



BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

March 11, 2026 – Zoom

ATTENDANCE

Board Member	Attendance	Advisory Member	Attendance
Jay Chaney	Present	Camden Droppo	Present
Robert Eliason	Present	Kevin Egan	Present
Steve Frawley	Present	Linda Harrier	Present
Sue Friedrichs	Present	Steve Henry	Present
Kathy Lundberg	Present	Sheila Johnston	Present
Tim Thoele	Present	Mike Knapp	Present
Jim Woll	Present	Amy Stoneking	Present
		Brian Turner	Absent
		Dorothy Whitmer	Absent

GUESTS

Jeremy Wiczek, Chris Padrnos, Jessica Shea, Erik Hidalgo, David Hillstrom

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Frawley at 8:30 a.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Motion by Eliason, seconded by Lundberg to approve February 11, 2026, Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT

GCOLA*	1-31-26
Total Income (Loss)	\$9,300
Total Expense	\$5,281
Net Other Income (Expense)	\$7,435
Net Income (Loss)	\$11,454
Total Current Assets	\$653,156
GULL CHAIN PRESERVATION ENDOWMENT FUND**	1-31-26
Earnings	\$4,828
Donations	\$0
Grants to GCOLA	\$0
Expenses	\$0
Change in net Assets	\$4,828
Net Assets	\$428,683

*The treasurer's report was set aside as subject to audit.

** Assets are not reported on the GCOLA balance sheet, so information only.

CORRESPONDENCE & DONATION REQUESTS

- None

ADVISORY UPDATES

Cass County – Henry

- Working on staffing plan to pick up more inspections hours at Gull Narrows and the starry stonewort treatment permits.

Crow Wing County – Stoneking



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- Interviewing inspectors for this season and sending email shortly to GCOLA to request more inspection hours.

DNR AIS – Droppo

- No report

DNR Fisheries - Knapp

- Results from the angler survey indicated most were fishing for walleye and demonstrated a strong catch and release ethic on Gull among open water anglers, including guides and forward-facing sonar (FFS) users. Anglers using FFS generally had higher catch rates for walleye. The majority of anglers on Gull (79% open water, 73% winter) supported a 4-fish bag for walleye.

USACE – Turner

- No report

CURLY-LEAF PONDWEED (CLP)

- David Hillstrom, PLM, recommended that GCOLA treat CLP when it is interrupting navigational and recreational activities, it covers 4-5 acres and there are minimal native species that would be harmed if it were treated. Annual surveys should continue to ensure early detection of problem sites.
- Droppo, Henry, Hildalgo, Shea, and Stoneking (state and county AIS experts) support this approach and mentioned there are few lakes in Cass and Crow Wing counties that are treating for CLP.
- At this time there are no known areas that should be treated and if property owners have a concern about their lakeshore, they can apply for a permit to treat their area.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS/DECISIONS

Finance & Audit Committee – Woll

- Motion by Woll, seconded by Thoele to approve the financial transactions. Motion carried.
 - Renew CD for \$49K and transfer interest to AIS Savings.
 - Transfer all but \$1K from AIS Savings to BLACF which is CD interest and 2025 Member AIS donations.
 - Transfer \$40K from operating accounts to BLACF.
 - Request IF to send annual distribution to BLACF.
- Asked all committee chairs who have requested a donation to a non-profit organization to schedule a Zoom presentation to the Board. Contact Friedrichs to schedule the time, and ask the presenter to plan for no more than 20 minutes including Q & A.

AIS Committee – Thoele

- Board decided to proceed with Hillstrom's recommendation and will discontinue treating Lake Margaret and not add any new treatment areas.
- Reviewed the 2026 AIS Plan and asked each Board member to volunteer to meet with a resort to discuss GCOLA and AIS sign.

Fisheries Committee – TBD

- Darrell Palmer, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, would like to meet to discuss potential projects to improve lake habitat for fisheries in the Gull Lake Chain. Knapp encouraged a meeting and will attend if fits into his schedule.

Communications Committee – Lundberg

- Ads have been approved and Lakes Printing is finalizing the printing details.

Government Relations Committee – Frawley

- Reviewed the results of the GCOLA PWC operating hours survey which indicated 83% of respondents do not want it changed from 9:30 a.m. to 8 a.m.



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- Attended the annual Gull Lake Avid Anglers meeting which included resort owners, lake associations representatives, angling media, DNR, and fishing guides. Purpose of the meeting is to keep communication flowing between the parties. Overall, it's impressive the effort the DNR puts into creating sustainable fisheries.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Lake Steward Committee – Whitmer

- No report

Land Development Committee – Lundberg

- GCOLA submitted a three-page letter recommending the Planning Commission requires an EIS for the Waterside Estates project. Cass County Planning Committee ultimately made this decision. Woll did not participate in this discussion as he is on the Cass County Planning Commission.

Loon Conservancy Committee – Johnston

- 15 new loon caution buoys have been approved and ordered.
- A billboard along 371 north near Crow Wing Power will feature loon education messages including safe boating, lead tackle, and fishing line.
- Loon rescue training will take place on August 22 at the Gull Lake Sailing School

Nominating Committee – Woll

- Wiczek has fulfilled the requirement by attending two Board meetings and will meet with Frawley next.

Safety & Recreation Committee – Chaney

- Life jackets have been ordered and finalizing the dates for the three classes.
- Adopt-a-buoys have been sold out.
- Buoy inventory for the year has been ordered.
- A Round Lake member requested caution buoys when someone is exiting Bishops Creek into Round Lake. Instead, approved a new caution sign to replace the existing sign since GCOLA doesn't manage the buoys on Round Lake.

Environmental Committee – Eliason

- No report

Executive Committee – Frawley

- No report

Gala Committee – Harrier

- The format will be the same as last year and so far solicited help from Chaney, Frawley, Friedrichs, Lundberg and Wiczek.

Governance Committee – Eliason

- No report

Membership Committee – TBD

- Total: 673 New: 30

TO DO LIST

Accountable	Description	Deadline	Status
Chaney	Schedule Board presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gull Lake Sailing School • Gull Lake Lighted Trail 	9-9-26	New
Egan	Update By-Laws to include Committee Chair terms and bring them to Board for a vote.	7-9-25	Open
Frawley	Meeting with Jeremy Wiczek.	3-11-26	Open



Frawley	Schedule Board presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe Wakes • MN COLA 	9-9-26	New
Friedrichs	Contact Margaret Newhouse at 612-209-7629 with Christmas Lake Association, regarding PayHOA.com	2-11-26	Open
Friedrichs	Send email to Board to volunteer for AIS meeting with a resort	3-18-26	New
Friedrichs	Complete approved financial transactions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renew CD for \$49K and transfer interest to AIS Savings • Transfer all but \$1K from AIS Savings to BLACF which is CD interest and 2025 Member AIS donations • Transfer \$40K from operating accounts to BLACF • Request IF send annual distribution to BLACF 	4-8-26	New
Johnston	Send loon buoy and billboard photos to Lundberg for newsletter	5-13-26	New
Johnston	Schedule Board presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wild & Free presentation • Loon Center • Wildlife Rehab & Release • Wildlife Rehabilitation Center 	9-9-26	New
Lundberg	Work with Hillstrom for curly-leaf pondweed article	5-1-26	New
Lundberg	Communicate results of PWC survey in newsmagazine & email	5-1-26	New
Lundberg	Bring recommendation for changes to advertising guidelines/process to the Executive Committee.	4-8-26	New
Thoele	Update AIS Response Plan	9-9-26	New
Thoele	Schedule MAISRC presentation	9-9-26	New
Whitmer	Schedule MLR presentation	9-9-26	New
Woll	Contact Darrell Palmer, 816-807-1322 or darrelpalmer@sbcglobal.net to discuss potential lake habitat projects to improve fisheries.	4-8-26	New
Friedrichs	Transfer \$14,056.67 from checking to AIS Savings	3-11-26	Complete
Lundberg	Prepare response to Waterside Estates development plan to be presented to Cass County.	3-11-26	Complete
Thoele	Present 2026 AIS plan at Board meeting	3-11-26	Complete
Thoele	Invite PLM and government AIS representatives to Board meeting to discuss if we should treat curly leaf pondweed.	3-11-26	Complete

CALENDAR REVIEW

ADJOURN

Motion by Lundberg, seconded by Eliason to adjourn meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m. Minutes recorded by Sue Friedrichs.