

**Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association**  
**Board MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, May 23, 2023 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**  
**At Flexible Pipe Tool Co. • 22606 186<sup>th</sup> Ave • Cold Spring**  
**Microsoft Teams Remote Option**

**Call to Order** – Brad Matuska

**Present:** Brad Matuska, Aaron Schwartz, Gene Krebs, Troy Atkinson, Wayne Karg, Richard Gallea, Gary Schnobrich, Steve Weeres, Administrator: Trish Feldhous

**Team Remote Options:** Matt Noska, Keely Frakes-Rau, Kersten Thellen

**Absent:** Susan Antolak, Karla Smetana

**Review of past Minutes** – Brad Matuska

- April Board Minutes Approved via Email – Brad Matuska

**Gambling Manager Report** - Keely Frakes-Rau

- April numbers are down due to not doing horse racing
- Legislation passed today changing E-tabs to 3 lines only. This will reduce our taxes as well.
- Donation check to SRCLA will be made the week of May 29<sup>th</sup>.
- *Richard made a motion to approve the monthly gambling report, proposed gambling expenses and pre-approved April taxes- Seconded by Steve. Approved*

**Financial Report** – Troy Atkinson

- *Aaron made a motion to support a donation to the U of M AIS Research Center. They are working on zebra mussels. Gary seconded the motion. Voted on and approved.*
- Hometown Pride and Rock the River sponsorships have been paid
- More dues have come in April this year compared to 2022
- The 2023 budget was sent out to the board to review.
- Financials were discussed and reviewed by the board.
- *Gene made a motion to approve the April Profit & Loss, Balance Sheet, and Check Detail. – Seconded by Aaron. Voted on and approved.*

**Administration Report** – Brad Matuska

- Richard's neighbors and friends have been commenting on his article in the magazine.
- Richard's wife has experience in print and will help with layout for fall magazine.
- Some people have not gotten their magazine in mail. Looking into options why this may be happening.
- Thank you to Susan Antolak for all your service over the years

**Membership Update** – Trish Feldhous

- So far 350 members have renewed for 2023. 35% are Sunfish, 19% Crappie, 19% Walleye, 14% Catfish and 11% Bass.
- In 2022 at this time we only had 274.
- Only 32 Businesses have renewed, discussed how we could reach out to these businesses to try to gain support.
- Trish will send out list of businesses not currently members for board members to reach out to.
- Kersten and Trish put together reports showing memberships by lake and by level.

**Website Update** – Kersten Thellin

- Traffic has slowed a bit now that water levels have stabilized, most popular page is still Horseshoe water level.
- Direct is still the most frequent way people find us, followed by google then facebook.
- Reorged the menus, added Video page with content from MN DNR, other safety/informational videos - scouting other organizations' sites
- Added Search, Weather to footer, Announcement Bar to header
- Home page has 8 Posts - busier in the summer, will put back at 4 once content slows down

#### Other Admin

- Annual Meeting will be at Shady's Long Shots on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> from 9am-11am with coffee and donuts.
- We will be running ad in Cold Spring record to advertise our upcoming board meeting and encourage people to attend.
- Trish will make up ballots and send to Brad
- Looking into who will provide coffee and donuts.
- Weather permitting, will be held outdoors. If not, we can move inside Shady's.

#### **Land Use Committee Report** – Richard Gallea

- The SJU student that was working on the shoreline mapping project has graduated. He handed his files off to Stearns County. We will keep moving forward with project determining natural vs. developed.
- Hoping the article in the magazine will help
- Wocken Park project appears to be on hold until at least 2024, possibly later. There are a couple factors including boundary issues with parcel owners and hunting/trapping rights in a public park.
- Met with Sherriff's Dept last week re: Sandy Point caution buoys. Work is underway. We are waiting on a stencil to put "caution" on them.

#### **Marketing/Public Relations Committee Report** – Aaron Schwartz

- Social Media and Website Report
- Instagram has 20+ new followers last month with 2000 views, while Facebook has 720 new likes with 14,000 views.
- Hoping to bump up the user generated content on social media.
- River Lake Days and Hometown Pride are both being sponsored by SRCLA.

#### **AIS Awareness and Prevention** – Steve Weeres

- I-LIDS update; all four systems were online and operational May 8<sup>th</sup>
- There is a problem with Cold Spring, needed to do repairs on connector.
- Lake Level Modeling Project Update: Preliminary work was starting in June
- Lake Levels are within 7" of where we were April 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Water Quality Committee Report** – Gary Schnobrich

- Water Quality Contract with Watershed District
- *Aaron made a motion to vote on signing the Water Quality Contract with the Watershed District. Wayne seconded. Voted on and Approved.*
- Gary went over things with Alison at Watershed District and she will be helping set up protocols with us.
- 4 people helped out with the ditch clean up last month. Thank you's will be sent out to those that helped.

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

- People need more education on what treatments we are doing and how to take care of their own shoreline.
- Largest amount we budget for each year is weed control.
- We cannot do treatment without the preliminary survey, permits are being held up. This should be in shortly.
- Trying to stay ahead of hybrid. Treatment to be done by SOLitude mid to late June.

#### **Fisheries Committee Report** - Matt Noska

- No update at this time.

#### **Old Business**

#### **New Business**

#### **Adjourn**

- *A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Gene Krebs and seconded by Troy Atkinson. Approved.*

#### **For the Good of the Association – Meeting Schedule**

- SRCL Association Annual spring meeting on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 9am at Shady's Long Shots.
- Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at Flexible Pipe Tool.