

Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association
Board MINUTES
Tuesday, November 21, 2023 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
At Flexible Pipe Tool Co. • 22606 186th Ave • Cold Spring
Zoom Remote Option

Call to Order – Aaron Schwartz

Present: Brad Matuska, Aaron Schwartz, Gene Krebs, Troy Atkinson, Richard Gallea, Gary Schnobrich,
Administrator: Trish Feldhous

Team Remote Options: Steve Weeres, Gambling Manager: Keely Frakes-Rau, Website Guru: Kersten Thellin

Guest: Brenda Herubin

Absent: Rick Reimer, Steve Reid, Karla Smetana, Wayne Karg

Review of past Minutes – Aaron Schwartz

October Board Minutes Approved via Email – Brad Matuska

Gambling Manager Report

- Gambling Manager Report – Keely Frakes-Rau
 - Receipts were down a bit, and we incurred a net loss for October. This is due in part to the golf course shutting down for the season. There is not as much traffic at Shady's and they are also closed on Mondays.
 - Supplies and fees were all paid in October. Taxes are always paid a month behind as well.
- Gene made a motion to approve the monthly gambling report, seconded by Aaron. Motion approved.*
- Volunteer Update - Karla Smetana – no report given this month.

Financial Report – Troy Atkinson

- Review Financials - Profit and Loss, Balance Sheet, and Check Register
- Troy cashed out 2 CDs and deposited them in an account at Falcon which is generating 5.25% interest for 6 months.
- In October we paid for the survey, fall treatment and Catfish fest sponsorship. We also bought more membership stickers and website hosting dues.
- So far we are up this year from last and on target to make our budget.

Richard made a motion to approve the October Profit & Loss, Balance Sheet and Check Register. Seconded by Gary. Motion approved.

- Membership Levels - Recommendation:
 - Maintain Non-business Levels but Change Walleye to Highest
 - This is something the admin team has been discussing. We will bring our recommendations to the board in December.
 - Brenda Herubin is proposing that we change the Business from \$75 to \$100, and Business Elite from \$150 to \$200. We will not be making this change until the end of January.
- 2023 Budget is right on target.
- Falcon Bank Account Options
 - Falcon Bank is going to start charging fees for several services including checks written, mailing statements and the use of the merchant source capture. (This is the program Trish uses to do deposits from home).
 - In order to avoid these fees, Troy recommends we change to a different type of checking account where we are required to keep minimum amounts in both checking and savings to avoid the fees. We feel this is the best option for our organization.

Gene made a motion to switch to the new checking account with minimum balance requirements to avoid the new fees. Aaron seconded. Motion passes.

Administration Report – Brad Matuska

- Brad is asking that we form a Grant Search and Writing Team for HWM and Land Management. There are lots of federal dollars available that we may be overlooking. We are looking for board members that could help with research to find these grant opportunities and see if we qualify for them.
- Dam Control Update – we are just waiting for the DNR to designate the right person to go forward with this project.
- Wocken Property is moving forward.

Land Use Committee Report – Richard Gallea and Rick Reimer

- Land Steward Program is slowing down over the winter. Richard is working on ways to create more traction in 2024. The quiz that is available online now has a working link so Richard will receive the information from those taking the quiz.
- Richard also discussed with Rhonda Green (Edina Realty) about getting information monthly on new property owners on the Chain of Lakes. He will be talking to Karla to determine what we do with that information and if we should offer some type of “welcome gift” such as SRCLA swag.

Marketing/Public Relations Committee Report

- Marketing and Social Media Report – Aaron Schwartz
- We are hoping to discuss with Allie from Extend Marketing on social media success for 2023.
- Website Report – Kersten Thellin
- Kersten mentioned that when she receives articles or submissions for the website – it would be helpful if she had an intro and a conclusion that may help explain the content and how it relates to our mission.
- We are looking at posting links to each of our articles from the Fall magazine to make it easier for people to find articles they are looking for instead of browsing through the entire magazine online.
- The calendar is updated with events through the end of March.
- Business Membership Push - Brenda Herubin is proposing that we do a push to gain more business memberships. Our goal would be to add 25 in 2024.
- This would start with an email being sent in December. If we do not get a response to the email, we will do a direct mailing in January. We have a total of 209 businesses on our list currently with 97 brand new. All board members will look at the sheet and add any businesses they can think of that are not currently on the list.

Aaron made a motion to accept the Business Membership Drive plan as Brenda outlined. Troy seconded the motion. Motion passes.

- Catfish Fest will take place February 9th and 10th.
- Steve, Gary and Brad are volunteering to attend. Gene may possibly attend, will check his schedule.
- All other board members should keep the dates in mind and let Brad know if they can come help out.

AIS Awareness and Prevention – Steve Weeres

- I-LIDS units have all been shut down for the winter.
- Lake Level Modeling Project – the basic model should be out by the end of the year. We also have found a couple sources for spring grant opportunities.
- Lake Level Monitoring has been at the same level for the past 2 months. Batteries have been changed for the winter and they seem to be reporting fine.
- Stearns County Grant Report and Application – the final report for 2023 and the 2024 grant application have been completed.

Water Quality Committee Report – Gary Schnobrich

- Gary is waiting for a report from Allison (from the Watershed district).
- They have discussed evaluating the current locations where we are doing sampling and see if we can find better ones.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Committee Report

- Stearns County Launch Cleaning Station Program – Gene received an email that we were approved to receive 1 cleaning station. He is asking for clarification on whether we only received 1 or 4 as we requested.
- These will be put out in the Spring, the DNR chooses the location (s).
- We would like to see these put in at the local resorts as well.
- AIS Update – Flowering Rush Report – Brad reported that the pesticide we used is not the most effective way to treat it. We will need to reconvene and evaluate how to go forward in the spring.
- DNR Grant Application – Wayne will be asking for as much as we are allowed. Application is due December 11, 2023.
- Stearns County Grant Application – the final report for 2023 and the 2024 grant application have been completed.
- Attending Lab to the Lake Event at MAISRC (U of M) on 12/7 – Brad and his wife will be attending.
- MN Lakes and Rivers AIS Stakeholder Meetings 11/28 @ 2pm, 12/1 @ 10 am – Brad also registered to attend this.

Fisheries Committee Report

- No update this month

Old Business

New Business

Waterfest – which is put on at CSB on February 7th and 8th. This event is where 4th graders are invited to come and learn about water resources. This is a great opportunity to influence young minds. Board members are encouraged to consider attending and helping teach the children.

Adjourn

Gene made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Richard. Motion Carried

For the Good of the Association Meeting Schedule

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