

COKATO LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING AUGUST 13, 2022 COKATO LAKE RV RESORT BIG RED BARN

70 people attended the meeting including Louis King (President), Scott Maki (Vice President), Jim Wood (Treasurer), Heather Coffelt (Secretary) and board members (Jim Anderson, Rick Schultz and newly elected Scott Schoolmeesters).

***Motion to start the meeting and approve agenda:** Scott Maki*

***Second:** Lynn Schoolmeesters*

Meeting was called to order at 6:40pm

Secretary Report

June 2022 Quarterly Meeting Minutes were read by Heather Coffelt (Secretary).

***Motion to approve minutes:** Rick Schultz*

***Second:** Ron Swan*

Treasurer Report

Statement of Financial Income and Expenses

July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

Income

Dues	\$2361.00
Fish Fund	\$525.00
Total Income	<u>\$2886.00</u>

Expense

Printing	\$24.19
Annual Dinner Meat	\$239.80
Fish Stocking	\$2150.00
Total Expense	<u>\$2413.99</u>

Net Income \$472.01

Statement of Financial Position

Current Assets	July 1, 2022	June 30, 2021
Checking	\$1593.97	\$1121.96
CD (matures 10/22/23)	\$3596.12	\$3596.12
Total Assets	<u>\$5190.09</u>	<u>\$4718.08</u>
Liabilities	\$0.00	\$0.00

Motion to approve Treasurer Report: Rick Schultz

Second: Rhonda Maki

Old Business:

1) Update on 3-year plan:

- a. Louis spoke (via phone) to the commercial fisherman who is permitted to harvest carp from Cokato Lake. The fisherman hopes to start harvesting the carp from Cokato Lake in October 2022.
- b. They will use nets and they hope to remove approximately 50,000 - 100,000 lbs of carp from Cokato Lake.
- c. Target harvest size is 15lb carp.
- d. Louis will monitor the harvest to ensure the game fish population is unharmed and to witness the quantity of carp harvested.
- e. The biomass of the carp in Cokato Lake is destroying the food and organisms that feed the baitfish. Once the carp are removed, it will allow our other fish to grow faster.
- f. We are extremely hopeful the carp harvest will take place in October. We have been waiting a couple years for the carp market in China to rebound so he had incentive to harvest the carp from Cokato Lake. The market collapsed due to Covid but it has rebounded and the fisherman is eager to supply the market.
- g. A couple of members suggested hosting a Carp Spearing contest. Louis said we had tried a contest in the past and it was not successful. Louis also asked them to research it further and get back to us with suggestions.
 - i. Ron Swan and Orv Jensen were asked to research this further if they would like the association to consider hosting a contest.
- h. Once the carp harvest is complete (at least 50,000 lbs of carp removed from Cokato Lake), we will proceed with Phase 2 of our 3-year plan.
- i. Phase 2 consists of planting as many sunfish as we can afford.
 - i. We might decide to ask for donations for sunfish stocking this spring.

- ii. Sunfish eat carp eggs – we need to ensure we have enough sunfish in our lake to clean up the carp beds and ensure they have the advantage over the carp.
- j. Phase 3 includes planting vegetation to provide fish habitat.

2) *Fish Stocking Efforts:*

- a. 1,500 sunfish and 50,000 walleye fry were placed in the lake Spring 2022
- b. Some members expressed concern about fish going over the dam. Fish are going over by the dam to spawn and they struggle or fail to get back up over the dam into the lake.
 - i. One member (Dustin Rademacher) spoke to the DNR fishery about this issue and they indicated they would support improvements to the dam.
 - 1. They discussed a dam that could be monitored - especially during spawning season.
 - 2. The DNR fishery told Dustin a new dam/dam process would require a lot of paperwork (which typically takes a year) and then a process of approvals from various departments.
 - a. Louis King was going to follow-up with Joe at the DNR fishery office.

3) *Membership Update:*

- a. We collected dues from 43 members for the 2022-2023 fiscal year – the majority of the dues were received at the annual meeting.
- b. We have 30 members from the 2021-2022 fiscal year who have not yet paid for the 2022-2023.

If you would like to become a member or want to renew your membership for this fiscal year (\$35/year) - please remit payment to:

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

****check payable to Cokato Lake Improvement Assoc****

New Business:

1) *Boating Safety Reminders for Cokato Lake*

- a. There have been a few instances of people crowding fisherman or getting too close to other recreational boats on high volume weekends.
 - i. We ask people to be mindful of other boaters, be courteous and exercise caution when near others.

2) *Review Cokato Lake Project Ideas:*

- a. **Landing (Boat Access):**
 - i. We fully expected the DNR to dredge the landing this June – it didn't happen. Louis called the DNR access department and they told him we

can't expect the landing to be dredged every year. Louis said that was not acceptable – we should have a functional access.

- ii. It is a dry year – so we can expect some issues but this year the landing has been unacceptable.
 - iii. Louis encouraged people to call the DNR access department and speak to Tim in their Sauk Rapids office.
 - iv. A resident of Cokato Lake volunteered to dredge the landing with no expense to the association. Louis will present this option to the DNR this week to see if it pushes the DNR to do something.
 - v. The DNR couldn't get on the lake last fall to conduct their shock test to measure fish population because the landing was in such terrible condition. Louis called Joe at the DNR fishery office to remind him that he won't be able to conduct the test again this year if there isn't work done to improve the landing. We are hoping the fishery office will push the DNR boat access department to do something – along with the complaints from our association members who make the phone call.
- b. Clearing Trees at the Landing (Boat Access):
- i. We plan to open up the first 50 yards of trees when entering the landing parking lot. This will provide better visibility (allow people to see if boats are coming or going from the landing).
 - ii. Louis will discuss this plan with the DNR and ask for approval to clear the trees.
 - iii. We will not hire this done – we will ask for volunteers to help clear trees.

3) Officer & Board Member Election

- a. Scott Schoolmeesters was elected to serve as a board member – replacing Tom Kenney.
 - i. Scott was elected for a 3-year term - all members voted in favor with no opposition.
- b. Louis King was re-elected as President of the association.
 - i. Louis was elected for a 3-year term – all member voted in favor with no opposition.

Motion to approve election results: Frank Roberts

Second: Kae Jensen

Member Fishing Report:

A member caught a lot of 8-9 inch walleyes this winter.

A member has been catching 8-10 inch walleyes. He fishes the spillway.

A lot of sunfish around the RV Resort docks this summer.

Motion to adjourn meeting: Scott Maki

Second: Ron Swan

Meeting was adjourned at 7:43pm