

1. The meeting was called to order by FILIA board member Bill Haroldson . Dennis Kraimer (President) was unable to attend.
2. Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance
3. FILIA board members were introduced.
4. Denise Noling informed attendees that the FILIA 2022 membership minutes were located on the FILIA website if anyone was interested in reviewing them. After a short discussion the 2022 Meeting minutes were accepted.
5. Guest Speaker: Kyle Fredrickson, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator, Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District
  - a. Spoke about the zebra mussels. The zebra mussels in Mille Lacs seemed to have reached a point where they have maxed out their reproduction capacity and are now declining. The evidence is from a drone that showed a lot of zebra shells on the bottom of the lake.
  - b. Farm Island Lake is not near the top of the zebra infestation curve. We can only continue what we are doing by not transporting water in boats, keeping all parts of the boat clean, especially places like anchors.
  - c. Water and mud on boats etc. transport a lot of viruses and contaminants, some of which are known and a lot of which is unknown. That is why **CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY** is so important.
  - d. 1591 Aitkin County inspections at landings have been done this season. 142 Boats were checked in a 3-day span at the FIL south access alone.
  - e. Small business-size cards were available that showed a lot of the different invasive species.
  - f. EDDMAPS is an on-line site that allows input as to where invasive species are being found.
  - g. Big Mouth Buffalo fish is a native fish and is very beneficial in controlling AIS. This fish is a filter feeder and they do eat veligers. They are not a member of the carp family.
  - h. Decontamination units for boats are currently located:
    - a. Farm Island Lake – North Access (due to the high number of boats being put into FIL )
    - b. Big Sandy and Minnewawa Lakes share time with one decontamination unit.
    - c. Spirt Lake
  - i. Per the speaker education on AIS and what can be done to prevent the spread is extremely important .
  - j. Curly Dock land vegetation was asked about.
  - k. The regulation of the transfer of wood (i.e., firewood) has helped stop the movement of non-native insects.
  - l. The speaker also indicated that there may be funds available in the future for native restoration instead of rocks. A person in the audience said that he had a shoreline contractor come out twice and it didn't really help.

6. Mark Casey, an independent journalist from the Lake Country Journal – Brainerd, was introduced. They are working on an article on “abundance, invasive species and community involvement” and that was why he was attending the FILIA annual meeting.
7. Cheryl McDonough gave the Treasurer’s report.

As of December 31, 2022

### Year-End Financial Report

<b>FILIA Financial Report</b>		
<b>REVENUE</b>	Year End	
	ACTUAL	%
Membership Dues	4,775	69%
AIS Fund	2,045	29%
Interest Income	139	2%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$6,959</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>	Year End	
	ACTUAL	%
Mass Mailing	582	25%
Office Supplies	73	3%
Dues (ACLARA)	25	1%
Meetings	102	4%
Insurance (D&O, GL)	868	38%
AIS Brochure	332	14%
Bog Move	221	10%
Rentals	95	4%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$2,298</b>	
<b>ASSETS</b>	Year End	
	ACTUAL	%
Checking	16,157	21%
Money Market	35,389	46%
Savings	12,768	17%
Fixed CD	12,684	16%
Petty Cash	35	0%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$77,033</b>	

- a. As of June 17, 2023 had 143 paid members.
- b. There was a discussion as to what the money was being used for. Bill Haroldson gave examples of the cost of AIS prevention etc. and primarily that is what the majority is being saved for so that the FILIA can be in a monetary position to be responsive should the need arise.
- c. The annual mass mailing of the FILIA newsletter was mailed Tuesday May 30<sup>th</sup> to all 375 property owners.

- d. Communication – we have about 499 emails that receive newsletters, which is significantly more than just property owners, due to multiple addresses for each property.
  - e. Website – 913 unique visitors visited our website so far this year. Last year there was a total of 1,167 unique visitors.
8. Lake Clarity update / Lake Level – Russ Hoppe
- 7 feet clarity at ice out which is normal.
  - 14 feet clarity on June 16, 2023
  - Water level is 7” down from Ice out which is normal.
  - In August-September the lake will go down significantly due to the algae bloom.
9. Loon restoration project
- Partnership with the DNR that provided monies, and instructions for the building of two artificial nesting platforms (ANP)
  - Beartooth Hardware ordered the building material.
  - FILIA members built and placed the ANP’s – one in Peterson’s bay, and the other in the Church camp bay.
  - Loons didn’t nest on them this year, which is not unusual for the first year. In addition, they will need to be placed further into the lake next year as the cattails grew up around them limiting the loons’ access to open water.
  - Loon count this year 22 loons and 5 occupied nests.
10. ACLARA update and recap of the monthly minutes.
- a. Big Sandy lake has a walleye tracking program.
  - b. Aitkin County soil and Water Conservation District - One Watershed, One plan. There are 26,000 acres that feed Farm Island Lake as part of the watershed.
11. Swimmer’s itch was discussed with options such as just swimming away from shore.
12. Boat parade discussion in terms of boats leaving before the end of the parade therefore there are lot of areas on the lake that do not get to see any parade boats even though the parade may start out with as many as 70 boats.
- i People were asked to refrain from using water balloons for environmental and wildlife impact damage.
13. 2024 annual membership meeting will be Saturday June 8, 2024, due to scheduling conflict at the Hazelton township.
14. Discussion of a change of annual membership meeting date from the third Saturday in June to the second Saturday in June going forward. This was approved by the attendees at the meeting.
15. An update was given about the lake's Curlyleaf Pondweed. Dennis received an update from Tim Plude, AIS Specialist, DNR, Brainerd. Tim was going to map the CLPW this spring. He did make a visit the first week in June, and only found one small "patch" about 5' in diameter. This result

was questioned by many in attendance. The plant does grow during the wintertime. With the heavy snow, and extended winter seasons the last few years, the lack of sunlight has thwarted growth. Keeping nutrients from entering the lake through runoff by having a good buffer zone also plays a major role in its growth and spread.

16. The Walleye population on FIL is doing well with those under 16" doing great per the DNR. More on this will be in the next FILIA newsletter.
17. Shore captain needed at N.W. Dahle Bay: No volunteers, however one person indicated that she would ask someone that might be interested.
18. Dennis Kraimer and Gordy Vetsch had their board membership renewed for the next three years.
19. There were 61 attendees, including the board members.
20. The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted June 17, 2023  
Denise Noling, FILIA Secretary

**Attending Board Members**

Gordon Vetsch . . . V.P  
Cheryl McDonough . . . Treasurer  
Denise Noling . . . Secretary  
Bill Haroldson  
Cindy Chuhanic  
Stan Barnes  
Mike Harrington  
Scott Scheele