

1. Meeting was called to order by FILIA board member Bill Haroldson . Dennis Kraimer (President) and Gordy Vetsch (Vice President) were unable to attend.
2. Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance
3. New Board members or new positions were introduced
 - a. New Secretary – Denise Noling
 - b. Honorary Board Member – Jim Hausauer
 - c. Board Member – 1 opening

Bill Haroldson made a motion to confirm Denise Noling as Secretary, seconded and confirmed. He also asked if anyone would be interested in becoming a board member. There were no volunteers.

4. Denise Noling read the 2021 Annual meeting minutes
5. Cheryl McDonough gave the Treasurer’s report.

a. 2021 Financial Report

REVENUE	Year End	
	ACTUAL	%
Membership Dues	5,850	69%
AIS Fund	2,572	30%
Interest Income	23	0%
TOTALS	\$8,445	

ASSETS	Year End	
	ACTUAL	%
Checking	17,081	24%
Money Market	32,370	45%
Savings	10,162	14%
Fixed CD	12,673	18%
Petty Cash	35	0%
TOTALS	\$72,321	

- b. 2022 financials as of June 18, 2021 – dues received \$5,077, AIS being \$ 1,477
 - c. 1/3 paid dues online
 - d. As of June 18, 2022 had 160 paid members, including 11 received at annual meeting.
 - e. Mass mailing was mailed Friday May 27th to 298 property owners, out of 388 property owners. 90 were already paid owners which did not receive the mailing.
 - f. Tidholm Publishing invoice not yet received for the mailing.
 - g. Communication – we have about 490 emails that receive the newsletters.
 - h. Website – the page most visited is the Membership page. At least 700 people have visited our website so far this year.
6. Shore Captain needed on northwest side - there were no volunteers at this time.
 7. **Minnesota Loon Restoration Project** – Guest Speaker Rob Rabasco/Andrew Herberg - neither person showed up to the meeting.
 - a. FILIA Board Member - Stan Barnes spoke about the Minnesota Loon Restoration project indicating that this was project is just getting started with the availability of funds to eight Minnesota Counties including in Aitkin County. Availability of funds will probably 1 to 2 years in the future.

To learn more about the program, visit the MN DNR's "Minnesota Loon Restoration Project" webpage. This will help with easements for habitat, breeding, getting the lead out and other issues impacting the loon population.

8. There was discussion about how many loon pairs have been seen on Farm Island Lake this year. People indicated between four and six pairs, and at least 2 chicks. It was also suggested that signs be put up at the landings regarding getting too close to the loons. Stan Barnes said that artificial platforms could be protected by no-wake signs.

Bill Haroldson is a loon surveyor and has been assigned Apple Lake and Horseshoe for 2022. Apple Lake can no longer support loons due to the rise in weeds. He will do Horseshoe early in the AM takes about 45 minutes.

Loon surveyor counts and designates type, once a year. A **Loon Monitor** is a monthly count with type (adult, juvenile, chick etc.)

9. Bill Haroldson gave an ACLARA update
 - a. Some key notes were that oxygen and water temperature are very important for the fish population.
 - b. Shoreline management - DNR is shore to water, Shore to house is Aitkin County Environmental Services. Contact either/or depending on your situation.
 - c. Check the Aitkin County AIS website monetary incentives related to stopping the spread of AIS .

10. Bill Haroldson gave a Soil & Water Update .

Information was given on the 1 Watershed , 1 Plan project. This plan was implemented 2022 to replace the Aitkin County Soil and Water taskforce. This program allows counties to transition county-based water management planning to watershed-based planning. Local professionals developing a plan are from various parts of the county and Bill Haroldson is the current secretary for the Aitkin country group. Stay turned for additional information from upcoming meetings.

11. Farm Island Lake Improvement Association (FILIA) AIS brochure background was given out to all attendees.
 - a. Bill Haroldson was at another lake, and they had a concise brochure. He brought the brochure to the FILIA board who thought it would be a great idea and we could get information out about the FILIA to those specifically that use the lake.

AIS Brochures were given to the shore captains for distribution, to the FIRM, Farm Island Store, and Farm Island Lake resorts – for their seasonal and permanent people that do not have an address, and VRBO owners.. The cost to print was \$332. This will be reimbursed by Aitkin County One Watershed One Plan. (This is a name change from SWCD Soil Water Conservation District.

It was also noted that the FILIA has not had to pay the 10% portion of the AIS inspectors since the program started.

12. Russ Hoppe gave an update on Farm Island Lake clarity. Russ volunteers for the MN Pollution Control Agency and checks clarity 2x month in the summer.
 - a. The June 13th reading water clarity to 11'.
 - b. There has been a ½ foot decline in water clarity in the past decade.
 - c. Russ reported there are a few actions shoreland owners can do which can help the lake level – create buffer zones between land and water (no-mow zones), minimize or stop the use of fertilizer

13. Russ Hoppe gave an update on water level as of June 17, 2022, showing 4/10th of a foot under the OHWL (Ordinary High-Water Level) .
14. There have been a couple of bogs on FIL, one of which was large (40 to 50 ft, by 20 ft, by 2' deep – lots of roots) requiring 3 boats and hours of work to get it moved and staked down. The DNR didn't have the resources to help and referred the individual who called about the bog to the FILIA. Stevo's and other companies were contacted but all said no. Lake Restoration would move it but wanted \$2,800.

FILIA did get a permit from the DNR to move the bog. It is stored on the gmail account.

Many thanks to the people that helped move the very large bog. Russ Hoppe, Craig Fawley, and Dennis Kraimer

15. Boat parade will be on July 2 @ 12 noon – South Access, go counter-clockwise.
16. Open discussion included:
 - a. Algae bloom – happens late August / early September
 - b. Creating a natural buffer between the water and shore is the best way to maintain shoreline and to keep fertilizer etc from getting into the water. The buffer zone would also help if you have a geese issue. For more information see “Score your shore” survey located on our website on the Aquatic Invasive Species page <https://www.farmislandlake.org/score-your-shore>
 - c. There were 2 people in a boat with lots of lights late at night by Johnson Point it was assumed they were bow fishing for rough fish.
 - d. There was a discussion on Zebra mussels by members that there were new areas where zebes have been located, with one actually having young ones attached to it. Buffalo fish found in FIL will consume veligers (young zebes) per their diet. Please release the Buffalo fish if caught.
 - e. Mike Harrington worked with the water patrol to add two new bouy's to the north access to help people navigate out to the deeper water.
 - f. August 20, 2022 8:00 AM - Starry Trek – volunteers meet at FIL north access and go to different lakes to collect specimens. The county will give you the tools to do this. This is very educational to those that volunteer.
 - g. River Lakes Fair today - Education for kids
 - h. Mapping of FIL for Curly Leaf Pond Weed may be scheduled this summer (2022)
 - i. Cindy Chuhanic gave Information was also given on the future of Tamarack nickel mine which could begin mining by 2026 The Duluth News Tribune recently ran a story on the proposed Tamarack nickel mine near Tamarack, Minnesota. Talon Metals, which owns a majority stake in the project, told investors a high-grade nickel deposit could be operational by 2026. This mine would be only the second nickel mine in the US and is a critical resource required for Lithium batteries needed for electric cars. This project has been 20 years in the making. Tours are offered.

17. There were 39 attendees, including the board members.

Respectfully submitted July 21 , 2022
Denise Noling, FILIA Secretary

Attending Board Members

Bill Haroldson
Cheryl McDonough . . . Treasurer
Denise Noling . . . Secretary
Cindy Chuhanic
Stan Barnes
Mike Harrington