

Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association
Board MINUTES
Tuesday, August 15, 2023 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
At Flexible Pipe Tool Co. • 22606 186th Ave • Cold Spring
Microsoft Teams Remote Option

Call to Order – Brad Matuska

Present: Rick Reimer, Aaron Schwartz, Gene Krebs, Karla Smetana, Troy Atkinson, Wayne Karg, Richard Gallea, Gary Schnobrich, Administrator: Trish Feldhous

Phone Options: Steve Weers, Gambling Manager: Keely Frakes-Rau

Absent: Matt Noska, Website Guru: Kersten Thellin

Review of past Minutes – Brad Matuska

July Board Minutes Approved via Email – Brad Matuska

Gambling Manager Report– Keely Frakes-Rau

- Income trends with gambling seem to be increasing.
- 2022 gambling generated a 33% increase as compared to 2021.
- Donation check should be sent to SRCLA end of this month.
- *Karla made a motion to approve the monthly gambling report, proposed gambling expenses and pre-approved April taxes, Seconded by Troy. Approved.*
- We received a request from Henry's Heroes (a local non-profit) asking if we could help them with a possible meat raffle at Shady's. The board feels we need to ask for clarification on what they are looking for from us. Suggestions would be to help promote their event or direct them to places they could organize an event.

Financial Report– Troy Atkinson

- Review Financials - Profit and Loss, Balance Sheet, and Check Register
- More stamps and envelopes were purchased in July for mailing out membership letters and stickers.
- Inventory Assets are now removed from the balance sheet.
- We had a couple larger expenses paid out in July for curly leaf and hybrid milfoil treatments.
- *Richard made a motion to accept the July Profit and Loss, Balance Sheet, and Check Register – Seconded by Karla. Voted on and Approved.*
- So far we have received 4 memberships since our 2nd mailing was done on August 8th. Trish will track and report next month on additional memberships.

Administration Report – Brad Matuska

- Weeds Up Donation will be discussed at next month's meeting.
- Distance from Long Lake Bayou Bridge to Lakebed is 19' 3". Therefore there is no evidence the bayou is collecting any sediment.
- Fall Magazine Schedule - Stories are Due to Trish Monday, August 21. Please include pictures!
 - We have articles showcasing the shoreline tour and an article we are looking at getting permission to republish regarding Agricultural projects and water quality improvements.
 - *Chain Link* Cover Photo was voted on and a decision was made. Trish will reach out to the winner to request permission to use the photo and acquire information to get her the prize (SRCLA mug)
- Comprehensive Marketing Plan Update
 - Sub-committee has been meeting to try to develop and come up with goals for the Association.
 - Membership Goals and Tracking – hoping to increase membership to 720 in 2024 and 900 in 2025.
 - Lake Steward and Lakescaping Goals would be to increase each to 5 in 2024.
- Focused Sponsorships – We would like to focus our sponsorship on an event that coincides with our mission. The Catfish Fest is on the water and makes sense for us to sponsor.
- *Aaron made a motion to sponsor Catfish Fest at the \$1000 level. (due October 1st). Seconded by Gary. Motion passes*
- Another idea discussed was to start some form of Town hall meetings. Potentially hosting one on each lake. This would be a non-formal place to discuss concerns or ask questions. We could also have specific topics. We feel these would be more successful in the wintertime.

- Dam Control - Gene Krebs and Rick Reimer
- Gene's son in law is interested in giving us information on stabilizing our water levels and feedback on what may or may not be possible. Once this is done Gene & Rick will get together and form a plan going forward.

Land Use Committee Report – Richard Gallea

- Sandy Point Caution Buoys have been in and publicized.
- Sherriff's Dept confirmed mostly receiving questions and clarifications. They believe some boaters might think it's a no wake zone. All in all it seems to be a good thing as it is causing boaters to slow down.
- Soil and Water's Lakescaping Tour was well attended. 60 people attended the tour consisting of 6 sites. Richard feels this was good as it is generating interest and inquiries from people wanting more information.
- Sauk Talk Report was attended by Steve, Gary and Richard. It was informal and a nice talk but no residents came.

Marketing/Public Relations Committee Report – Aaron Schwartz

- Social Media Report – Aaron Schwartz
- Both Instagram and Facebook were up with followers, likes and unique visits.
- We are looking to be posting more content to increase interest.
- Aaron discussed posting articles from Jamie at Channel Marine. These would contain general information and not specifics.

AIS Awareness and Prevention – Steve Weeres

- I-LIDS update
 - 7 violations were flagged and caught on video
 - Out of these 1 warning and 1 citation were issued.
- Lake Level Modeling Project we are hoping to hear back by the end of August.
- Lake Level Monitoring Update
 - The graph will be updated the end of each month to post on the website
 - With over 2" of rain that fell last weekend, the levels did not jump as much as we thought they would.
 - We have the option to purchase 4 cleaning stations. Stearns County would cover 50% of the purchase price. This would include tools for boaters to quickly clean their boats.

Water Quality Committee Report – Gary Schnobrich

- Gary will email the board the article he is submitting for the Fall magazine. He highly recommends using the link he added for a website (Grace College) which contains lots of beneficial information and pictures.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Committee Report – Gene Krebs/Wayne Karg

- AIS Update – Weeds Up, HWM and Flowering Rush Treatments are all finished.
- There were 300 yards of curly leaf pond weed taken out.
- The final survey is not done yet, but it is looking like we are taking out less weeds annually.
- Wayne and Rick are attending Starry Trek on August 19th. They will report on this next month.
- DNR Grant Reimbursement is done on our end. We are waiting on the reimbursement paperwork.

Fisheries Committee Report - Matt Noska

- No update was given this month

Old Business

- Troy received a thank you from MN AIS Research Center regarding our donation.
- We received a letter from the IRS stating our tax due date is cleared up from 2021 and no payment is due.

New Business

Adjourn

- *Aaron made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Gene. Approved.*

For the Good of the Association Meeting Schedule

- Tuesday, September 19th at 6:30pm at Flexible Pipe Tool.