. The boat inspector, Renell attended their association meeting July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Pomije inquired if the group would like a presentation from DNR staff early next spring on the DNR process / protocol / best management practices for control of curly-leaf pondweed. Yes, there was interest in seeing this presented next spring.

#### **Other Items:**

- Open Public Comment Period
- Meeting Evaluation / Share around the table – How did things go? Were you heard? Did the agenda items get covered?
- Next scheduled meeting: **Oct. 12, 2023**, from 5-6pm, in person meeting SWCD Office or remotely with Google Meet  
It was suggested to move up the 2024 AIS budget to the Dec. COLA meeting instead of Dec.

Johnson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:13 pm, seconded by Jahnke, motion passed.

#### **Civic Standards:**

1. All those impacted by the problem are stakeholders. Together they define the problem, set goals and work toward solutions as active citizens.
2. The stakeholders are accountable for contributing resources (leadership/time, knowledge, constituencies and dollars) to solve the problem for the common good.
3. All stakeholders are engaged in making decisions and policies that contribute to the common good.
4. All stakeholders agree to be transparent throughout this process. We agree to implement policies where we individually have the authority to act.