

Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association
Board MINUTES
Tuesday, February 20, 2024 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
At Flexible Pipe Tool Co. • 22606 186th Ave • Cold Spring
Zoom Remote Option

Call to Order – Aaron Schwartz

Board: Aaron Schwartz, Karla Smetana, Wayne Karg, Gary Schnobrich, Administrator: Trish Feldhous

Online Option: Steve Weeres, Richard Gallea

Absent: Brad Matuska, Steve Reid, Rick Reimer, Troy Atkinson, Gene Krebs, Gambling Manager: Keely Frakes-Rau

Review of past Minutes – Aaron Schwartz

- January Board Minutes Approved via Email – Brad Matuska

MAISRC is requesting survey data to be put in a public database. Brad is recommending that we share this data. Brad made a motion to share the data and Aaron seconded. The motion was voted on and passed via email.

Gambling Manager Report

- Gambling Manager Report – Keely Frakes-Rau
- Keely was not present at the meeting, so some highlights were discussed.
- It has been slow in January, but that is consistent with other years.
- Karla mentioned we had purchased a lot of horse races for the Curling Tournament in February.

Karla made a motion to accept the January gambling report, seconded by Gary. Motion approved.

Financial Report – Troy Atkinson

- Agency Fund Presentation: Carrie Abfalter, Central MN Community Foundation – this has been rescheduled for our March meeting due to low attendance.
- Review Financials - Profit and Loss, Balance Sheet, and Check Register
- Troy was also absent, so we discussed some key points in financial statements.
- A few expenses in January were envelopes for the mailings, annual lab fees, and winter hats to give away at Catfish festival.
- Our sponsorship of Catfish festival will be used for the 2025 event since 2024 was canceled.
- The 2024 budget is set. If any board members see anything that should be added or changed, please let Troy know.

Wayne made a motion to accept the January Profit and Loss, Balance Sheet and Check Register, seconded by Gary. Motion was approved.

- Inventory Update – Troy will go over in March.

Administration Report – Aaron Schwartz

- Federal Grant Update – the subcommittee did not meet so there is nothing to report. This is being tabled until March.

Land Use Committee Report – Richard Gallea and Rick Reimer

- Richard is working on building a spreadsheet that will list the inquiries and have them documented on the shared drive.
- It was suggested maybe there could be an article or information posted for homeowners that wanted to do smaller projects on their own.
- MLR Annual Meeting Webinar Update
- Richard is about halfway through an AIS Management course offered by U of M and finds it very informative. Once he has completed it, he will provide an overview to the board.

Marketing/Public Relations Committee Report

- Website Report – Aaron
- Kersten was not in attendance, so we did not have any website information this month.
- We saw around 20% increases in all our social media posts and interactions.
- It was suggested that we could post area fish fry's on our website and social media pages.

- The 2nd push for business memberships was mailed on Monday, February 12th and we have received 3 more so far.
- The first mailing yielded 11 new businesses and 21 existing ones that were renewed.
- The letters sent out in February do have our new rates, which are \$100 for Standard and \$200 for Elite.
- Magazine Update – Richard is asking for all articles to be submitted via the shared folder by March 6th.
- He is concerned with the overall content for this spring magazine. It is quieter over the winter, and he is not getting as many external submissions as in the fall. He thinks this publication could be ½ the size of the fall one.
- Trish also mentioned we have only gotten 5 pictures for the cover photo contest. Aaron will get this published more on social media to try to get more submissions.
- WaterFest - February 7 and 8 - Rick and Steve R..
- Steve R. And Rick did participate in this event last week representing SRCLA. Over 400 4th graders attended and did a good job learning about watershed.
- Social Media Update – no update this month.

AIS Awareness and Prevention – Steve Weeres

- I-LIDS units are all in storage. We do anticipate ice out will be early this year so we may be getting them out of storage and installing them in mid-April.
- Lake Level Modeling Project Update – Steve feels we should not see a significant increase in levels this spring with the lack of snow melting.

Water Quality Committee Report – Gary Schnobrich

- On January 31st Gary tested dissolved oxygen and temperature on Horseshoe, Cedar Island, Schneider, and Bolting. Dissolved oxygen profile in the 4 lakes monitored shows little change in DO from surface to lake bottom.
- The temperature was also less than 2 degrees difference from surface to bottom.
- Highway cleanup will be early May- Gary will let us know the date once it is set.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Committee Report

- 2024 DNR AIS Grant Update
- We have been awarded some grants already. They will require surveys before we can begin treatment in the spring/summer.
- Gary has been in contact with Dan at Limnopro and Amy from Tigris. They are both working on some preliminary plans and quotes for our weed control.
- Wayne will contact Randy at Weeds Up to get a ballpark number for harvesting.
- The Long Lake Association is going to fold, but the members are still interested in providing volunteers for our work at Shady's. We are hoping those members will consider joining SRCLA (if they are not members already).

Fisheries Committee Report

- Steve R. was unable to attend the meeting but did let us know there are no new updates on Fisheries.

Old or New Business

- Wayne inquired about setting a date for the annual meeting. This will be discussed/decided at the next admin meeting. We also added to try to come up with more incentives to get more people to show up.

Adjourn

Karla made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Wayne. Motion approved.

For the Good of the Association Meeting Schedule

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