

# **Koronis Lake Association Annual Meeting**

**July 10th, 2021**

**Members Present:** Ken Hess, Jim Losleben, Jeff Erdmann, Stacy Jacobson, Jen Meagher, Riley Flanders, Susan Schaefer, Alex Naujokas, Doug Petersen, Brian Frank, Greg Friederichs, and Jim Elseth

**Additionally Present:** Kevin Farnum - AIS manager

**Members Absent:**

**Call to order:** 9:00 AM

**Secretary's Report:** Jeff shared the secretary's report on-screen and provided a link in chat to the members attending the meeting. A motion was made by Jim and seconded by Stacy Jacobson to approve the 2020 annual meeting minutes. The motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Doug helped present the financial summary of 2020. A motion by Jeff Erdmann was made to approve the Treasurer's report for 2020. It was seconded by Riley Flanders. The motion passed unanimously.

**Election of 3 Directors:** There were three open board seats -- Jeff, Riley, and Ken -- to fill this year. The candidates for those positions were Riley, Ken, and Alex. No further nominations were given. Kevin nominated the continuing members of the board and new members of the board to the board. Jeff seconded. All three candidates were elected to serve a three-year term.  
A thank you to Jeff for all of his work on the board as he comes to the end of his term.

## **Committee Reports**

**AIS/Starry Stonewort Update:** two main projects - watershed that manages Starry Stonewort and the Inspection program to prevent any future AIS. All funds for both projects are separate.

**Watershed:** all previous funds and grants were used to aid in the Watershed project. A petition under the MN statute 103d will raise funds for AIS management efforts from shore owners. Many research projects are being conducted on the lake by schools such as the MN State University Mankato.

Starry Stonewort- Starry has started to bloom, survey started last Tuesday, Kevin goes out with the survey group to better understand where the Starry "hotspots" are. The first chemical treatment will begin on the 12th, 13th, or the 14th, weather allowing. We plan to do some mechanical pulling -- although it broke down on Friday, they are working to fix it.

**Inspection Program Recap:** A thank you goes out to the members of the KLA for their continued support to help educate, prevent new infestations, and protect other lakes.

Boats inspected and inspection hours were shown via graph. Inspectors are under contract with Water Guards, a company we've used in the past, but we've used LAMB in the past. Water Guards are not as flexible as LAMB, but we're working to get there. With tournaments almost every weekend, there is a lot of high activity, especially at the Hwy 55 launch. Transient boaters contribute a lot of movement to AIS, which is what the inspection program aims to cut down.

Starting out with \$36,000 in 2014 has now risen. The cost of labor has nearly doubled though the hours are the same. Time and money are needed to help maintain and manage the inspection program.

Mud, plants, and water have been found on incoming boats, which can harbor invasive species. Financial sources for the Inspection Program were shown. Infestations that start at Grove lake will eventually go to Rice Lake and then Koronis.

**KLA Membership:** Koronis lake membership is available to all interested parties there is no set schedule for membership dues membership information can be found in our by-laws and was sent out in May. We ask for donations for AIS, fireworks, and more.

Members from our local area have returned their forms and we enjoy seeing your support for KLA. Over 200 people have returned their forms and about 12 (a change from the presentation) business owners are members of KLA. You can still submit your forms to be recognized as a KLA.

We asked our members what their favorite place to eat was and the overwhelming answer was at their cabin, but our members also enjoy eating at local eateries including the Koronis Cafe. Submitted members' stories were shared with the

meeting attendees and will be shared on the website and in the newsletter throughout the coming year.

**Water Quality Improvement:** The water quality committee will be expanded this year from Susan and Ken to include other members.

**Rock Inlets:** Rock inlets capture water and lead into holes that go into riversides. Preliminary results of the 26 rock inlets have resulted in 50% of sediment from waters of farms has been captured in the rock inlets as well as ~27% of phosphorous. One pound of phosphorous can feed about 500 pounds of algae. Landowners can receive about 75% funding to install rock inlets and KLA will pay about 50% of what the farmer has to pay. About 15 more rock inlets are scheduled to be made this summer.

**Delta Formation:** We continue to look for support from a landowner to create a holding pond as we have four signatures and only need one more.

**Phosphorous Issue:** The Water Quality committee has continued to search for phosphorous solutions including attending an ALUM workshop in a virtual workspace. The workshop dealt with injecting or adding ALUM -- derivative of aluminum -- which is a safe product that will hold phosphorous at the bottom of the lake for 18-25 years with no added phosphorous. Current studies have shown no impact on fish and wildlife. Treating an entire lake with ALUM will result in clear water within 7 days, but the years in which ALUM is effective is depleted when a lake has added phosphorous from creeks or rivers. The whole ALUM treatment would cost \$4-6 million. Every 3ft of clear water increases property value. A call for help to address water quality was given.

**LCCMR Grant:** to reduce the high level of phosphorus entering Lake Koronis via Mud lake and beyond, grant money is needed. Every two years, the Legislative-Citizen Commission of Minnesota Rivers provides a grant to help enhance Minnesota's air, water, and natural resources. KLA submitted a bid requesting funds. LCCMR received ~220 bids and 31 people pulled out. 98 proposals were selected to do presentations, but KLA was not selected, which means that we are no longer under consideration. The information from perusing this grant will be

used to improve our bids in the future and look at possible solutions as well as their costs.

**Breakout Room Notes and Questions:** Addressing two questions (1. how can you support KLA? 2. what would you like KLA to focus on in 2021 and 2022?) Four breakout rooms for 28 participants with 2-3 board members in each one.

**Room 1:** ()

**Room 2:** (*Jen, Jeff, and Jim*)

question for ALUM: "can a shore-owner treat the phosphorous in their own area or is that counter-productive?" It needs to be a lake-wide solution because the phosphorous will continue to flow in from other areas of the lake. We considered putting limestone at the mouths of incoming water to collect phosphorous. KLA learned how to write and propose a grant in this.

question for grants: "do members have access to read the actual grants?" - to read the grants for language and strategies that were successful in the past - they are pretty tight on submitted grants, but we are searching for what is public knowledge. Dr. Hatch told KLA that this project is bigger than Koronis because our water goes into several other lakes and rivers. Minnesota Environment Trust Fund has a lot of information for spreadsheets and proposals.

**Room 3:** ()

**Room 4:** ()

**Questions/Comments/Meeting Adjourned:**

Questions may be submitted from now until the meeting regarding this project and any other lake questions/issues to the following email:

[jenmeagher@koronislakeassociation.org](mailto:jenmeagher@koronislakeassociation.org).

You will also be able to submit questions during the meeting using the “Zoom Chat” feature.

Signed Secretary,

Ezri Farnum