

1. Bill Haroldson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance, led by Mike Harrington
3. Introduction of Board Members, new Members and neighbors
4. Thank you to Denise Noling for her service to FILIA
5. Guest Speaker Jeff Forester, Executive Director of MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR), spoke for about 50 minutes.
  - a. Lake associations are not organized as a single unit, such as Ducks Unlimited. Lake associations are the largest conservation minded group in Minnesota State.
  - b. The key to early detection of AIS is to have a plan. To help prevent AIS you need self-education to find out how to look for AIS so you can remove it before it spreads. Or hire a person 2 to 3 times a year to do this.
  - c. MLR advocates on a state level. Their role is to assure that money for the counties so they can educate about AIS and perform watercraft inspections.
  - d. The more members, the stronger the voice. MLR needs individuals to be members of MLR, besides the lake associations - each individual is a count that goes towards advocacy.
  - e. 750 lakes in Minnesota have curly-leaf.
6. Approve the 2023 Member meeting Minutes.
  - a. The meeting minutes were not read at this meeting because they are available on the FILIA website.
  - b. Motion was made and seconded to approve the 2023 annual meeting minutes.
7. Treasurer's Report- Gordy Vetsch
  - a. See financial report below
  - b. Gordy said \$82k in our account is needed in case of emergency, i.e. AIS
  - c. There was a total of 56 attendees, which includes 7 board members
8. Membership Update-Gordy Vetsch
  - a. 162 members, 44% of 368 members.
  - b. This is the most we've had at this time of the year
9. Website update – Bill Haroldson
  - a. There is good information on the website, including past AIS reports
10. Water Level and Clarity Report – Russ Hoppe reports this information to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (PCA)
  - a. Ice-out was March 14

- b. Lake is up 8.5” since ice-out
- c. May 5 was 23 feet clarity
- d. June 7 was 15.5 feet clarity
- e. Zeebs may be cleaning the lake

11. Loon update, Artificial Nesting Platforms (ANP)

- a. Lake property owners, Don and Barbara Swenson, were very helpful getting the loon ANP platforms in the lake, providing loon information and letting us use their pontoon. Dennis Kraimer and Scott and Cheryl Scheele helped put the ANPs in. Thank you to Denise and Dennis Noling for all their help in building the ANPs and putting them in last year.
- b. Judy Christy said she heard at a seminar that we need to stay 200 yards from loons. Boats cause about 25% of loon deaths because the loons dive rather than move away from them.

12. Get the Lead Out-Stan Barnes.

- a. Get the Lead Out brochures and fishing lures were available at the meeting.
- b. It’s estimated 25% of mature loons die from lead poisoning
- c. Five states have banned lead fishing tackle

13. ACLARA, and other Aitkin County Meeting Updates-Bill Haroldson

- a. ACLARA meetings meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday from Apr – Oct.
- b. Janet Smude (SWCD) gave a presentation. What is a 1W1P? The vision for One Watershed, One Plan is to align local water planning on major watershed boundaries with state strategies towards prioritized, targeted, and measurable implementation plans – the next logical step in the evolution of water planning in Minnesota.
- c. Our area will share \$1.5 million over 2.5 years to work on water quality in our watershed area.
- d. Farm Island Lake (FIL) is part of the upper Mississippi watershed, and is considered a “priority” lake.
- e. There is a 10-year project for Aitkin County lakes to implement water quality. See Janet Smude or Bill Haroldson if you have a project to improve your shoreline and water quality.
- f. A CD3 cleaning station was installed at the Shaw-Bosh-Kung Bay public access on the west side of Mille Lacs Lake about 8 miles south of Garrison, north of the casino. The CD3 system is a waterless, boater-operated unit that provides the tools needed to clean, drain, and dry a watercraft and trailer.

14. Upcoming events

- a. There is a Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) workshop (Starry Trek) August 10 to find starry stone-wort at FIL north access. <https://maisrc.umn.edu/starrytrek> .

15. Aitkin County Rivers and Lakes Fair is June 13, from 9-2:00 at Long Lake Conservation Center in Palisade.  
Due to road construction there is concern about attendance. Address is: 28952 438th Lane | Palisade, MN 56469 | info@longlakeecc.org | 218-768-4653
16. 4<sup>th</sup> of July boat parade is on Thursday July 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - a. A few people have asked about giving prizes and making more of the boat parade. The Board does not sponsor the parade, but will post information in the newsletter should a group of folks want to organize the boat parade and vote for and present prizes. The board will pay for the prizes, once a discussion with the group has been finalized.
17. The MNDNR statewide loon survey is conducted during a 10-day period around July 1<sup>st</sup> each year.
18. The Shore Captains will be asked to use the AIS Brochures and the newsletters and the website to introduce new property owners and other non-members to FILIA.
19. Lake Health water testing – approximately \$400 will be used to test the lake water for phosphorus content, mercury. There is a proper time when this test should take place in order to get the correct readings.
20. AIS Cleaning stations will be at the 2 public accesses when they become available. If more become available, each of the 3 Resorts will be provided with one as well.
21. Email questions asked by Members
  - a. A member asked about the bright lights along the Big Island in May. Our email reply was that it was bow fishermen, who spear rough fish.
  - b. Note: There is new regulation to protect Buffalo Fish – they have been taken off the rough fish list, so they cannot be fished without a license. Buffalo fish can live over 150 years and filter water when they eat, which cleans out baby zebra mussels (vilegers).
22. Curly Leaf Pondweed is very prevalent this year because we had minimal snow cover on the ice, which prevents sunlight from reaching the curly leaf under the ice.
23. Steve Wilson asked that buoys be placed on the southeast side of Dahle’s Bay due to the low water in the area. The Aitkin County Water Patrol placed the buoys there. They are the folks that put the buoys out.
24. Prairie Restoration handouts, AIS Identification books, AIS towels and Shoreline Guide Books were available at the annual meeting for those who wanted them.
25. Board Elections, with 3 up for re-election, and one vacant position to fill.
  - a. Cindy Chuhanic, Bill Haroldson (President), and Stan Barnes were voted in to serve another 3-year term as board members.
  - b. Mark Fjerstad and Russ Hoppe ran for a board member position.
  - c. Russ Hoppe was elected by the annual meeting attendees as our new board member

26. Cheryl McDonough (Treasurer) has been given the title of Editor, FILIA Newsletter
27. There was a lot of AIS discussion about curley-leaf pondweed (CLPW) and AIS.
- A CLPW "Evaluation" was completed last year when the growing season was, for the most part, over.
  - Shoreland management was discussed
  - Lowell Larson stated that the board needs a plan for early detection of AIS.
  - Gordy Vetsch (V.P.) asked Jeff Forester (MLR) how we can get a large contingent to get active locally
  - Bill Haroldson said that chemical treatment may affect the lake in the future, and it may influence FILIA membership, as it did do when treatments were done in the late 2000's.
  - In conclusion, shoreline buffers, and better lake stewardship through best practices, is much needed to reduce the amount of nutrients entering FIL. We need a plan for early detection, prevention, and communication of shoreline/lake stewardship.
28. Door Prizes were passed out by Scott Scheele
- Door prizes were donated by:
 

Beartooth Ace Hardware	FIRM	Hyytinen Hardware Hank
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29. Meeting was adjourned by Bill Haroldson at 11:10am.

**Treasurer's Report**

- New Fixed CDs at Bremer Bank.
  - 4% 8-month Non-restricted      \$49,044      Matures 6/25/24
  - 5% 13-month AIS Fund Restricted    \$27,644      Matures 11/27/24

**2023 Dues Recap**

2023	Total Dues and AIS	Dues Paid 2023	AIS Paid	2023 Count	Future Dues Paid for 2024
<b>Total Dues/AIS:</b>	\$7,980	<b>5,250.00</b>	<b>2,730.05</b>	212	
		*2 prepaid			
<b>Total All \$\$ Received:</b>	\$8,030				<b>\$50</b>

- (57% of 375 property owners paid membership dues)
- New: 13
  - Renew: 199
  - Total membership 212
  - Online paid: 75 paid \$2,850
  - 57 members paid to AIS fund

We were reimbursed \$1,318 - \$986 for the Loon ANP platform program and \$332 AIS Grant Income for the AIS Brochures.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl McDonough

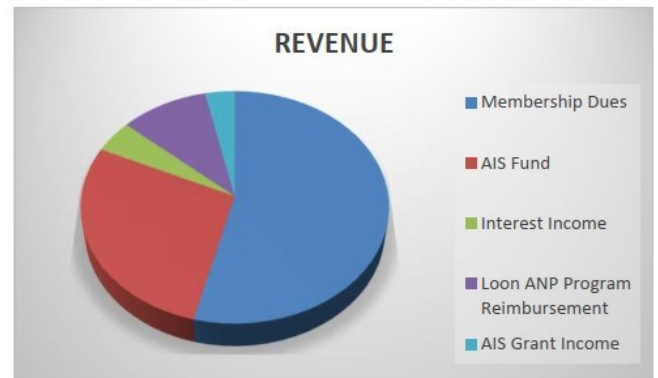
FILIA Treasurer

These minutes were approved by all the board members: Bill Haroldson, Gordy Vetsch, Cheryl McDonough, Cindy Chuhanic, Dennis Kraimer, Stan Barnes, Mike Harrington, Scott Scheele

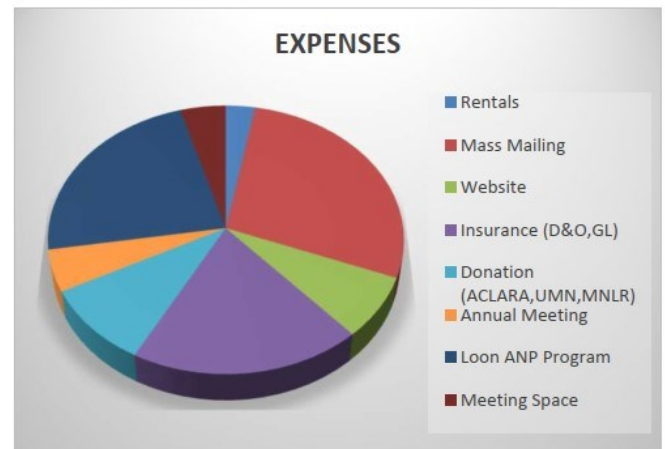
## FILIA Financial Report

Year End December 31, 2023

REVENUE	Year End	
	ACTUAL	%
Membership Dues	5,250	54%
AIS Fund	2,730	28%
Interest Income	441	5%
Loon ANP Program Reimbursement	986	10%
AIS Grant Income	332	3%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$9,739</b>	



EXPENSES	Year End	
	ACTUAL	%
Rentals	(128)	3%
Mass Mailing	(1,247)	28%
Website	(332)	7%
Insurance (D&O, GL)	(868)	20%
Donation (ACLARA, UMN, MNLR)	(425)	10%
Annual Meeting	(223)	5%
Loon ANP Program	(1,025)	23%
Meeting Space	(200)	4%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>(\$4,448)</b>	



ASSETS	Year End	
	ACTUAL	%
Checking	5,650	7%
13-Month CD	27,645	34%
8-Month CD	49,044	60%
Petty Cash	35	0%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$82,374</b>	

