

Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association
Board MINUTES
Tuesday, October 17, 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

Present: Gene Krebs, Karla Smetana, Troy Atkinson, Wayne Karg, Richard Gallea, Gary Schnobrich, Steve Reid, Administrator: Trish Feldhous

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

Absent: Rick Reimer, Aaron Schwartz

Review of past Minutes – Brad Matuska

September Board Minutes Approved via Email – Brad Matuska

Brad and Gene recommended via email that we approve \$21,822.05 to survey the rest of the lakes and do an experimental HWM treatment using 2,4,D. This additional survey would give us necessary data to come up with a comprehensive plan for 2024. Aaron made a motion to approve and Troy seconded. Motion approved via email.

Gambling Manager Report

- Gambling Manager Report – Keely Frakes-Rau
- Bingo, pull-tabs and etabs increased compared to last month.
- Bingo dobbers and a few other supplies were purchased
- SRCLA received a 4 star rating for 2023 from the Gambling Control Board.

Gene Krebs made a motion to approve the monthly gambling report, seconded by Karla Smetana. Motion approved.

- Volunteer Update - Karla Smetana
- Sunday night there were some technical difficulties with the horse racing game. Karla was able to get this resolved by the 3rd race of the night. Other than that the games and volunteers have all been going well.
- Keys for Cash is also going on at Shady's and this may help draw more people in.

Financial Report – Troy Atkinson

- Review Financials - Profit and Loss, Balance Sheet, and Check Register
- A couple expenses in September included renewing our P.O Box with the Richmond post office and paying Cold Spring Record for the 2nd mailing we did asking for memberships.
- We did not have any annual meeting costs this year.
- *Richard Gallea made a motion to approve the September Profit and Loss, Balance Sheet and Check Register, seconded by Gary Schnobrich. Motion approved.*
- Memberships have been trickling in averaging 1-2 a week. We are hopeful that the fall magazine may get more memberships.
- 2023 Budget shows we are close to our estimate for what we planned on spending this year.
- The \$1000 donation was made for our sponsorship to the Catfish festival.
- Both of our CDs will be expiring around the end of October and can be renewed.
- The 6 month renewal has a higher interest rate than the longer term ones.

Gene Krebs made a motion to combine the 2 CDs and renew them for 6 months at the 5.25%. Karla Smetana seconded the motion. Voted on and passed.

Administration Report – Brad Matuska

- History Minute
- There is 602,000 acres of watershed that drains into the Sauk River Chain of Lakes. The Chain has been classified as the most complex in the state of Minnesota.
- Fall Magazines were completed on Monday, October 16th. Dan from the Cold Spring Record brought them to the post office and they are expected to hit mailboxes later this week.
- Trish picked up the extras for delivery. Trish, Karla, Richard and Wayne are going to each deliver to a portion of the businesses next week.
- Thank you so much to Richard and Mary Gallea for all their work putting this magazine together!

- Dam Control Update - Zoom Meeting October 17
- Meeting included the DNR, Representatives Jeff Howe and Lisa Demuth, Commissioner Jeff Bertram and the Sauk River Watershed District.
- They are working on figuring out a starting point for this process within the DNR. Included in this process will be figuring out guidelines and forming a committee to see what we can do next.

Land Use Committee Report – Richard Gallea and Rick Reimer

- Richard is currently working with 3 residents. He feels that they will work on developing plans over the winter.
- We are hoping the fall magazine will generate more interest and raise awareness about native buffers and the Lake Steward Program.

Marketing/Public Relations Committee Report – Brad Matuska

- We continue to work with Brenda Herubin on marketing strategies to try to generate more memberships.
- A plan is being developed for the Catfish Fest which will include some giveaways and other things to gain attention.
- Working on data to differentiate between new/renewed memberships.
- Karla and Richard will reach out to Rhonda Green to see if we are able to receive monthly reports on any homes that were sold on the Chain. This is so we can introduce ourselves and give them information on the SRCLA.
- Website Report – Kersten will be posting the fall magazine files on Wednesday, October 18th. She will also be using the contest images on the website.
- The gambling calendar is up to date.
- We had 322 visits in the last 30 days.

AIS Awareness and Prevention – Steve Weeres

- No update given. We will follow up on these items at the November meeting.

Water Quality Committee Report – Gary Schnobrich

- Final Tests
- The last sampling was done at the end of September. Gary will be doing the last dissolved oxygen temp on Wednesday, October 18th. This will be the last time this is done until January when he checks it through the ice.
- Highway Cleanup was completed and we had about 10 volunteers come out to help.
- Gary will be sending them personal thank you's in the mail.

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

- We have a very unique breed of HWM that is currently covering over 480 acres. We do expect to find more as we complete the survey.
- We are doing an experimental 2,4,D treatment on 3 separate 1 acre plots to see what is effective.
- At this point we are only going to be able to try to manage it, not eliminate it.
- We are hoping to find additional funding sources that could help with this next spring.
- Stearns County Launch Cleaning Stations – Gene applied for 4 of them. It sounds like we should receive them all.
- AIS Update – HWM and Flowering Rush Surveys are being finalized now
- DNR Grant Reimbursement Update- Wayne reported that all the money is in for 2023 and that we will need to start applying for the next rounds soon.
- Lab to the Lake Event at MAISRC – Brad plans on attending. All board members are welcome to attend as well.

Fisheries Committee Report

- Steve Reid went out to do electrofishing on October 9th.
- Walleye counts are down this year, possibly from the low water levels and the weeds.
- There will not be any stocking yet but this could potentially happen next year.

Old Business

New Business

- The administrative team will be discussing a possible change of membership levels and also when we should have the cutoff date for 2023 vs. 2024 memberships.

Adjourn

Gene Krebs made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Steve Reid. Motion approved.

For the Good of the Association Meeting Schedule

- Tuesday, November 20th at 6:30 pm at Flexible Pipe Tool