**MInutes - UPPER RED LAKE AREA ASSOCIATION LICENSE # 02724 P.O. BOX 409, WASKISH, MN**

**The April 18th meeting of the URL AA membership was called to order at 6 p.m. by Robyn Dwight nine persons in attendance.**

**Gambling Manager Rick Thayer presented the Gambling Report and bills to be paid. Motion to accept the report as presented and to pay the bills was made by Kevin Waldo and seconded by Bobbi Oen. Unanimous.**

**Gambling Manager Report also included information of the following items:**

1. **LG1004-Monthly Gambling report to members.**
2. **Profit and Loss report for February 2022**
3. **Annual Gross Receipts**
4. **Gambling Control Board Audit**
5. **Checking Account Balance**

**We have a Four Star Rating**

**Grants:**

* **Take A Kid Fishing/DickMcCarthy**
* **Lost River Trails/Scott Waldo**

**Take A KId Fishing Approved, Lost River Trails tabled**

**Minutes: Minutes from the March meeting were approved and accepted with a motion by Kellie Halvarson with a second by Tim Waldo. Unanimous**

**Treasurer’s report: February total checking and saving account-$24,500.24. Motion to accept as presented was made by Dave DeNoyer and seconded by Tim Waldo. Unanimous.**

**Keep it Clean Committee Report: attached.**

**Membership: one business, one individual. It was reported that, to date, there are 84 paid memberships, of which 18 are businesses.**

**Old Business: Robyn reported that lighting for the two URLAA billboards will be installed when weather permits. An electrical inspector will be contacted for authorization.**

**New Business:**

* **Election of officers: Executive members and Board of Directors remains unchanged. Thanks to all for their continuous service to the organization.**
* **Spring Shoreline and Ditch CLeanup: Kelliher ISchool students will do a roadside cleanup and have lunch provided at West Wind. Residents are encouraged to clean up the shoreline and bring their waste to the local transfer station over the Memorial Weekend. People are reporting less garage washing up this spring - perhaps due to intensive efforts over the winter to handle waste and garbage with greater responsibility.**
* **Discussion of current non-profit status and recommendation to register with the Department of Revenue. Discussion and consideration of reviewing and updating our By-laws, no action taken. The Board approved the submission of a grant to the LCCMR (Legislative and Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources) for Keep it Clean Projects in 2023-2024.**
* **Spring Newsletter will go to p[ost office boxes in Kelliher, Northime and Waskish in an effort to expand our membership drive and share news with more people about the Association.**

**Correspondence: None. Before adjournment there were questions from the floor and a brief discussion about Upper Red Lake Boundaries. Residents are free to talk to elected Representatives about any and all concerns in their district. Information is provided in our Spring Newsletter. Tim Waldo reported on the AIS Boat Wash being installed at the Public Access and that there will be a Five-Fish limit of Walleye this season.**

**Next meeting: May 16, 2023 at 6:00 PM - WESTWINDS, WASKISH, MN**

**Motion to adjourn: Dave
Denoyer and seconded by Tim Waldo. Unanimous**

**Minutes respectfully submitted by Brian Dwight (secretary)**

**KEEP IT CLEAN REPORT April 18, 2022**

It has been an exciting year for the Keep It Clean Initiative !!! As the ice fishing season is winding down, I wanted to update our members and discuss some next steps both on a state-wide level and your local efforts.

**State-Wide Efforts:**

1. **Keep It Clean Bill —** the Keep it Clean Bill is now in the [Omnibus Bill 2310](https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/bills/Information/BillNumber?FileNumber=2310). The specifics regarding the Keep It Clean legislation can be found at: [LINK](https://www.house.mn.gov/comm/docs/_QxZh5BNfU_X8bM8SCe6Nw.pdf) . Thank you for reaching out to your local representative and senator to let them know how important this is.
2. **Centralized KeepItCleanMN.org website and Facebook Page** — Features all of the information about Keep It Clean in one location. Includes an electronic Keep It Clean agreement to make it easy for other lakes to join and order Keep It Clean marketing materials. [https://keepitcleanmn.org/](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fkeepitcleanmn.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cec1bd72a88f04cc1ace008db11235457%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638122615718419621%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=V8lR%2FzWBpsgvW9JfSAW0se9ISNhCVk2%2BnzUAmYoJD7g%3D&reserved=0)
3. **Be Nice to Our Ice: Keep It Clean Video —** This was a collaborative effort with MN-FISH. Ron Schara volunteered his time to do the voiceover. The video ran before each seminar at the St. Paul Ice Fishing and Winter Sports Show Dec. 2-4 and is featured on the KeepItCleanMN.org website and social media. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zwa4mSuK5m8](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DZwa4mSuK5m8&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cec1bd72a88f04cc1ace008db11235457%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638122615718419621%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=dBn5o3xDnV5Pw4ZFgQzARcBdgTFLf%2Ba%2BbWBWq9eomFw%3D&reserved=0)
4. **Suite of Keep It Clean Marketing Materials** — Includes Keep It Clean logo, banner, poster options, table tent options, stickers, postcards, and online and print ads. Lakes that sign the electronic agreement have access to these files at no cost. The goal is consistent branding among all participating lakes.
5. **2023 DNR Fishing Regulations Handbook** —A full-page Keep It Clean ad on page 57. <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/regulations/fishing/index.html>
6. **Media – press releases** — Outdoor news, Star Tribune, Kare11, MPR, and more, our team is continuing to reach out and provide Keep It Clean messaging.
7. **MPCA Funding** – Funding from MPCA has been secured for some statewide initiatives including support for social media/marketing, website hosting, mobile wheeled fish house education station, educational display, billboards, outreach kits, and more.
8. **Over 30 Lakes + Kandiyohi County Joined** — Since November, the Keep It Clean campaign has welcomed more than 30 new lakes from various areas in the state. We are also hearing from lakes in ND, WI, IA, and Canada who may be interested in joining, as they are facing the same challenges. Some of the bigger lakes include Leech Lake, Lake Vermilion, Big Sandy Lake, Big Sauk Lake, and West Battle Lake.

**In the Upper Red Lake Area:**

1. **Knowing the Problem** - We did extensive outreach and engagement with local residents and businesses to develop a common approach to a nasty ice trash problem in the Upper Red Lake Area. We held spring and fall meetings with stakeholders to learn about the problems and work together on sustainable solutions.

2. **Work with Partners** - a Pilot Program was funded by the Red Lake Watershed District, the Upper Red Lake Area Association, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the Beltrami Soil and Water Conservation District. Extensive media awareness and a poster and sign campaign helped visitors to do the right thing with their leftovers during the angling and winter camping season. Four lake accesses were provided with larger dumpsters specifically for human waste (toilet bags), to get garbage and waste off the lake and keep it out of businesses' trash containers. Large lake signs reinforced the Keep it Clean message. We had support from area residents and were thankful for donations from KD Wild Rice and Bemidji Chrysler, as we did a geofencing campaign and spring lakeshore cleanup. Partners at the Department of Natural Resources, Soil, and Water Conservation District, and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency guided us in the right direction as we looked for solutions to better regulation and enforcement, and greater resources and infrastructure. We have contacted many agency folks throughout the year who have encouraged our efforts 100%.

3. **Sustainable Solutions** - we have reached out to legislators on both sides of the aisle who agree that something has to be done. We anticipate our legislation becoming the **Keep it Clean Act, enforceable by January 2024.** We have applied for grant funding to assist local participants to install winterized holding tanks for the thousands of wheelhouses that require services. There will be a large billboard erected in our area with the Keep it Clean - Be Nice to the Ice message. A customized Keep it Clean Wheelhouse will make its appearance at the State Fair in August. We will also have other exciting edutainment materials to display at local events throughout the year. Our friends at MNFISH, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers, Star Tribune, Outdoor News, KARE 11, and Lakeland TV share updates on our activities to the benefit of our fishery and all who use and enjoy healthy water. Representative Andrew Meyers, the chief author of our Keep it Clean Bill, has given generously of his time to ensure the success of our bill. Senator Paul Utke has authored it in the Senate and as we await the results of the sausage-making process, we are thankful for all the support we are getting at the Capitol, both in the public eye and behind the scenes.

4. **The Future of Keep it Clean** - our lake is a precious resource and our area is a vibrant community, which we can protect and enjoy for generations to come - IF - we all do our part to help and support the work being done by the Association and the Keep it Clean Committee. Our committee will continue our work to make sure that through education, resources, infrastructure, and enforcement, The Upper Red Lake Area continues to thrive and rise to the challenges that come our way. As we grow our communities and welcome thousands of visitors every year, let's make an effort to participate in the work ahead. Please take some time to find out what you can do to help the Keep it Clean Committee, and the Association as a whole, to make a real difference.

On a personal note, I wish to thank the Association for allowing the Keep it Clean Committee to exist. Brian, Zach, Tim and family, Brent, Julie, Mike, Anne Bob Meier, Theresa and Theresa, Ron Schara, Jim Stark, Dano, and many others, have been instrumental in making our initiative a reality. We are passionate about protecting our fishery and Keeping it Clean and we challenge you to do your part as clean ice-clean water stewards.

Thank you all,

Robyn

**3.) **