

2008 ANNUAL ISCCW MEETING – WATERSMEET, MI.

President Will Buergey called the annual ISCCW meeting to order at 9:10, May 24, 2008.

Will welcomed the members to the 2008 annual meeting. He introduced the Officers and Directors. Will then gave a summary of the past year's ISCCW activities. He also explained to the membership that this would be the only annual meeting where there would be no voting for new directors, because when the non-profit corporation was formed last year, the initial group of directors were elected to either two year or three year terms so that the terms would not all expire at the same time.

At this annual meeting the membership will be asked to ratify the proposed amendments to the ISCCW Bylaws and our Articles of Incorporation as requested by the IRS during its review of our 501 (c) 3 application.

Will stated that Watersmeet Township has been very helpful in the organization of ISCCW. This ends the first year of operation as the ISCCW. Non-profit status has been filed with Michigan and has been approved. Our status as a 501 (c) 3 corporation is still under review by the IRS.

Will introduced Delores Sewell who has been our primary educator. We hope to involve more volunteers to help monitor the boat landings and lakes this summer. He thanked Delores for all her outstanding work at the boat landings and attending lake association meetings. Delores has developed an excellent display.

Will asked Membership chairman, Diana Mehlhop to report on the attendance. Diana stated there were 23 member present and 103 valid proxies had been returned therefore the requirement for a quorum of 25 members in good standing had been met.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT : Will Buergey

The 2008 Operating Plan was presented. Will also announced a new attorney, David McDonald, had been hired to help us complete the 501 (c) 3 review process with the IRS. Mr. McDonald has had vast experience with 501 (c) 3 applications and hopefully he will be able to facilitate our pending application with the IRS.

As part of the IRS approval process our bylaws will be changed if the membership approves the changes at today's meeting. The only major change to the bylaws will be a change in the membership year from the current July 1 to June 30, to the calendar year of Jan. 1 to Dec. 30. Therefore members who joined in 2007 will have a membership valid for 18 months. Another appeal will be made for new members this summer and their memberships will be valid for the remainder of 2008 and all of 2009.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Steve Wilkinson

The current balance is \$14,249.00

The ISCCW has been awarded a grant of \$40,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. In addition we successfully applied for a \$4000 grant from the BoatUS Foundation. The NFWF grant requires us to raise \$50,000 of our own funds as a local match and Watersmeet Township will provide \$20,000 of that through an invasive species services agreement with the ISCCW.

Will Buergey thanked Ken Wendt and the members of the Finance Committee for helping him complete the grant applications, and the Township Trustees for their support. Will also thanked the numerous individuals who served as peer reviewers for our NFWF grant request.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Diana Mehlhop

There are currently 186 ISCCW members as of May 24.

Class A--174 members

Class B--12 member associations and businesses

In addition six individuals/businesses made donations that were too small to qualify for member status.

Charter members make up 57% or 106 members. Charter memberships were offered only for the first year of the ISCCW. The 2007 mass mailing netted 155 new members with fees totaling \$14,752.00. The total amount collected from members is \$19,742.50.

EDUCATION REPORT: Jim Floriano

The Education Committee consists of the following people:

Will Buergey

Dean Challad

Helen Hayhurst

Diana Mehlhop

Al Piel

Jim Riles

Barb Wilkinson

The Education Committee has had a busy year. Items accomplished are: Place mats (22,000) have been placed in local restaurants. Clean Boats – Clean Waters license plates are available to those who wish them for placing on their vehicle or dock. Bait container labels are being used at the local bait stores. A web site was established and has had 5300 hits since January. The site contains maps, articles, information on invasive species and ISCCW activities. The committee has also had articles published in 7 local publications. The committee is currently working on a program to teach volunteers how to monitor boat landings. Lake survey training will be available by Barb Gajewski on how to use the Aqua Scope to identify invasive species. Times and Dates will be published on the web site.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Ken Wendt

In October the committee will be contacting foundations for possible grants for next year. The committee will resubmit an appeal for “2%” funds to the Lac Vieux Desert Tribal Council in August. Liability insurance is being investigated to cover the proposed power washer and operator.

The boat washer will be a portable, self contained unit that uses hot water under pressure. The washer is in the final stages of procurement. The DNR and the Forest Service have been contacted concerning use in their boat landings and agreements with the agencies are currently being negotiated.

It was noted the ISCCW cannot lobby for financial help from the state due to 501(c) 3 restrictions. Individuals are encouraged to contact their local congressmen to make state funds available for the prevention and treatment of Invasive Species. The Michigan Waterfront Alliance is a lobby group for Michigan Lakes & Streams. Everyone is encouraged to join MWF and help get funding. Michigan is far behind Wisconsin and Minnesota in funding any programs to eliminate Invasive Species.

Discussion of Proposed Amendments to the ISCCW Articles of Incorporation

The Amendments are necessary to meet the requirements of the IRS for 501 (c) 3 status. Ken Wendt moved we adopt the Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation. Steve Wilkinson, seconded. The vote was taken, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Discussion of Proposed Amendments to the ISCCW Bylaws

Two major changes are to include current Michigan laws concerning potential liability of the directors and a change of the membership year from June 30 to July 1 to the calendar year Dec. 30 to Jan 1. Ken Wendt moved to accept the changes to the bylaws. Steve Wilkinson seconded the motion. The vote was called, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Discussion of Director Approved Calendar Year 2008 Budget and Operating Plan

The ISCCW has hired a professional monitor for surveys and monitoring of 17 lakes in Watersmeet Township. (There are 302 lakes in Watersmeet Township.) An underwater camera has been purchased for use by the professional monitor. There are 5 Aqua Scopes available for use by volunteers trained in their use. We will augment our outstanding Clean Boats Clean Waters program with both paid and volunteer boat ramp workers this summer and will implement our use of a portable boat washer. Lakes that have infestations of invasive species will be added to the ISCCW web site.

Question: Will DNR help eradicate invasive species? Generally no, because in Michigan the riparian owners own the lake bottom, the DNR feels it is not their responsibility. The state has limited funding in their budget for treating invasive species.

Comment: Jack Erhart stated he was against the power boat washer but thanked the board for all they have done.

Question: When would the boats be washed, going in or out of the lakes? They would be washed both times, especially on lakes with known infestations.

Comment: Tom Church reminded the board of the fiscal year reporting requirements for the Fish and Wildlife Grant.

Comment: Ken Wendt commented on the great co-operation ISCCW has had from the Forest Service and DNR.

Comment: Joe LoMastro mentioned one of the key factors of the boat wash process is a water temp above 104 degrees. It will kill milfoil.

Question: Janet Waterhouse asked if live wells would be washed. It will depend on the boat owner.

Question: Alan Serstad asked if the boat washer had state and federal approval?

We are working with both and they have been very co-operative.

There being no further discussion, Ken Wendt moved to ratify the Operating Plan and Budget. Seconded by Janet Waterhouse. The vote was called, the motion was ratified unanimously.

Diana Mehlhop, Membership Chair, clarified the proposed dues and membership plans. The board recommends that they should be \$25 for individuals and families, \$125 for Lake associations and businesses. In addition to the dues we encourage further donations from members to help support our efforts.

Steve Wilkinson made the motion to ratify the dues levels for 2009, seconded by Joe LoMastro.

President Will Buergey thanked those present for coming on a beautiful spring day! He also encouraged members to recruit their neighbors to join ISCCW.

Ken Wendt announced a membership/donation letter would be going out in August or September.

Tom Church suggested Delores Sewell attend lake association meetings.

Elaine Branch thanked the board for all they have accomplished in just one year.

Will thanked Jack Erhart and Tom Church for their past efforts with the ANS Coalition.

The meeting was adjourned. The next ISCCW annual meeting will be held the first Saturday in August, 2009.

Respectfully Submitted by

Ruth Bozdech, Secretary

