

**Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association**  
**Board MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, September 19, 2023 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**  
**At Flexible Pipe Tool Co. • 22606 186<sup>th</sup> Ave • Cold Spring**  
**Zoom Remote Option**

**Call to Order** – Brad Matuska

**Present:** Rick Reimer, Aaron Schwartz, Gene Krebs, Karla Smetana, Troy Atkinson, Wayne Karg, Richard Gallea, Gary Schnobrich, Administrator: Trish Feldhous  
**Phone Options:** Steve Weeres, Gambling Manager: Keely Frakes-Rau  
**Absent:** Website Guru: Kersten Thellin, Matt Noska  
**Guest:** Steve Reid

**Review of past Minutes** – Brad Matuska

August Board Minutes Approved via Email – Brad Matuska

**Gambling Manager Report**

- Gambling Manager Report – Keely Frakes-Rau
- Keely followed up with Gina from Henry’s Heroes. She let her know some organizations and businesses that she could contact to help them set up some fundraisers since working with them did not support our mission.
- A donation was made to SRCLA in August.
- *Karla made a motion that we increase the Triple crown budget range. This would allow Keely to be pre-approved for a higher dollar amount to be spent on expenses without board approval. Rick seconded motion. Approved.*
- Audit went well and it was much improved from last year.
- Karla has volunteers lined up for all fundraising events this year. Emails with the volunteer schedule have been sent out to all volunteers and will also be posted at Shady’s. Horse racing is set to begin October 1<sup>st</sup>, Meat Raffles and Bingo should start mid-October.

**Financial Report** – Troy Atkinson

- Review Financials - Profit and Loss, Balance Sheet, and Check Register
- All grants for 2023 have been received.
- The budget is right on track to where we should be at this time.
- *Richard made a motion to approve the Profit and Loss, Balance Sheet, and Check Register; Seconded by Wayne. Approved.*
- Membership Update- 900 letters were sent out in August. Letters were a second “ask” letter for those that were not yet members of SRCLA. This generated approximately 35 new members and some are still trickling in.
- We are considering putting a membership “roster” on the website for ease of members to see their status. This could also help eliminate double payments for each calendar year.

**Administration Report** – Brad Matuska

- Weeds Up donation was considered and unlikely as we do not have money leftover
- Distance from Long Lake Bayou Bridge to Lakebed is 19’ 3” - No change from last month but water level is at 1 foot presenting navigation challenges
- Fall Magazine proof is ready. Needs to be finalized by Monday and sent to The Record for printing
- A huge thank you to Richard and Mary Gallea for taking on and putting together the magazine project.
- Matt Noska has asked to resign from his board position. He has been with SRCLA for 10 years. We thank Matt for his years of service.
- *A motion was made by Gene to accept Matt’s resignation, Seconded by Troy. Approved*
- Steve Reid wishes to take over Matt’s vacant position. He will be involved in Fisheries.
- *A motion was made by Wayne to approve Steve filling the vacant position on the board. Karla seconded and motion was approved.*
- Dam Control - A Zoom meeting has been scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup>. This will include some SRCLA board members, Representative Lisa Demuth and Senator Jeff Howe, members of the watershed district, as well as the DNR. They are going to be discussing flow control. We anticipate this is just the first step in what will potentially be a 5-6 year project.

**Land Use Committee Report** – Richard Gallea

- The buoys are being pulled out of the water for the season. Some were pulled out today.

- We have a couple homeowners that are doing projects on their property to install a native buffer. Subsidies are available to cover 75% of these. Richard feels homeowners should cover part of the cost but proposed that SRCLA cover 12.5% of each project.
- *Karla made a motion for SRCLA to cover 12.5% of the Freidrich project, slated to be finished in spring 2024. Gary seconded. Approved*
- *Wayne made a motion for SRCLA to cover 12.5% of the Matuska project which was completed this year. Gary seconded. Approved. \*\*Note\*\*Brad did abstain from voting on this motion.*

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

- Instagram impressions have increased by over 1000 since last month.
- Facebook videos had over 600 views.
- We launched bi-weekly fishing reports which may be generating some traffic. These will also go on the website. A page has been added.
- Gambling calendar was added to the website.
- Traffic was down overall this month. We believe Hometown Pride Days was generating a lot of our traffic in July.

**AIS Awareness and Prevention – Steve Weeres**

- I-LIDS resulted in 8 violations this summer. There was 1 violation since our last meeting that showed a jet ski trailer, but the owner was unable to be identified.
- Final report is due November 1<sup>st</sup>. The rest of the I-LIDS need to be out by Halloween. Steve will take care of this.

**Water Quality Committee Report – Gary Schnobrich**

- Last sampling will be done Tuesday morning.
- Will do dissolved oxygen level in late October and again in January with ice on the lake.
- Two lakes, not on the Chain, have been reported to have turned over this year.
- Road cleanup for this fall will take place on October 7<sup>th</sup>. We will post this on social media and website.

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

- Starry Stonewort was found in Clearwater Lake in Wright County. There is a large infestation in a marshy area which covers roughly 4 acres.
- Eel grass is also really taking off this year.
- AIS Update – HWM and Flowering Rush Surveys update. The FR treatment was applied via drone and they are checking effectiveness. For HWM, we treated 21 acres in 2022, and an expanded survey showed that HWM went from 30 to 85 acres. We will need to possibly do another treatment this fall to stay on top of it.
- Stearns County AIS Application for plant removal tools at our four public launches. SRCLA would supply an 18x24 sign, while Stearns County would supply the post and installation. Items SRCLA would need to purchase would be the sign, a grabber and a brush for cleaning.
- *Brad made a motion to apply for 4 cleaning stations and tools. Troy seconded. Motion approved.*

**Fisheries Committee Report - Matt Noska**

- No update this month. Steve Reid will take over Fisheries committee in October.

**Old Business/New Business**

**Adjourn**

*Richard made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Karla. Motion carried.*

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

- Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at Flexible Pipe Tool