

Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association
Board MINUTES
Tuesday, April 16, 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, Rick Reimer, Karla Smetana, Troy Atkinson, Wayne Karg, Gary Schnobrich, Gene Krebs, Richard Gallea, Administrator: Trish Feldhous

Remote Option: Steve Weeres

Guests: Candy Burns, Jamie Juelfs, Carrie Abfalter (Remote)

Absent: Aaron Schwartz, Gambling Manager: Keely Frakes-Rau

Review of Past Minutes – Brad Matuska

- March Board Minutes Approved via Email – Brad Matuska

Karla suggested providing pizza and drinks for all the volunteers that helped with bingo and horse racing over this past gambling season. Brad made a motion to approve \$350 to be used for this purpose, seconded by Richard. Motion passed via email.

Gambling Manager Report

- Gambling Manager Report – Keely Frakes-Rau
- Keely was not in attendance at the meeting. Reports will be sent out to all board members and approved via email.

Financial Report – Troy Atkinson

- Review Financials - Profit and Loss, Balance Sheet, and Check Register
- The only notable purchase in March was the decals for the 2024 members.
- We are up from where we were at in March 2023, taking into account last year we had received a grant from Stearns County that we have not gotten yet in 2024. We expect that should be arriving within the next few weeks.
- *Rick made a motion to approve the March Profit & Loss, Balance Sheet and Check Register, seconded by Richard. Motion carried.*
- The CD that we invested in last fall is coming due and we need to determine if we will renew it for another 6 months or cash out.
- *Brad made a motion to liquidate the CD to ensure we would have enough income for upcoming AIS treatments. Karla seconded. Voted on and approved.*
- River Lakes Days, MN Lakes & Rivers, MAISRC Donations
- *Troy made a motion to donate \$300 to MN Lakes & Rivers, as well as donate \$2500 to MAISRC. He motioned that we do not make a donation to River Lake Days in 2024. Gary seconded the motion. Brad amended the original motion to hold off on the MAISRC donation until the fall when we have a better idea of funds available. Amended motion carried.*

Administration Report – Brad Matuska

- RACF Grant was completed with a \$5000 request for funds.
- The federal government registration was completed, and we are now eligible to apply for federal grants. There are 2 that are due at the end of June that Brad and Julie McCauley (volunteer) will be submitting applications for.
- Agency Endowment Fund – Carrie Abfalter
- Carrie discussed the pros of setting up and investing in different endowment funds. She will send more information on funds to Brad to forward to the board. We anticipate this will be an ongoing discussion.
- Bridge between Horseshoe and Long is still at 19' 2" - no change.
 - Concerned about low water and limited access.
 - Gene did some research and it was determined it would be a large undertaking with a big price tag (over \$300,000) so at this time we will not be taking any action.
- Annual Meeting - Saturday, June 15 from 9 am to 11 am, need to confirm with Aaron if we are able to use Shady's.

Land Use Committee Report – Rick Reimer

- Rick discussed a pollinator habitat grant that is available. It is easy to fill out. We will be putting more information on this on the website. The deadline to apply is May 15th.
- Richard has some activity on the Lake Steward program. He is also considering contacting some past projects to possibly put together a chain map showing where all the projects have been done.

Marketing/Public Relations Committee Report

- Website Report – Kersten and Aaron were not in attendance.
- The admin team will be meeting this week to set up a solid plan for managing messages that come through on social media and the website.
- Business and Individual Membership Update – Trish
 - Business memberships have slowed down. We are ahead of where we were last year but would like to see more Business members. It's possible the membership drive for residential could help reach businesses as well.
 - All information for our residential membership drive has been sent to the Cold Spring Record. Dan will keep us posted when this mailing will be sent out.
- Magazine Update – Richard
 - The board members voted on the cover photo for the spring magazine and a winner was chosen. Richard will reach out to the winner to request permission to use the photo and to confirm an address to deliver the mug to.
 - The magazine is done, and a draft was sent to the Cold Spring Record. They anticipate this will be sent out early to mid-May.

AIS Awareness and Prevention – Steve Weeres

- I-LIDS will be put in the last week in April.
- Lake level has risen 2 ½” today because of the rainfall and local runoff. It should be over 1087 feet within the next few days.

Water Quality Committee Report – Gary Schnobrich

- Gary is stepping off the board in June but has agreed to continue helping out the watershed district with monitoring all summer. He will also do training for the board member that will take his place.
- Roadside cleanup is set for April 28th. An email will be sent out to all members to see if they are interested in helping.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Committee Report

- Treatment Plan Committee Report - Gene, Steve R, Steve W, Rick, and Wayne
- Gene purchased the grab sticks and weed sticks for the cleaning stations. The highway department will be putting them in. We discussed putting “provided by SRCLA” on the signs of the cleaning stations.
- The dates have been pushed up on when we need to do treatments.
- We are only allowed to treat what we permit for curly leaf. We may end up diverting some of our funds for curly leaf to hybrid water milfoil.

Fisheries Committee Report – Steve R.

- Nets have been put out on Horseshoe, Cedar, and East of Hwy 71 by the DNR. The primary target is muskie counts. These counts should be available by our May meeting.
- They plan to do more sampling at the end of July on catfish and walleye.

Old or New Business

Adjourn

Gene made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Karla. Motion carried

For the Good of the Association Meeting Schedule

- Tuesday, May 21st at 6:30 pm at Flexible Pipe Tool
- SRCL Association Annual Spring Meeting on Saturday, June 15th at 9am at Shady's Long Shots.