

# **COKATO LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETING**

**Grace Hill Church  
15905 US Hwy 12  
Cokato, MN 55321  
Saturday - January 11, 2025  
9:00am**

Attendees: Louis King, Jim Wood, Heather Coffelt, Rick Schultz, Toby Kotila

Call Meeting to Order and Approve Agenda: 9:01am

*Motion to approve: Jim Wood*

*Second: Rick Schultz*

## **SECRETARY REPORT**

Annual Meeting Minutes from August 2024 were read by Secretary - Heather Coffelt

*Motion to approve: Louis King*

*Second: Jim Wood*

## **TREASURER REPORT**

Financial Report presented by Treasurer - Jim Wood

Please see the Financial Report on the last page of the meeting minutes.

\*Highlight: Receipt of \$2,000 anonymous donation to the association fish fund

*Motion to approve: Rick Schultz*

*Second: Heather Coffelt*

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **1) Boat Landing Maintenance Update - Louis King**

The DNR finally came to spread the gravel loads at the landing in September or October 2024.

- According to Louis, the 3 loads did a good job solidifying the landing. It's much better than it was – not perfect but better.

The DNR didn't dredge the landing in 2024.

## 2) **Carp Fisherman Update - Louis King**

Louis talked to both Jeff and Tim (Commercial Fisherman) who harvested the carp for us in 2023.

Louis asked them to harvest carp this winter since ice conditions are good.

The commercial fisherman said the carp market is still low, so they don't have an incentive to fish UNLESS they get paid from lake associations directly to offset the cost of their travel, equipment and time.

Louis asked them what they would charge us to come harvest again.

- They said it would require a \$10,000 upfront payment from our lake association. No quantity guarantee for fish removal.
- In addition - if they were able to harvest 100,000 lbs of carp from Cokato Lake – they want an additional \$40,000 to cover their expenses. (Which would equate to a total expense of \$50,000)
- Note: IF they can sell the carp (and sheep head) from our lake – they would deduct their market sale revenue from our invoice.

Heather Coffelt recommended we ask for a written proposal for carp removal from the carp fisherman before proceeding with any type of agreement.

- She also asked if we could receive a discounted rate if our association members provide labor and equipment to assist with the carp harvest (similar to what we provided in April 2023 - thanks to the help of Mark McDonald and Bruce Irvin).

We all agreed we need to solidify our long-term plan as an association for carp removal before moving forward.

We are asking the 3 Phase Plan Committee to present their findings and proposals at our April Quarterly meeting. We can review the plan as an association and vote on how we want to proceed.

We need to review all 3 phases of our initial plan and create a budget:

- 1) Carp Removal
- 2) Fish Stocking (to maintain lower carp population)
- 3) Vegetation Planting

The most successful carp harvests in Minnesota have been in winter when ice conditions are conducive for under ice netting.

If we decide as an association to proceed with paying for carp removal – we will need to determine our funding options. Local fundraiser and/or grant opportunities

(if available). We will likely need a combination of association participation and large donations.

We will determine a budget for each phase of our plan to present to our members before asking for donations.

Projected timeline for Carp Removal: 2026 Winter

### **3) Review Lake Association 2024 Fish Stocking efforts**

We spent \$2,000 to stock sunfish in 2024.

800 sunfish in the 6"-8" range

500 sunfish in the 2"-4" range.

We also stocked 500 walleye fry – private donation

### **4) Update on 3-Phase Plan for Cokato Lake – Danney Winkelman (Chairman)**

See notes in Item #2 above

The board requests a presentation of the 3 Phase Plan for Cokato Lake at our April 2025 Quarterly Meeting. April 12, 2025 at 9:00am

We need to determine our Long-term plan and present a budget for each phase of the plan to our membership before asking for donations for carp removal (IF the association votes to move forward with hiring a commercial fisherman to harvest carp).

### **5) Chairperson for Yearly Buoy Installation**

Rick Schultz volunteered to help Louis King with the installation and removal of buoys each year. Thanks Rick!

### **6) Membership Update**

We currently have 68 active/paid members for 2025/2026 membership year.

Our current list of members is on our website. [www.cokatolakeassoc.com](http://www.cokatolakeassoc.com)

- If you do not see your name on the list - you are not an active/paid member for 2025/2026 fiscal year.

There are 26 members from 2024/2025 who have not paid for 2025/2026 – likely because they missed the annual meeting and forgot to pay.

- Heather Coffelt to send email reminders to the 2024/2025 members who have not paid their 2025/2026 dues.

Jim Wood to send membership contact spreadsheet to the Secretary of the RV Resort to clean up our rolls – we have people on the list that no longer own/rent lots at the RV Resort.

\$35/year – Annual Dues

Note: Donations above that amount are always accepted and appreciated.

Methods of Payment:

- Pay online – Cokato Lake Improvement Association Website:
  - [www.cokatolakeassoc.com](http://www.cokatolakeassoc.com)
- Pay via Check and Mail to our Treasurer:
  - Checks Payable to Cokato Lake Improvement Association
  - Mail check to:

Jim Wood – Treasurer  
2779 Nevens Ave SW  
Cokato, MN 55321

## **7) Spring Landing Clean-Up Project**

April 11, 2025

12:00pm-2:00pm

Cokato Lake Boat Landing

Please bring gloves and tools for brush clean-up along the shoreline.

\*\*Our Quarterly Meeting is also scheduled for April 11th at 9:00am

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **1) Lake Association 2025 Fish Stocking Plans**

Agree to spend \$1,500 to stock sunfish in the 6-8” range again this year.

Agree to spend \$500 to stock Walleye Fry this year.

\*\*We are using the anonymous donation of \$2,000 to cover all fish stocking expense this year.

Thank you to the anonymous donor!!! Your support of Cokato Lake is appreciated greatly!!

DNR is expected to stock walleye fry this year in Cokato Lake – they did NOT stock walleyes in 2024.

### **2) Determine Date for 2025 Annual Meeting**

Saturday, August 9, 2025

Cokato Lake RV Resort – Big Red Barn

**3) Vice President and Board Member Election this Year**

- Nominations for these positions are due by our June 2025 Quarterly Meeting.
- Must be a Cokato Lake Improvement Association member at least 2 years and in good standing to be nominated for a position on the Board.

Current Vice President: Scott Maki

Current Board Member up for election in 2025: Scott Schoolmeesters

Meeting adjourned at 10:23am

*Motion to Adjourn: Heather Coffelt*

*Second: Jim Wood*

Cokato Lake Improvement Association

## Statement of Financial Income and Expenses

July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024

### Income

Dues	\$2280.00
Fish Fund	\$2045.00
Annual meeting meals	<u>\$118.00</u>
Total Income	\$4443.00

### Expense

Annual Dinner Meat	\$380.00
Fish Stocking	\$0.00
Credit Card Fee	\$18.25
Website/Tech	\$204.89
Signage at landing	\$40.53
<u>Total Expense</u>	<u>\$643.67</u>
Net Income	<u>\$3799.33</u>

## Statement of Financial Position

Current Assets	July 1, 2024	December 31, 2024
Checking	\$3770.45	\$7569.78
CD	\$5667.82	\$5667.82
Total Assets	<u>\$9438.27</u>	<u>\$13,237.60</u>