Stearns County COLA AIS Committee has been hard at work meeting with the Stearns County Commissioners. Tom Weber, from Pirz Lake Association and the Vice President of the Stearns County COLA (SCC) and Kevin Farnum, KLA board member and SCC committee member went before the commissioner’s office earlier this year to request:

- a county wide AIS plan be developed
- to have a fund set up that can be used by watersheds, LGU or lake associations to help prevent the spread of AIS into our lakes and throughout the county
- to develop a budget for AIS.

As an outcome of these meetings, Chelle Benson, Director of Environmental Services, was asked to work with the SCC AIS Committee to investigate the need for a plan and budget. In June/July we received news that the state passed the bill that gave the counties of Minnesota $10,000,000 to use in the fight against AIS. The focus is now on developing the AIS plan which is needed in order for the county to accept and/or pass a resolution to accept the funds.

SCC AIS Committee continues to meet to develop a strategy and to bring key individuals up to speed on AIS and AIS law in the state. A sub committee was established to included additional stakeholders to move this effort forward. The next meeting is October 14th. The goal of the meeting will be to get everyone on the same page with the AIS issues and laws and establish a county wide plan on how the state AIS money gets used and distributed.

RLA Board Members, Susan Anderson and Ralph Klassen met with Stearns County Commissioner, Steve Notch, to discuss issues of importance to Rice Lake property owners. Steve Notch was very aware of the issues confronting lake property owners and shared his concerns. He recommended attending the Stearns County Board meeting in September while budget discussions were in progress to ensure our requests for specific funding were considered for next year.

During the Stearns County Board meeting on September 23rd, Susan Anderson addressed the Board and requested:

- more funding for Environmental Services for more inspections and enforcement of feedlot rules and runoff regulations to address water quality
- more funding for AIS inspections and decontamination options to keep AIS out of Stearns County lakes.

Ralph Klassen addressed the Board and requested:

- more funding for Environmental Services for educational outreach programs to assist farmers with implementation of agricultural Best Management Practices (BMP).
The RLA Annual Breakfast meeting was held on August 9th at Camp Ojibway. Over 110 members attended. Thanks everyone for the great turnout and support. Susan Anderson, President of the RLA, provided opening comments and updates on Vegetation Study and the Lake Management Plan.

Greg Berg, from Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), spoke about the Shoreline Restoration Grant and the Storm-water Reduction Project that will focus on Rice Lake neighborhoods between Fishers Resort and Morning Star. The projects are an effort to reduce nutrients coming into the lake from storm-water runoff. Greg Berg explained that a significant reduction of nutrients (62%) would be needed to remove Rice Lake from the impaired lake list. Greg shared a number of examples of rain gardens and shoreline restorations that were implemented successfully on nearby lakes. Lake properties owners that are interested in learning more about how they can create rain gardens and/or natural shoreline buffers can contact Greg Berg at greg.berg@mn.nacdnet.net

Facts to know about the project:
- The grant pays for 75% of the cost.
- A covenant is noted on the property deed - can enhance property value
- The portion or area of the property improved does not change ownership or become property of the State or County

Josh Reed, NFCRWD Administrator, provided updates on Watershed Activities. See full NFCRWD update on projects by Chris Lundeen, page 3.

Many prizes were distributed during the meeting by prize drawing “MC” Marge Taylor, with assistance from Al Schmidtbauer. A special thanks to Dewey Eberhardt and Ross Amundson for securing donations and cash prizes.

$50 Cash Prize Winners—Congratulations:
- Sue Larson
- Peter Kenefick
- Elroy Seifert
- Cindy Unterberger
- David Laufenburger
- Julie Moorhead Miller
- Ray Van Brunt
- Mary Jo Wieseler

A big THANK YOU to all the business merchants that were so generous with their prize contributions!!!

- Bank of the West
- Central Minnesota Credit Union
- Farmers and Merchant Bank
- State Bank of Eden Valley
- Rich Springs Golf Club
- Koronis Golf Club
- River Oaks Golf Club
- Fisher’s Resort
- Valley Inn Restaurant
- Dino’s Eden Lake Inn
- Speak Easy Restaurant
- Queen Bee’s Restaurant
- MD’s Bar & Grill
- Wishing Well Café
- Dairy Queen
- Sweet Nook Bakery
- Cold Spring Bakery
- Pitschka’s Café
- Jerry’s Meats
- Flag Pole Company
- Nathe’s Sporting Goods
- Wimmer Landscaping
- Alco
- John Deer
- Teal’s Market
- M&M Lumber, Eden Valley Lumber
- Ugly Tom’s
- Jacklitch Chiropractic
- Channel Marine
- Paynesville Fleet Supply
- A&C Farm Services
- Yarmon Ford
- NuCara Pharmacy
- Paynesville Chevrolet
What’s New

RLA Facebook Reminder

Our Facebook page is up and running and is a great way for the RLA Board and members to communicate. We need more members to check out the site and be a friend and post. This is a great forum for members to communicate with each other, ask questions or make suggestions by posting.

All you need to do is just go to your Facebook page and search in the space “Find Friends” Rice Lake Association- Stearns County’. Then Like us on Facebook and post information and photos you would like to share with other Rice Lake property owners.

RLA New Board Members—Welcome

Jeff Blankenheim joined the RLA Board in July. Jeff lives in Maple Grove, MN, with his wife Sue and their two adult daughters Andrea and Beth. Jeff and Sue are originally from Madison, WI and moved to Minneapolis in the late 70’s. Jeff worked at Canteen Corporation until joining Sue in her manufacturer’s rep business, Omin-Tronics, Inc. in 1994. They work together on their business selling equipment to the circuit board assemble market. Since 1997, they have enjoyed fishing, boating and sunsets at their seasonal cabin on the south shore of Rice Lake.

Peter Anton was elected to the RLA Board at the Annual Meeting in August. Peter and his wife Bridget live in Minneapolis but spend many spring, summer and fall days at their cabin on Rice Lake Road. They have been on the lake for 19 years, enjoying swimming, boating and fishing with their children, Claire and Nick. Since retiring a few years ago, Peter has spent more time at the cabin and has become an avid fisherman, skilled in catching walleye and northern.

Resigning Board Member

The RLA board would like to extend a special thanks to Cheryl Schmidt for the 3 years she served on the RLA board. Cheryl dedicated her time to managing the association’s membership related activities. We appreciate all the work she did and wish her well.
North Fork Crow River Watershed
By Chris Lundeen

The NFCRWD is currently working on 2 large wetland restoration projects north of Brooten, these projects will reduce nutrients entering the NFCR. Both projects should be started late this year or early next year. We are currently looking for more wetland restoration project locations to use up grant funds.

The watershed hired 5 AIS boat inspectors for the 2014 season. The inspectors worked approximately 38 hours a week during the summer months at Grove, Koronis and Rice Lakes. As of August 31, we have spent 1586 hours inspecting at Lake Koronis, 688.25 hours at Rice Lake and 164.75 hours at Grove Lake. On summer weekends the Watershed along with a DNR intern, covered all 6 major boat accesses in the NFCRWD. The boat inspections will continue into October.

The Watershed is also working on installing agricultural BMPs, partnering with local Counties on lake shore stabilization projects and is continually taking water quality samples and education efforts in the District. The NFCRWD is currently working on applying for 2015 BWSR grants. The NFCRWD current ditch projects include, ditch redetermination, which will then have ditch buffers established on the ditch system, continual beaver dam removal, buffer maintenance and ditch cleanouts as needed.

Commissioner Contacts

WE NEED YOU!

RLA has been voicing concerns to the commissioners but we need you to write or call as well. So please contact the commissioner’s office with your environmental concerns.

Commissioner (Chair), Mark Bromenschenkel
Mark.bromenschenkel@co.stearns.mn.us

Commissioner (Third District) Jeff Mergan:
21808 Fellows Road, Richmond, MN 56368
Home (320) 597 3247, cell (320) 293 2111,
jeff.mergen@co.stearns.mn.us

Thank you to all those who continue to work on the AIS Group and Stearns County COLA.

RICE LAKE ASSOCIATION TREASURER’S REPORT

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1-1-2014 to 9-30-2014

JANUARY 1, 2014   CHECKBOOK BALANCE $ 3,417.36

INCOME

- 2015 Membership (3) $ 75.00
- 2014 Membership (160) $ 6,692.48
- 2013 Membership (1) $ 48.25
- Annual Meeting Prizes $ 400.00
- Watercraft Inspection $ 131.70
- Water Quality Projects $ 533.34

TOTAL INCOME $ 7,880.77

EXPENSES

- Scholarship $ (250.00)
- Meeting Expense $ (301.70)
- Printing - Newsletter, Post cards $ (178.60)
- Postage $ (257.45)
- Office Supplies - Labels, etc $ (478.23)
- Aquatic Veg Study $ (1,421.00)
- MN Lakes & Rivers Membership $ (200.00)
- Water Analysis -
- Domain /Website $ (672.00)
- Boat Check $ (2,500.00)
- Annual Meeting $ (1,450.00)

TOTAL EXPENSES $ (7,708.98)

SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 CHECKBOOK BALANCE $ 3,589.15

September 30, 2014 CENTRAL MN CD $ 1,012.85
September 30, 2014 BANK OF WEST SAVINGS $ 1,524.13

TOTAL ASSOCIATION FUNDS $ 6,126.13
**BOARDS Minutes**

**August 16, 2014:**

Board members discussed the annual breakfast meeting and the great effort that Eberhardt put into collecting prizes for the meeting. Board agreed to send out thank you notes and acknowledgements to business merchants. Peter Anton was nominated and elected to the board during the annual meeting. A follow-up item from the annual meeting was to provide a list of shoreline contractors to property owners. Anderson to contact Greg Berg to get updated list and post it on the RLA website. Feedback from members at the annual meeting suggested that it ran too long. Board discussed restricting the agenda to one speaker and facilitating within the timeline. Board discussed how to move forward contacting property owners within the grant zone for the shoreline restoration project. Henry to look into organizing a meeting possibly at Fisher’s in September. Further clarification is needed to explain to property owners how the covenant works. Keane volunteered to write the covenant into common language to give to property owners in the grant zone. The Board approved to pay $2,500 towards AIS inspection programs. Wieseler volunteered to organize the roadside cleanup for September 20th. Treasurer’s report was reviewed and approved. Membership count is 160. Cheryl Schmidt resigned from Board.

**September 13, 2014:**

A list of lakeshore property owners in the grant zone for the shoreline restoration project was provided to Greg Berg for him to contact property owners eligible for the grant. Berg and Keane to work on plain language version of the deed covenant. Board agreed to send a RLA letter to property owners on fact based information and the benefits of participating in the project. Anderson and Klassen met with Stearns County Commissioner, Steve Notch to discuss AIS planning/funding and enforcing feedlot regulations. Anderson and Klassen plan to attend the Stearns County Board Meeting September 23rd to present funding requests. Treasurer’s report was read and approved. Blankenheim asked about installing another water level measuring post at Fisher’s Resort. Anderson to email Fecht again to request second measuring device to be installed. A question was posted on Facebook page about availability of apparel with the RLA logo. Further discussion in progress.

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**Farewell to a Special Guy**

We will miss Al Henry who joined a few of his lake neighbor buddies in heaven during September. Al served as President of the Rice Lake Association in the 1990’s and contributed significantly to lake improvement efforts. He was a great neighbor to all. Al was known for his expertise in fishing and spent countless hours on the lake enjoying the excitement of the catch. His smile greeted many and he always had a great story to tell, not all of them being fish tales. He was very involved with charitable organizations and had such a big heart, always embracing a good cause and helping those less fortunate. He was an inspiration to many with his positive attitude and great outlook on life. He blessed his family and friends with many wonderful memories to hold close.

A special poem was written in honor of Al

**Think of Me When....**

by Charmaine Taylor-Booth

Think of me when….You hear the cry of the loon
Think of me when….You see the moonlight on the lake
Think of me when….You taste fresh fish—caught and cooked in the same weekend
Think of me when….You feel the lap of the lake on your ankles
Think of me when….You smell the newly mown lawn
Close your eyes and think of me and be happy for me—for now I rest at peace
Catch of the day

Competing Generations

Rice Lake is known for its great fishing. So great in fact, even the little ones want in on the action. Liv, who is 2 years old, had a very exciting experience catching her very first fish on Rice Lake. Look closely the fish is on her line and it was the perfect size for Liv to reel in. Grandpa Mike only wishes he could have landed such a great catch.

Is it Moonshine or Beef? A Little Rice Lake History

An interesting article appeared in the Eden Valley newspaper about mason jars possible filled with moonshine found on the shores of our very own Rice Lake. According to the newspaper article, there were four mason jars found and dug up on the beach at the home of Linda and Robb Hoiseth who are part of our RLA community and live on Rice Lake. Historians may know the stories told about Al Capone hanging around this area and farms close to Rice Lake. In the book, Minnesota 13, by Elaine Davis, there is a reference to the town of Holdingford being the place to go for moonshine and the moonshine capital. However, one of the jars found was marked as “Beef 50”. The Hosieth’s asked the Historical Society who thought the content might be beef instead of moonshine because 65 years ago there was an artisan well close by to this site and people would bury their canned meats to preserve them and keep them cold. The Holseith plan to do more research to find out what’s really in those mystery jars!

Trivia on Rice Lake——on the pontoon

Do you have any idea how many pontoon boats reside on Rice Lake? An interesting trivia question. Our resident counter cruised the Lake on August 22nd and discovered how many pontoon boats were on Rice Lake. Thanks Mike! Answer on page 8
The summer seemed to go by very quickly. It was a summer filled with a lot of fun and various events around the lake. Family, friends and neighbors took advantage of fun in the sun, swimming, barbecuing campfires and boating. We were challenged with high water for most of June and the beginning of July with a no wake restriction in place for part of the month to protect our shorelines. The 4th of July boat parade was cancelled, but will return next year.

There is a group of lake property owners that meet in Roscoe every Monday for “Burger” night. This group is a great resource for suggestions and feedback on lake related topics. A number of these individuals volunteer their time for RLA related activities and set a great example in our community as responsible lake property owners. Thanks to all of you for volunteering your time and being so passionate about great causes in our community. **From Left to Right:** Richard and Tina Tomlinson, Al and Donnella Schmidtbaue, John and Mary Kay Hanson, Ray and Vonda Van Brunt, Dewey and Sharon Eberhardt, Dennis and Darlene Urbanski, Dave Gay, Marge Taylor, Ron and Joyce Goebel. Not pictured, Kathy Gay, Ted and Kathy Durkee, Ed and Barbara Bies, Tom and Sheryl Peterson.
| James & Beverly | Almquist | Richard, Jean, Lon & Joyce | Gobell | Jerry & Diane | Milles | Paul & Pearl | Almquist | Sue | Greening | Marvin & Julie | Moorhead Miller |
|-----------------|----------|---------------------------|--------|--------------|-------| Walter & Sharon | Alms | Gordon & Dorothy | Griesmann | Neumann |
| Arliss          | Anderson | Thomas & Linda            | Haag   | Ken & Trudy  | Nielsen |
| Kent & Susan    | Anderson | Les & Melva               | Haala  | Wayne & Carol | Nierenhausen |
| Pam             | Anderson | Mary                      | Haidler| Ivan & Jean  | Nohner |
| James & DuDonne | Andrie   | Mark                      | Halbkat| Roger & Pam  | Osborne |
| Marion & Emil   | Angelica | John & Heather            | Hanks  | Tom & Karen  | Peterson |
| Peter & Bridget | Anton    | Gerald & Patricia         | Hanks  | Tom & Shylene| Peterson |
| Ronald & Cheryl | Bachmann | Laura                     | Hanks  | David & Deborah| Rath |
| James           | Bartizal | John & Mary Kay           | Hanson | Roger & Karen | Reede |
| Dennis & Lori   | Benson   | Randy & Michelle          | Hanson | Tim & Kathy  | Ricke |
| Gerald & Gail   | Berg     | David & Jean              | Havemeier| Robert & Kathy| Roepke |
| Ed & Barbara    | Bies     | Tom & Debra               | Hays   | Suzanne      | Rosckes |
| Pamela          | Birch    | Greg & Deb                | Henry  | Andy & Pat   | Rossmeisl |
| Jeff & Susan    | Blankenheim | John & Diane             | Hertwig| Doug & Jennifer | Ryan |
| Fred & Donna    | Boller   | Dale & Faith              | Hoiseth| Bruce & Sue  | Salz |
| Brian & Pam     | Bosshart | Robb & Linda              | Hoiseth| Dave & Suzanne| Savage |
| Marilyn         | Bowers   | Brian & Cindy             | Holmberg| Jeffery & Deborah| Savage |
| Cal & Sandra    | Brastad  | Wade & Cynthia            | Holmberg| Roman & Luann| Schaefers |
| Joe & Karen     | Braulick | Sally                     | Howes  | Scott & Kathleen | Schaefers |
| Shirley         | Braulick | Tom & Lesa                | Hueser | Elroy & Diane | Seiffert |
| Ardeen & Sharon | Brever   | Hoa                       | Huynh  | Al & Donella  | Schmidtbauer |
| Dave & Janet    | Brinkman | Dorothy                   | Iversen| Ken & Nancy  | Schrump |
| Tim & Joan      | Bruntymer| Tom & Karlin              | Jacoby | Scott & Tonya | Schulte |
| Joel & Delane   | Burr     | Ken & Ruth                | Jarcho | Ellsworth    | Schultz |
| Robert Burton   | Burton & McNeill | Florence                 | Johannes| Elroy & Diane | Seiffert |
| Lee & Carol     | Case     | Mark & Susan              | Johnson| Ian & Kimberly| Sing |
| Larry & Liz     | Chevalier| Vivian                    | Johnson| Gary & Wanetta| Skartvedt |
| Biz & Ted       | Colburn  | Ross & Michele            | Johnson-Amundson | Daniel & Carla | Smith |
| Renee           | Compo    | Lorette                   | Jones  | Les & Gloria  | Smith |
| Kim             | Cornell  | Dallas & Carol            | Karl   | Don & Barb    | Snegosky |
| Robert          | Coughlin | Timothy                   | Keane  | Jerry & Annette| Snyder |
| Gary & Rebecca  | Grass    | Bonita                    | Keller | Keith & Stacy | Stanek |
| Rev. Norval     | Curry    | Michael & Sara            | Kenefick| Clinton & Adele| Stensrud |
| John & Ann      | Dalheimer| Ralph & Marcella          | Klassen| Bill & JoAnne | Stewart |
| DuWayne & Barb  | Dammann  | Keith                     | Koenig-Camp Ojib | Thomas & Jen | Stoltz |
| Steve & Robbie  | Daniel   | Eric & Nancy Anderson    | Koester | Bob & Cindy   | Stone |
| Gregory & Carol | Davis    | Brian                     | Kowalski| David & Renee | Swan |
| Steven & Robin  | Dettmann | Alan & Susan              | Kral   | Marge         | Taylor |
| Peter & Denise  | DuBois   | Bob & Colleen             | Kustelski| Scott & Kathy | Taylor |
| Ted & Kathy     | Durkee   | Ed                        | Ladwig | Don & Peggy   | Theis |
| DeWayne & Sharon | Eberhardt| Larry & Nancy             | Kay Hanson | Anne & Jean | Tilleson |
| Anita           | Ecksteed | Tim Lane                  | Langer | James & Cynthia| Unterberger |
| Mary & Nick Eolof | & Kristin Kramer | Michael & Karen | Langer | Dennis & Darlene | Urbanski |
| Lee & Lori      | Fesenmaier| Joseph & Joy             | Lano   | Van Brun      | |
| Charles & Kathryn | Figenhau | Dan & Sue                 | Larson | Peter & Katherine | Van Bank |
| Ed              | Findell  | Charlie & Dee             | Lemke  | Michael      | Vrooman |
| Gary & Beverly  | Finken   | Gary & Patricia           | Lenz   | Gary & Sandy  | Weber |
| Mike & Dani     | Fish     | John D.                   | MacQueen| David & Kathy | Weber |
| Heidi & Bernhard | Fokken  | Larry & Carol             | Maiers | Bill & Cheryl | Welle |
| Mike & Lynda    | Gans     | Tom & Patty               | McCarthy| DWayne & Mary Jo| Wieseler |
| Simon           | Gao      | Gerry & Mary              | Mehr   | Jo Ann        | Wolter |
| Bob             | Garland  | Trent & Karen             | Miller | Darla & Dale  | Zucky |
| David & Kathie  | Gay      | William                   | Miller & Jeanine Stanis | | |