**Becker County COLA Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, October 12th, 2017, Holiday Inn Detroit Lakes, MN

**Attendees:**

Rich Cieslak - Buffalo, Rice & Rock Tim DeJong – Upper Cormorant

Ken Mattson - Big Sugarbush Howard Anderson – Bad Medicine

Steve Odegaard - Big Sugarbush John Flatt – Fox Lake

Bob Beckman - Big Sugarbush Karl Koenig – BC SWCD AIS Coordinator

Don Maristuen - Long Lake Kelly Blackledge – Guest

Kenneth Shroyer – Fox Lake Ray Vlasak – Guest Speaker

John Nipp – Toad Lake Jen Thompson – Island Lake

Peter Thoreen - Round Lake Rachel Moen - Pearl

Jules and Dave DuVall - Cotton Lake Wanda Roden - Melissa/Sallie

Gene Boyle – Turtle Lake

5:30 Highlights from Lake Sharing:

6:00 President Jen Thompson called meeting to order.

6:10 **Kelly Blackledge**, provided an update on the Tamarac Wildlife Refuge Education Program. Kelly commented that Tamarac is active all year long with the mission to educate the public on wildlife. She said that they have added an aquatic education program. Kelly also indicated an interest in getting interested parties together, to strategically discuss what environmental programs are available and areas of educational needs within the county. She encouraged everyone to visit their website, and volunteer if possible, as many volunteers are needed to run the different programs. Look under “get involved” on the Tamaracfriends.org website.

6:20 **Ray Vlasak** presented information on the past, present, and future initiatives surrounding the Bad Medicine Lake Area Foundation and the creation of Aquatic Management Areas (AMAs).

7:10 **Reports:**

Secretary report: Jules DuVall made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Rich Cieslak seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by membership present.

Rachel Moen handed out the financial report. Gene Boyle made a motion to approve the 2018 Interim Budget. Report was approved by the membership present. Rachel also reported that all Lake Associations had paid their 2017 dues.

Larry Anderson reported on the Sucker Creek/Pelican River educational project that he helped conduct for 9th graders along with Steve Foder. Larry recommended that we invite Sally Hausken (Sucker Creek advocate) to speak at one of our 2018 meetings.

A discussion followed which focused on providing more money in the 2018 budget to accommodate school programs. All members agreed that we should make this adjustment.

Karl Koenig, AIS Coordinator for Becker County, is looking for 2018 inspectors. He would like to expand inspectors to other lakes, but needs more people to do this.

He is working with Lund boats to, hopefully, get a mini boat for AIS demo purposes.

Jen reported that she had the minutes from the 25 by 2025 meeting that she had attended in Detroit Lakes.

A written report was provided by Jules and David DuVall regarding the 2017 AIS Showcase that was held in St. Paul, MN. Jules, David, Larry Anderson, and Karl Koenig attended the conference. All reported on the highlights of that meeting.

Jen reminded everyone that the AIS Summit III would be held in Minneapolis on February 28 – March 1, 2018. A discussion followed with Dave DuVall making a final motion for BC COLA to reimburse up to $75 for mileage and up to $130 - $150 for 2 nights of lodging for Becker County COLA members attending the conference. ($375.00 max per person with a total budget set of $2000). Karl Koenig stated that Becker County SWCD would be willing to reimburse for the registration fee. Motion carried unanimously.

We are looking for people to help establish the COLA website. Please let us know if you are interested in helping.

The nominating of 2018 officers resulted in the following:

Jennifer Heitman Thompson will remain as President for one more year.

Jules DuVall made a motion to elect Rich Cieslak as Vice President. Motion carried.

Rachel Moen agreed to take on the responsibility of Treasurer for one more year. Motion carried.

Wanda Roden agreed to take on the responsibility of Secretary for one more year. Motion carried.

Don Maristuen asked that all nominations cease.

Jen presented each Lake Association with a copy of the AIS Identification Guide handbook. COLA purchased 30 books, with each Association to receive one copy. BCSWCD shared in the price of the books. The website for ordering additional books is <https://www.bookstores.umn.edu>

A survey was provided for all attendees to complete. Results of the survey will be presented at the May 2018 COLA meeting. During a discussion that followed, all meeting attendees felt that we should cancel the April meeting and continue holding an October meeting.

8:20 Meeting Adjourned

Minutes submitted by Jules DuVall and Wanda Roden