

# Lake News

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Child, Girl, and Woman Lakes Area Association



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## CGWLAA 2022 Annual Meeting

The 46th annual meeting of the CGWLAA was held on August 6, 2022, at Woodrow Town Hall. There were 12 board members and 37 association members in attendance. An annual report for 2022 with committee reports was distributed at the meeting and can be found on our website under Publications/Meeting and Agenda Minutes/Annual Meeting Notes. The proposed budget for 2022-2023 of \$19,355 was reviewed and approved.

Nominations and elections for Vice President, Treasurer, and Directors at Large occurred. Chuck Miotke was elected as Vice President, and Terry Fay was elected as Treasurer. Directors at Large elected were: Janis Kelley, Gary Knox, and Nancy Schuelke for Woman Lake; Larry Anderson for Girl Lake; and Bill Hornung for Child Lake. These positions are for a two-year term.

After the formal meeting was adjourned, Dan Berg, Watercraft Inspector for Cass County provided a presentation about the inspection program. This is an extremely valuable program that was put in place to help minimize the spread of AIS throughout Cass County and Minnesota. Inspectors are trained by the DNR to monitor lake accesses for invasive species and educate boaters entering or exiting the lake. Duties of an inspector include:

- Perform visual and physical inspection of water-related equipment including removal, drainage, decontamination, or treatment of equipment to prevent the transportation of AIS.
- Prohibit the launch or operation of equipment if a person refuses to allow inspection or does not remove AIS.
- Require watercraft to be decontaminated prior to launching into Minnesota waters if necessary.
- Contact the Sheriff immediately if a boater is uncooperative.
- Collect and report inspection data to the DNR. For example: date, time of day, type of equipment or boat, how long it has been out of water, last waterbody visited, and more.

Next, an auction was held for a 3D laser cut depth relief map of Girl Lake that was donated to the Association by Ron Schara. Please see the article on page 2 of this newsletter.

The date of the 2023 annual meeting will be announced in the spring. A reminder about the date and time will be published in the spring newsletter, included on our website, announced on Facebook, and listed in the local newspaper. Please plan to attend and be involved with your Lake Association.

**Linda Kane, Editor**



## Girl Lake Map - Auction at Annual Meeting

Ron Schara, a legend in the hunting and fishing world, donated a 3D laser cut depth relief map of Girl Lake to the CGWLAA. This map was made at Horn Dog Maps, a Minnesota company, owned by Mitch Heil.

The Girl Lake map was auctioned off at the close of the annual meeting, and Ann Anderson had the winning bid of \$200.

This Girl Lake map is featured on an episode of Minnesota Bound. If you would like to view the segment, search for "Goose Guzman! | Minnesota Bound" on YouTube, May 24, 2022, and navigate to the time 11:20 in the program.

Thank you to Ron Schara for this donation, and congratulations to Ann. This map will be enjoyed for years to come!

Sue Meyer, Girl Lake



## AIS Update

### Eurasian Watermilfoil

There was no Eurasian watermilfoil observed at the city docks in Longville and none at Austin's Swamp. PLM Lake and Land Management Corp. reported no AIS at the four boat launch ramps on our chain of lakes.

### Starry Stonewort

The Minnesota DNR confirmed the invasive algae starry stonewort in Cass County at Thunder Lake near Remer and Bowen Lake near Backus. Beltrami County Environmental Services staff found starry stonewort at Turtle River Lake. Follow-up surveys are being conducted to determine the extent of starry stonewort distribution in these lakes.

If starry stonewort is in localized areas of the lakes, removal in those areas may be pursued. This could include hand pulling, herbicide applications, and other methods as appropriate.

Early detection is key to effective management. Starry stonewort has now been confirmed in 21 water bodies in Minnesota.

In late summer and early fall, starry stonewort's small white star-shaped bulbils become more visible, making it easier to distinguish from other aquatic plants.

Information on how to identify starry stonewort can be found on the DNR's website, ([mndnr.gov/Invasives/AquaticPlants/StarryStonewort](http://mndnr.gov/Invasives/AquaticPlants/StarryStonewort)). If you think you have found starry stonewort or any other invasive species new to a lake or river, please report it to the DNR by contacting the area AIS Specialist.



Starry stonewort is an algae that looks similar to native aquatic plants and can form dense mats, which can interfere with lake use and compete with native plants. It is most likely spread when

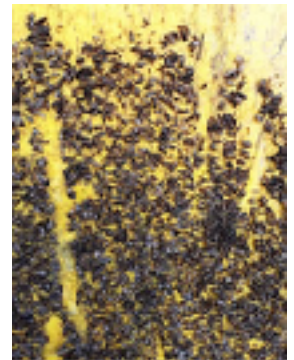
fragments have not been properly cleaned from trailered boats, personal watercraft, docks, boat lifts, anchors, or other related equipment.

### Zebra Mussels

The first zebra mussel verified in Woman Lake was found in July 2020 on the west shore north of the Boy River. Waters have been monitored continuously, and this season zebra mussels were found in Woman Lake at several locations and Girl Lake.

This is a photo of zebra mussels found on the underside of a yellow swim platform in Hunter's Bay on September 5.

It is extremely important to decontaminate watercraft that have been in Woman or Girl Lake before putting them in another body of water. In addition, docks, lifts, rafts, and swim platforms should be dried for 21 days before moving them from one water body to another.



### FiveStar Lake Service Provider Program

The Cass County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program and area lake associations have partnered to implement the FiveStar Lake Service Provider Program. These providers are DNR certified, sign a contract to apply additional specified AIS best practices and safeguards when moving from one lake or river to another, and agree to help identify and disseminate AIS best practices and safeguards throughout Cass County. Check out the Cass County website for details, and watch for a feature story in the spring newsletter.

**Rich Hess, AIS; Dana Gutzmann, Cass County Environmental Services; Linda Kane, Editor**

## Minnesota Loon Restoration Project

### Purpose

The Minnesota Loon Restoration Project objectives are to reduce mortality and increase the number of young loons produced in Minnesota. The primary emphasis of this project is to provide loon nesting habitat by protecting natural lakeshores through acquisition and/or easements. By providing permanent protection of targeted lakeshores, this facilitates direct protection of loons and ensures future availability of nesting habitat for Minnesota's state bird. This project focuses on 8 northern counties: Becker, Clearwater, Beltrami, Hubbard, Cass, Crow Wing, Itasca, and Aitkin. These counties have the potential to sustain quality loon habitat. Conservation efforts will help to ensure the future of loon nesting and rearing of young on lakes.



### Status



Minnesota is home to about 12,000 adult loons, the highest in the lower 48 states. Although their numbers remain stable in Minnesota, according to data collected by the MN Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) Minnesota Loon Monitoring Program, loons are considered to be vulnerable to several prominent threats. Long-lived and high up on the food chain, loons are susceptible to the accumulation of environmental contaminants (e.g., lead-based fishing tackle). During migration to and from the Gulf of Mexico, loons may encounter natural disasters and disease such as botulism and E. coli infection. Loon habitat is threatened by fragmentation and human disturbance. In addition, climate change impacts water quantity and temperature, altering vegetation and fish forage for loons.

### Background

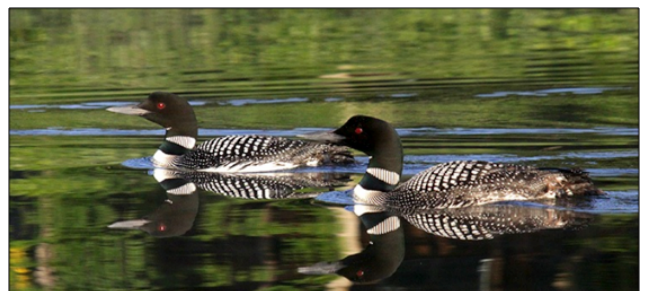
On April 20, 2010, the *Deepwater Horizon* drilling unit exploded, resulting in a massive release of oil from the BP Exploration and Production Inc. (BP) Macondo well, causing loss of life and extensive natural resource injuries from Texas to Florida. An assessment of injuries to the Gulf's natural resources and the services those resources provide was conducted. As part of a 2016 settlement, BP agreed to pay \$8.1 billion in natural resource damages over a 15-year period and up to an additional \$700 million for adaptive management or to address injuries to natural resources that are presently unknown but may come to light in the future. The *Deepwater Horizon* Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group (herein Open Ocean TIG) is responsible for restoring natural resources and their services within the area that was injured by the oil spill.



In 2019, the Open Ocean TIG's first restoration plan was finalized. As part of this restoration plan, the Restoration of Common Loons in Minnesota project was funded \$7.52 million to reduce mortality and increase the number of young loons produced in Minnesota. The MN DNR Nongame Wildlife Program was awarded \$4.8 million for acquisition and/or easements of lakeshore loon nesting habitat, enhancing loon productivity by providing artificial nesting platforms on targeted lakes and engaging MN lake associations in loon conservation activities. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency was awarded **\$1,270,600** towards reducing loon exposure to lead-based fishing tackle.

### Goals and Objectives

**Objective 1: Acquire loon habitat.** This is the top priority of the project, as lakeshore habitat is a crucial part in the life cycle of loons. Permanently protecting natural lakeshores, thus, providing quality habitat is the best strategy for ensuring loons successfully breed, nest, forage, and rear young in Minnesota.



## Minnesota Loon Restoration Project (continued)

**Objective 2: Augment natural nesting with artificial nesting platforms (ANPs) in targeted locations.** In some situations, augmenting natural habitat is necessary for loon success. ANPs can increase loon productivity when 1) water levels fluctuate during nesting season, 2) significant and recurring predation is occurring, and 3) loons are present but protecting or enhancing natural nesting habitat is limited. The MN DNR can work with you to evaluate if an ANP is appropriate. For more ANP assistance, join the Loon-Friendly Lake Registry Program.

**Objective 3: Promote stewardship of lakes with loons by engaging community members in the Loon-Friendly Lake Registry Program.** This is a voluntary program that allows communities to make an individual lake Loon Friendly. Enrolling in the program includes working with the MN DNR for implementation. This includes documenting the history of loons on the lake, identifying changes to the lake in the previous 10 years, assessing nesting, rearing, and foraging opportunities for loons, evaluating barriers to loon success such as human disturbances or predation, connecting with the MPCA's Get The Lead Out! Program, and recommending voluntary actions to improve lake conditions. (Editor's Note: The CGWLAA is working on this process.)

**Objective 4: Participate in joint monitoring of project implementation and outcomes.** We monitor our efforts closely by working with federal partners (U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). You can help!

### Ways to Get Involved

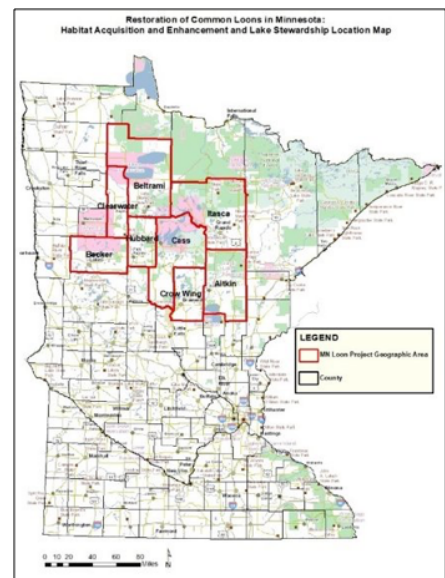
#### Volunteer LoonWatcher Survey - [LoonWatcherSurvey.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:LoonWatcherSurvey.dnr@state.mn.us)

Volunteers who either live on or regularly visit lakes with loons have the opportunity to record their own observations on loons throughout the summer and report their findings at the end of breeding season. Observations include: loon numbers, nesting success, activities, and any problems (i.e., predation or human disturbance).

#### MN Loon Monitoring Program - [https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/projects/mlmp\\_state.html](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/projects/mlmp_state.html)

This is a long-term study of the loon population in six distinct regions across the state. Volunteers visit their assigned lake one morning during a 10-day period in mid-summer and count the numbers of adult and juvenile loons. The MN DNR has over 20 years of data on more than 600 lakes! This program helps detect changes in the population and reproductive success of loons and enables us to anticipate any problems that could jeopardize the future of Common Loons in Minnesota.

#### Rob Rabasco, NR Program Coordinator MN Loon Recovery Program



### Water Patrol

Wow, where has the summer gone? September flew by too... After a late ice out and some questionable weather, the patrol season started in earnest the first weekend in June. Weather continued to play a role in our patrol sessions through the summer with storms limiting several days of activities. Despite a late start, a successful season on the lakes and a good time was had by all!

The water patrol season concluded regularly scheduled patrols on September 18. This season, patrol volunteers devoted 155.5 hours to help make time on the lakes safe and enjoyable for everyone. Log sheets documented more than 340 public contacts for checks on safety equipment, aid to boaters experiencing problems (needed a tow, lost, out of gas), and responses to countless queries on where the fish were biting.

In addition to boater safety checks, patrol volunteers monitored the condition of warning buoys. Volunteers

repaired the boat lift when the lift cable separated from the drum, placed some of the warning buoys and channel markers, and spent hours breaking in the new motor.

The new motor has provided smooth performance, facilitated contact with boaters with a quiet idle, and eliminated smokey exhaust. This 200 hp four stroke motor is easy on gas too. A full patrol shift typically consumes a little over 3 gallons in 3 hours.

I am grateful for the willingness of volunteers to devote a few hours each month to support safety and enhance the lake experience for all. We can always use additional volunteers, especially during the busy summer days. I hope you will consider exploring our water patrol group for 2023! Please contact me at 651-402-6258 or [drgado@comcast.net](mailto:drgado@comcast.net) for information.

**Gordie Hess, Water Patrol**

## Blastomycosis Awareness

Going “up north” or living in “lake country” is living at its finest. However, the very thing that brings us so much joy can be dangerous for our pets and ourselves.

Blastomycosis is a fungal infection which can affect the body as a whole. The spores that cause this illness are found in rich, moist soil around waterways and especially in wooded areas. Please see the chart below that shows which counties have had the most diagnosed cases.

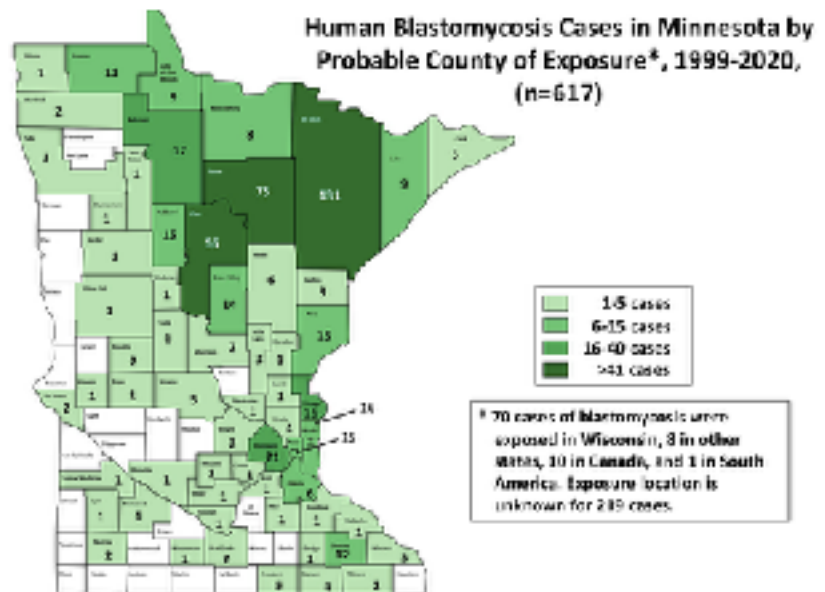
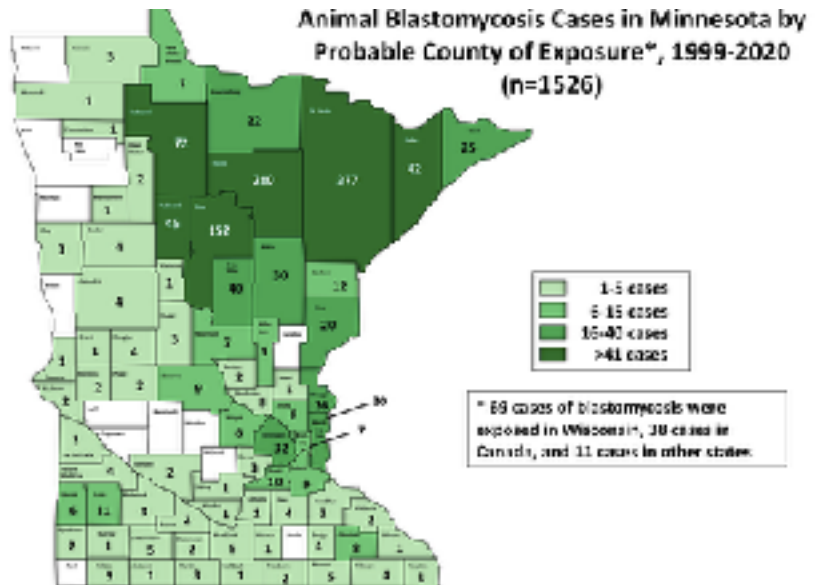
Both humans and animals are susceptible to this disease. Dogs are especially prone because of their digging and sniffing of soil. With summer time being “up north” for many, September is the most common month to be diagnosed as the incubation period ranges from 3 weeks to 3 months. Blastomycosis is not contagious and does not spread between humans or animals.

Spores are released when the soil is disturbed, for instance, by excavation, construction, digging, or wood clearing. Once the spores are disturbed and inhaled, they take residence in the lungs. This causes an infection which can sometimes spread throughout the body, not only spreading in the lungs, but the skin, eyes, bones, urinary system, and central nervous system. Rare cases have been found where the fungus gets into a cut and causes a skin infection. There is no prevention and there are no tests available to test soil.

For humans, the symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath, chest pain, night sweats/chills, fatigue, weight loss and/or open sores on the skin that do not heal. Animal symptoms include fever, cough, difficulty breathing, weight loss and skin lesions. Infection in the eyes is much more common in animals versus humans.

Because early detection is the key to a better outcome, it is advised to see your doctor or veterinarian as soon as symptoms appear. Also be clear as to where you have been or traveled. Tests may include a fungal culture taken from sputum or the drainage of an open wound. However, this can take days to weeks to confirm the result. Lung x-rays may detect inflammation of the lungs; however, the cause still would need to be determined. Detection of the antigen taken from urine or blood can result in 1 to 3 days.

Itraconazole is the most common used anti fungal treatment, but Amphotericin B may be used for severe life-threatening infections. Unfortunately, treatment can be lengthy and medications to remediate the disease expensive. The purpose of this article is not to suggest that you should be afraid to enjoy the outdoors.



However, awareness and early detection are key to having a positive outcome. If you or your pet are diagnosed with pneumonia, be aware of this fungal possibility, and bring it up to your doctor or veterinarian.

**Nancy Coughlin, Woman Lake**

## Order Trees/Shrubs for Spring Planting

Our Lake Association is again offering five **FREE** trees or shrubs to help stop and reduce water flow from nearby wooded areas and encourage shoreline naturalization as a buffer between lawns and the lakes. As in the past, you can order any combination of five trees or shrubs from the list. Additional trees or shrubs can be ordered for \$1.50 each. Payment for additional items must be made with a check, payable to Bill Pilacinski, at the time your order is sent or placed online. **All orders must be placed by the first week of January.**

Please email your order to Bill Pilacinski at **wppila@gmail.com** (no order form necessary if by email), or mail the order form provided below to **Bill Pilacinski at 3295 - 124th Lane NE, Unit C, Blaine, MN 55449**. Orders can be picked up the second or third Saturday in May - May 13 or May 20 from 9 AM through noon. The pickup site will be identified in a later communication. You will receive a reminder when your order is available.

Orders sent by email are easier to process and provide ongoing communication if needed. If you do not have email, please be sure to include your name and phone number on the order form. If you wish to order additional plants or other materials that are not on the order form, visit the Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District website to see what else is available ([cwsxcd.org/shop](http://cwsxcd.org/shop)).

The CWSWCD offers a broader selection, but you need to order a bundle or kit. You can also send this

additional order with payment to me, and I will include it in our order. You will be able to pick up this order during our regular pickup dates in May. The trees/shrubs are bare root and 5 to 18 inches in height.

Our focus this year has expanded beyond just the shoreline. A number of you had asked about offering larger trees, and the DNR has identified Red Oak and White Pine as trees that would be able to accommodate the higher temperatures we will be experiencing in coming years as a result of climate change. This also provides an additional focus on the upland tree line. Plantings on the upland areas of our properties, especially where lawn is not maintained, will retard water flow during periods of heavy rain, allowing rain to soak into the soil, reducing the volume of water reaching the shoreline.

The trees/shrubs for this year are listed, based on height, from White Pine to 100' and Serviceberry to 9'. They will all do well in a wide range of moisture conditions, from dry to moist/wet soil. Note that if you have a deer browsing problem, you will need to provide protection until these grow to a height beyond the reach of feeding deer. More information on these and other native plants can be found at [minnesotawildflowers.info](http://minnesotawildflowers.info).

Please call me at 314-541-0396 or contact me by email with any questions. We look forward to another successful year of spring planting!

**Bill Pilacinski, Shoreline Restoration**

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### Order Form

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Species	Growth Rate	Mature Height	Soil Type	Number
White Pine	Medium	80-100'	Dry/Moist	_____
Red Oak	Medium	50-75'	Dry/Moist	_____
American Wild Plum	Medium	15-25'	Dry/Moist	_____
Common Ninebark	Fast	6-12'	Dry/Wet	_____
Red Osier Dogwood	Fast	5-10'	Dry/Moist	_____
Serviceberry/Juneberry	Medium	6-9'	Dry/Moist	_____

## Financial Statement through September 30, 2022

Budget Line	Budget	Expense YTD	Reimbursement	Remaining Budget Balance
Newsletter	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 502.77		\$ 1,997.23
Water Patrol	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 220.19		\$ 1,179.81
Road Signs	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 371.91		\$ 728.09
Water Quality	\$ 1,500.00			\$ 1,500.00
Annual Meeting	\$ 300.00	\$ 285.94		\$ 14.06
Public Relations & Membership	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,051.54		\$ 198.46
Admin & Travel	\$ 1,275.00	\$ 2,752.43		\$ (1,477.43)
Communication Technology	\$ 1,000.00			\$ 1,000.00
Shoreline Buffer Restoration	\$ 700.00	\$ 343.50		\$ 356.50
Contingency Fund	\$ 1,100.00			\$ 1,100.00
Aquatic Invasive Species	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,609.95		\$ 1,390.05
Navigational Safety	\$	\$ 752.01		\$ (752.01)
Total	\$ 15,125.00	\$ 7,890.24	\$ 0.00	\$ 7,234.76

<b>Current Month Balance</b>	\$ 46,380.36
<b>Endowment Account</b>	\$ 25,236.09
<b>Total Assets</b>	\$ <b>71,616.45</b>



**Volunteers Welcome and Appreciated!**  
 Please Contact Committee Chair,  
 Lake Rep, or Board Officer



# Lake News

Child, Girl, and Woman Lakes Area Association  
PO Box 335  
Longville, MN 56655



Website: [www.womanlakechain.org](http://www.womanlakechain.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/womanlakechain](http://www.facebook.com/womanlakechain)  
Email: [info@womanlakechain.org](mailto:info@womanlakechain.org)

## Child, Girl, and Woman Lakes Area Association

President	Rich Hess	<a href="mailto:president@womanlakechain.org">president@womanlakechain.org</a>	218-363-2282
Vice President	Chuck Miotke	<a href="mailto:vp@womanlakechain.org">vp@womanlakechain.org</a>	218-826-1628
Treasurer	Terry Fay	<a href="mailto:treasurer@womanlakechain.org">treasurer@womanlakechain.org</a>	
Secretary	Gwen Lappin	<a href="mailto:secretary@womanlakechain.org">secretary@womanlakechain.org</a>	952-239-4057
<b>Directors at Large</b>			
Woman Lake Rep	Nancy Schuelke	<a href="mailto:womanrep@womanlakechain.org">womanrep@womanlakechain.org</a>	952-303-9988
Woman Lake Rep	Gary Knox	<a href="mailto:womanrep@womanlakechain.org">womanrep@womanlakechain.org</a>	763-229-3948
Woman Lake Rep	Janis Kelley	<a href="mailto:womanrep@womanlakechain.org">womanrep@womanlakechain.org</a>	218-682-3855
Girl Lake Rep	Larry Anderson	<a href="mailto:girlrep@womanlakechain.org">girlrep@womanlakechain.org</a>	
Child Lake Rep	Bill Hornung	<a href="mailto:childrep@womanlakechain.org">childrep@womanlakechain.org</a>	218-507-0904
<b>Standing Committees</b>			
Membership	Chuck Miotke	<a href="mailto:membership@womanlakechain.org">membership@womanlakechain.org</a>	218-826-1628
Road Signs	Jon Stevenson	<a href="mailto:roadsigns@womanlakechain.org">roadsigns@womanlakechain.org</a>	763-226-6509
AI Species	Rich Hess	<a href="mailto:ais@womanlakechain.org">ais@womanlakechain.org</a>	218-363-2282
Fisheries	Rich Hess	<a href="mailto:fisheries@womanlakechain.org">fisheries@womanlakechain.org</a>	218-363-2282
Water Patrol	Gordie Hess	<a href="mailto:waterpatrol@womanlakechain.org">waterpatrol@womanlakechain.org</a>	218-363-2921
Water Quality	Ann Stevenson	<a href="mailto:waterquality@womanlakechain.org">waterquality@womanlakechain.org</a>	612-490-5990
Newsletter	Linda Kane	<a href="mailto:newsletter@womanlakechain.org">newsletter@womanlakechain.org</a>	612-327-4964
Communication & Tech	Kathy Scharmer	<a href="mailto:commtech@womanlakechain.org">commtech@womanlakechain.org</a>	
<b>Task Committees</b>			
Adopt-A-Highway	Ken Hanson	<a href="mailto:highway@womanlakechain.org">highway@womanlakechain.org</a>	218-682-2045
Navigational Safety	Jon Stevenson	<a href="mailto:navigation@womanlakechain.org">navigation@womanlakechain.org</a>	763-226-6509
Webmaster	Carole Houghton	<a href="mailto:webmaster@womanlakechain.org">webmaster@womanlakechain.org</a>	218-363-2286
Shoreline Restoration	Bill Pilacinski	<a href="mailto:shoreline@womanlakechain.org">shoreline@womanlakechain.org</a>	314-541-0396