

Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 10th, 2023 9 – 11 a.m.
At Shady's Long Shots • Cold Spring

Call to Order – Brad Matuska, President

Board Members Present: Matt Noska, Aaron Schwartz, Richard Gallea, Gary Schnobrich, Steve Weeres, Wayne Karg, Admin: Trish Feldhous

Board Members Absent: Gene Krebs, Karla Smetana, Troy Atkinson

Members in Attendance: Approximately 18 member families

Special Guests in Attendance: Senator Jeff Howe, Representative Lisa Demuth, County Commissioner Jeff Bertram.

Introduction of Board Members – Brad Matuska

- Aaron Schwartz, Vice President
- Troy Atkinson, Treasurer
- Keely Frakes-Rau, Gambling Manager
- Karla Smetana, Gambling Volunteer Coordinator and Marketing Committee
- Gary Schnobrich, Water Quality Committee
- Wayne Karg, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Committee and Water Quality Committee
- Gene Krebs, AIS Committee
- Steve Weeres, AIS Awareness & Prevention and Lake Level Monitoring
- Matt Noska, Fisheries Committee
- Richard Gallea, Land Use Committee
- Susan Antolak, Marketing/Public Relations Committee
- Trish Feldhous, Administrative Assistant, Membership

Introduction of Special Guests

- Senator Jeff Howe
- Representative Lisa Demuth
- County Commissioner Jeff Bertram

Board Member Term Expirations

- Brad Matuska
- Troy Atkinson
- Steve Weeres
- Gene Krebs
- Susan Antolak

● **Thank You Outgoing Board Members**

- Susan Antolak

● **Board Member Election/Voting**

● Introduction of candidates

- Brad Matuska
- Troy Atkinson
- Steve Weeres
- Gene Krebs

● Write-In candidate – 1 available

- Rick Reimer

Charitable Gambling

- Due to some recent changes, the charitable gambling (e-tabs) will be changing in January, 2025. This is making the proceeds from them much less attractive. It will result in a significant income decrease.

Hybrid Water Milfoil on Horseshoe

- This has now expanded to Cedar Island. We are surveying and treating but it is expensive.

Questions/Concerns from Members

- Are we still focusing on weed pulling?
 - We have dedicated \$20,000 to hiring Weeds Up. They are working on harvesting curlyleaf pondweed. They pull weeds from the root, bring them to shore and from there it is disposed of. We have a small budget for spraying. (East, Knaus & Cedar Island). This is expensive to do.
- How do I get a “no wake” sign?
 - You must establish a county ordinance. This is done by talking to commissioners. They would need to vote and would then put in buoys. Someone would need to talk to Stearns County Environmental Services to initiate the process.
- What can we do about boat traffic waves?
 - If boats are operating irresponsibly, they can get a warning. But at this time, we cannot enforce any type of operating limits on boat traffic since it is a public lake.
- Can we put a speed limit for boats on the Chain?
 - Again, people may get a warning for going too fast, but at this time we are not aware of any statewide speed limits for boaters.
- Are resort occupants members of the SRCLA?
 - Yes, we do have some resort occupants that are currently members.
- Do we stock walleyes?
 - We have not stocked walleyes in 6 years. The river has a high natural reproduction rate. We are working on a project with the DNR to go 8 years without stocking. We are also hoping the state will reduce the walleye limits.
- Can you give an update on Muskies?
 - Currently there are no surveys. All muskies should be tagged and scanned. The biggest one we know of is 40”. If you catch one, you should go to report this on the DNR website. All should be tagged.

Financial Report – Brad Matuska

- Went over some of what our annual income is spent on. The largest amount of money is going right back into our lakes for weed control and AIS.
- Small part of budget is given for administrative costs.

Board Member Voting Results/Board Members Elected

- *Bert Johnson made a motion to accept the ballot as is since there are only 5 currently on the ballot. Mary Holthaus seconded. Motion approved.*
- Brad Matuska
- Troy Atkinson
- Steve Weeres
- Gene Krebs
- Rick Reimer

Adjourn

- *Richard Gallea made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Wayne Karg. Motion approved.*