

Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association
Board MINUTES
Tuesday, December 19, 2023 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
At Flexible Pipe Tool Co. • 22606 186th Ave • Cold Spring
Zoom Remote Option

Call to Order – Brad Matuska

Board: Steve Reid, Rick Reimer, Aaron Schwartz, Karla Smetana, Troy Atkinson, Wayne Karg, Richard Gallea, Gary Schnobrich, Administrator: Trish Feldhous

Team Remote Options: Steve Weeres, Gambling Manager: Keely Frakes-Rau, Guest Allison (Extend Marketing)

Absent: Gene Krebs, Website Guru: Kersten Thellin

Review of past Minutes – Brad Matuska

November Board Minutes Approved via Email – Brad Matuska

Gambling Manager Report

- Gambling Manager Report – Keely Frakes-Rau
- We may need to update our lease agreement with Shady's. Keely is working on this.
- New this year we are doing meat packs from Teals and gift cards from Braegelmans for our meat raffles.
- Our rent checks are not getting cashed in a timely manner and throw off our monthly reports.
- *Karla made a motion to approve the monthly gambling report, seconded by Aaron. Motion carried.*

Financial Report – Troy Atkinson

- Review Financials - Profit and Loss, Balance Sheet, and Check Register
- Troy transferred money into our checking from savings to avoid monthly fees with the bank.
- We had some annual dues paid this month including website renewal and storage unit.
- Our numbers are down this month but that is to be expected this time of the year.
- *Richard made a motion to approve the November Profit & Loss, Balance Sheet and Check Register, seconded by Rick. Motion carried.*

Administration Report – Brad Matuska

- History Minute – Pre-settlement Conditions (Prairie) vs Now (Crops)
- Brad discussed how we can decrease sediment that is going into our water and how beneficial prairie strips can be.
- Grant Search and Writing Team Update - Julie McCauley has found 3 or 4 opportunities for grants. We are looking for partners in the Ag community to work with.
- Currently there is a Federal grant Brad and Julie are looking into that is due by 12/31/23. This is focusing on AIS.
- One other water quality grant from the EPA program is an option to look into in 2024.
- Dam Control Update from Brad
- Richard mentioned we have about 100 extra fall magazines due to the resorts not wanting them. We will bring them to Catfish fest to distribute there.
- The 2024 decals will be ordered soon. The design will stay the same but the color will change. The bass level will move to \$80 and Walleye will move to \$150.

Land Use Committee Report – Richard Gallea and Rick Reimer

- Lake Steward Program Update has no new submissions for this month. We feel this could be beneficial to post on social media to get the word out.
- Richard attended the MLR Annual Meeting Webinar. He also let us know of an AIS management 101 course that will take place in February if anyone is interested in signing up.

Marketing/Public Relations Committee Report

- Marketing and Social Media Report (Annual report next month) – Aaron Schwartz
- Allison from Extend marketing presented our report on social media increases over 2023. She is asking for more pictures to use.
- Website Report – Kersten has been working on archiving things on the website making them accordion style.
- Business Membership Push Update – Trish reported that all business letters were mailed 12/19/23. 150 new businesses were sent letters as well as 100 existing.
- Catfish Fest Volunteers - Brad, Gary, Steve W., Steve R.- February 9 and 10.

- WaterFest - February 7 and 8 - Rick and Steve R. have volunteered to participate. They are currently working on preparing something that is educational and will engage the children age ranges 10-12.
- Email Magazine Link – Aaron sent the link out Saturday night. He had a handful of them that were not delivered due to the file being too big. We are looking at compressing this in the future before emailing.

AIS Awareness and Prevention – Steve Weeres

- I-LIDS update – January 5th there will be feedback and a proposal review.
- Lake Level Modeling Project – An SCSU faculty member. has created a basic model of watershed which breaks it up into 6 zones. With this model we are able to add precipitation and see the levels change.
- Ice Level Monitoring – the levels went up a little with the rain last week but not much change.

Water Quality Committee Report – Gary Schnobrich

- No update this month- Gary is waiting on a report.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Committee Report

- Stearns County Launch Cleaning Station Program - Gene Krebs
- We received funding to put in tools at our landing stations. We need 3 tools at each landing (4 landings total).
- The tools needed are an aqua stick, grabber, and plug removal tool.
- We are tabling this until March as the tools will not be needed until spring.
- AIS Update – Flowering Rush Meeting Update – At this time we are focusing on trying to educate people on this. We plan to refocus our treatment by prioritizing from the mouth of the Chain and north.
- DNR Grant Application - Wayne Karg has submitted applications for grants. We should be notified in January of grants awarded.
- Lab to the Lake Event at MAISRC (U of M) on 12/7 – Brad attended. They celebrated 10 years. We feel they are a good organization to partner with and we are glad to support them.
- MN Lakes and Rivers AIS Stakeholder Meeting Update- Brad sat in on this meeting. He learned what other associations are doing or not doing.

Fisheries Committee Report

- On October 9th Steve Reid did electrofish sampling. This was done at night. Walleye counts are down a little this year but there are no plans to stock as we still have a good population. The next survey will take place in the spring.

Old Business

New Business

Rocori community foundation will be putting on a trivia event in April. We will not be donating as an organization, but encourage board members to support them and participate.

Adjourn

Steve R. made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Troy. Motion carried.

For the Good of the Association Meeting Schedule

- Tuesday, January 16th at 6:30 pm at Flexible Pipe Tool.