

Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association
Board AGENDA
Tuesday, March 19, 2024 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, Aaron Schwartz, Karla Smetana, Troy Atkinson, Wayne Karg, Gary Schnobrich, Website Guru: Kersten Thellin, Administrator: Trish Feldhous

Online Options: Steve Weeres, Gene Krebs, Gambling Manager: Keely Frakes-Rau

Absent: Richard Gallea, Rick Reimer

Review of past Minutes – Brad Matuska

- February Board Minutes Approved via Email – Brad Matuska

Gambling Manager Report

- Gambling Manager Report – Keely Frakes-Rau
- Horse racing and Bingo will end this month, we still have lots of inventory. Karla will be checking to see if we can return any of these or if we will hang onto them for 6 months until next gambling season.
- Yearly fees were paid this month to State of MN
- A \$15,000 donation was made to the organization.
- *Karla made a motion to accept the February Gambling Report, seconded by Aaron. Motion carried.*

Financial Report – Troy Atkinson

- Review Financials - Profit and Loss, Balance Sheet, and Check Register
- Stamps were purchased this month to use for Business mailing and extras will be used for the residential thank yous that will be coming up this spring.
- Our CD will be coming due in April. We will discuss at the next meeting if we should reinvest or cash out.
- Our income was up from last year at this time due to the Business Push that we started at the beginning of the year.
- *Wayne made a motion to accept the February Profit & Loss, Balance Sheet and Check Register, seconded by Gary. Motion carried.*
- 2024 Budget is very similar to last year. We did increase the amount budgeted for AIS treatments due to receiving more grants this year.

Administration Report – Brad Matuska

- Federal and RACF Grant Update
- Brad is working on getting SRCLA registered with the Federal Government which would allow our organization to apply for Federal grants.
- Another new grant opportunity is through a local group called RACF. One of the categories they are offering grants for is Civic engagement and preserving community which would be relative to our organization. Brad and Julie are working on this application which is due April 29th.
- Brad is also checking into starting an Agency Endowment Fund which would allow us a way to manage larger donations and create more stability in generating revenue going forward.
- The Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 15th from 9-11am. The place is TBD, we are checking to see if Shady's will host again.
- Advertising will be done on the website, social media and by placing ads in the Cold Spring Record. It was also mentioned we could make up posters to hang on community bulletin boards such as at Teals.
- The following Board members terms will expire this year, and the following are their respective intentions:
 - Aaron Schwartz – Planning to **not** run for re-election
 - Steve Reid - Planning to run for re-election
 - Karla Smetana - Planning to **not** run for re-election
 - Richard Gallea - Planning to run for re-election
 - Wayne Karg - Planning to run for re-election
 - Gary Schnobrich - Planning to **not** run for re-election

Land Use Committee Report – Rick Reimer

- Rick was not in attendance, so no report was given this month.

Marketing/Public Relations Committee Report

- Website Report – Kersten, Aaron
- Visitation was slow through the winter, but it did spike on March 8th. It was determined most visits were generated from Facebook which mentioned information on current water levels.
- Content has been steadier this winter.
- Kersten put a “Weed management” link on the home page of the website to easily direct people to info on the topic.

- Business and Individual Membership Update – Trish
- Business membership has been going well, we already have more members in 2024 than we did last year.
- We are going to wait a couple of weeks to see if any more come in before we consider another communication, possibly an email reminder.
- The individual membership letters will go out in April.

- Magazine Update - Brad and Trish
- Everything is on schedule and all internal submissions have been turned in.
- We will vote on the cover photo at next month’s meeting.

- Social Media Update
- We continue to gain followers and Facebook impressions are up as well.
- Last week, we started featuring ELITE Business members on our social media.
- We should continue to send ideas for content to be posted. Specifically, pictures and videos are best to post.

AIS Awareness and Prevention – Steve Weeres

- I-LIDS are all charged and ready to go.
- The official Ice-out was on March 13th, but we do expect some winter weather this week.
- We received a \$4370 grant from Stearns County.

- Lake Level Modeling Project Update
- A professor at SCSU is making progress and has basic models done. She is looking for grant opportunities to continue research.
- Allison Lightfoot will be publishing an article with data from recent runs in our Spring magazine.
- The lake level is low going into spring.

Water Quality Committee Report – Gary Schnobrich

- Alison called to see if Gary would go out and do some samples, but we are unable to get a boat or lift in yet this year.
- The water levels are so low, we can’t do tributaries now. We are hoping for precipitation this week to help.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Committee Report

- Treatment Plan Committee Report - Gene, Steve R, Steve W, Rick, and Wayne
- Gene purchased the equipment (i.e. grabbers, scrapers, etc.) for the cleaning stations to go at the 4 public launches.
- Brad placed a public notice in the Cold Spring Record on weed control.
- We discussed the grants that were received and went over the plan draft for treating weeds in 2024. We received \$20,700 from the DNR and \$23,328 from Stearns County for surveys and treatments. The SRCLA plans to commit an additional \$63,518 totaling \$107,546 for surveys and treatments in 2024.
- We can use surveys from last year to support the plan for all the lakes except for Becker.
- *Troy made a motion to accept the treatment plan as presented and apply for permits to receive DNR approval. Steve R. seconded the motion. Carried.*

Fisheries Committee Report

- Update - Steve R.
- There are no new regulations, nothing to report at this meeting. They will be doing more counts in the spring.

Old or New Business

- Trish mentioned she had received a check for \$1086 from the Stearns County Long Lake Association which dissolved last month. This was the remainder of their funds.

Adjourn

- *Karla made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Brad. Motion carried.*

For the Good of the Association Meeting Schedule

- Tuesday, April 16th at 6:30 pm at Flexible Pipe Tool.
- SRCL Association Annual spring meeting on Saturday, June 15th at 9am. Place TBD.