

Cokato Lake Improvement Association
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2024
9:00am
The Grounds on the Green - Basement
15256 US Hwy 12
Cokato, MN 55321

Attendees: Louis King, Scott & Rhonda Maki, Jim Wood, Heather Coffelt, Scott Schoolmeesters, Rick Schultz, Dan & Cheryl Flynn, Toby Kotila, Dave Cowger, Jaime Chelman, Danney Winkelman, Glen & Lois Posusta, Dustin Radermacher, Rob Radermacher, Al and Tammy Hayda and Steve Pawelski.

Meeting called to order at 9:02am

Motion to approve agenda: Danney Winkelman

Seconded by: Jaime Chelman

SECRETARY REPORT:

- A summary of the Quarterly Meeting Minutes from February 2024 was presented by Heather Coffelt.

Motion to approve: Scott Schoolmeesters

Second: Dave Cowger

TREASURER REPORT:

- Treasurer Report was presented by Jim Wood

Motion to approve: Rick Schultz

Second: Jaime Chelman

****Please see our "Statement of Financial Income & Expenses" at the end of these minutes****

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Update from Commercial Carp Fisherman – Louis King**
 - Louis has spoken to Jeff Riedeman (Commercial fisherman) - Louis said we are on the fisherman's radar and they have a desire to harvest additional carp from Cokato Lake but no timeframe was given. Ice conditions were not conducive for harvest under the ice this winter.
 - The members present at the meeting asked Louis to contact Jeff Riedeman the week of April 22nd to push for carp harvest this spring – Louis agreed to contact him again.

- **Review draft of 3-PHASE (Lake Management) Plan**
 - Main goal of the plan is Water Clarity
 - Draft of plan to include:
 - Phase 1: Carp Removal
 - Reasons for Harvesting Carp – results & qualifications
 - Carp Harvest Goal before proceeding to Phase 2
 - Phase 2: Sunfish Stocking
 - Reason for Sunfish Stocking
 - Quantity, Cost and Timing of Sunfish Stocking
 - Phase 3: Vegetation Planting
 - Reason for Vegetation Planting
 - Species, Quantity, Location, Planting Methods, Materials needed, Cost, Approvals/permits needed, etc.
 - The draft of the plan will require a lot of research and conversations with county and state officials, other lake associations in addition to private companies managing carp populations.
 - Danney shared a conversation he had with Carp Solutions about methods for measuring our carp population (biomass) – he also invited them to speak at one of our meetings.
 - It was determined we should have them present their offerings/research at our January 2025 Quarterly Meeting.
 - Danney Winkelman to coordinate the meeting presentation.
 - Agreed to move the 3-Phase Plan draft review date to the Quarterly Meeting in January 2025 – more time is needed to conduct research and compile the plan.
 - Dustin Radermacher agreed to assist with drafting the 3-Phase Plan.
 - If anyone else is willing to assist with drafting the lake management plan - please reply to this email or send a note to cokatolakeimproveassociation@gmail.com
 - The current subcommittee for the 3-Phase Plan consists of Danney Winkelman, Jake Kirchmaier and Dustin Radermacher.
- **Fish Stocking for 2024**
 - Even though the carp harvest hasn't happened yet this year, the association agreed to stock Bluegills (6-8 inch size range) this year.
 - Sunfish are a key component to controlling the carp population since they eat the carp eggs – therefore we decided to continue our sunfish stocking efforts.
 - The association is not stocking walleyes this year.
 - Rationale for stocking sunfish this year
 - Maintain ongoing presence of stocking fish in Cokato Lake
 - Larger Sunfish eat more carp eggs
 - Larger Sunfish will spawn the year we stock them
 - The association voted to approve \$2,500 for Bluegill (specific) stocking this spring – purchasing bluegills in the 6-8 inch size range.
 - Motion to approve: Danney Winkelman
 - Second: Al Hayda

- Member Vote resulted in Unanimous Approval
 - Louis King also agreed to contact Joe at the DNR Fisheries to ask if the DNR could possibly stock sunfish in Cokato Lake this year. They stock our lake with walleyes every other year – no walleye stocking is scheduled this year.
- **Update on Membership Drive**
 - Dustin Radermacher spoke on the efforts made by the RV Resort to increase membership to Cokato Lake Improvement Association.
 - The RV Resort proposed adding a mandatory \$35 fee for anyone with a lift in the RV Resort Marina – the additional money collected would be paid to the Cokato Lake Improvement Association.
 - The motion to add the mandatory fee failed to pass at the RV Resort.
 - Dustin said he plans to make a motion in 2025 to mandate joining the Cokato Lake Improvement Association if you have a lift in the RV Resort marina.
 - Dustin said they have 80 lifts in the RV Resort Marina and the fee would generate \$2,800 for the Cokato Lake Improvement Association (\$35 x 80).
 - Heather presented a draft of the Cokato Lake Improvement Association Brochure.
 - Heather will add QR Code to the brochure
 - Brochure can be used at the RV Resort Annual meeting to market the lake improvement association.
 - Jim Wood has agreed to host a table at the RV Resort Annual meeting (June 8th) to discuss the goals of our association and register people who are interested in joining the association.
 - New Sign at the Landing to include QR Code to direct people to our website.
 - Jim Wood is responsible for new sign development and placement at the boat access.
 - We will hold our next meeting at the RV Resort (upon the suggestion of Dustin Radermacher) in hopes this will increase the attendance from the RV Resort residents.
 - Next Quarterly Meeting is June 15th and it will be held at the RV Resort Conference Room.
- **DNR Boat Access Maintenance**
 - DNR is planning to fix potholes and dredge landing this year
- **Update on Cokato Lake Dam Research Project – Dustin Radermacher**
 - Dustin Radermacher had a conversation with a DNR hydrologist and biologist last year and shared a few items from his conversation.
 - Below are the exact notes from Dustin's email to the association in August 2023 – he also shared these points at this meeting.
 - There have been stop logs placed in the dam to control the water level in the past, but private homeowners have repeatedly removed those stop logs. The DNR is not interested at this time in pursuing this because the private homeowners keep removing the stop logs. Even

though the DNR owns that land where the dam is, due to the action of a couple homeowners continually removing those logs, the DNR has determined that it is not worth the hassle to repeatedly do this if those homeowners are going to continue to remove the logs.

- Fisheries will not allow us to do a stop dam, but will allow us to do a rock arch rapids which could improve water clarity, fish passageways, and water level.
 - The DNR recently completed a project similar to this on the Willow River Dam.
- The DNR did confirm we are losing a lot of fish because they are seeing them down the river and they can't get back. The DNR said they actually do the sampling in the river because that's where the fish are - not actually in the lake.
 - *Note: Louis King said he doesn't agree with this statement and has heard contradictory information from Joe at the DNR Fishery.*
- The DNR said the first step would be to start working with Alicia O'Hare at Wright County Soil & Water and form a lake improvement district. Developing a relationship and working with Miss O'Hare will allow us to work with different engineering firms to pinpoint the specific concerns of Cokato Lake. The cost associated with identifying the specific concerns would be the responsibility of the lake improvement association, but the DNR needs the specific concerns to come from an engineering firm before they can address them.
- The DNR shared they are very confident the engineering firms would identify water clarity and fish passage back into the lake as concerns. Once these concerns are identified by the engineering firms, the DNR will work with the lake association to develop the rock arch rapid designs.
- An estimate of the cost of these rock arch dams could be around \$50,000 just for the design but due to the fact this is on state land, the state may be able to either assist in the cost, or depending on the year, pay for the entire cost. Once these designs are completed, the actual project could be completed in partnership with the Cokato Lake Association and the state.
 - *Note: The Cokato Lake Improvement Association will conduct additional research and present a recommendation as part of the 3-Phase Plan draft to be presented at the January 2025 meeting. Dustin Rademacher has agreed to be part of the sub-committee to help develop the draft of the plan.*

- Jake Pedal, the area hydrologist, said he would be willing to meet with us at our first quarterly meeting in 2024 to discuss this in greater depth.
 - *Note: The association recommended having him at the January or April 2025 meeting if interested in pursuing – will depend on the recommendations from the 3 Phase Plan.*
- **Boat Access Clean-up Project**
 - Thanks to all the volunteers who helped remove brush to improve sightlines and clean up the area. We appreciate your help!
- **Volunteer Request to help install buoys on Cokato Lake**
 - Jaime Chelman agreed to assist in the installation. We appreciate your help!

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Review Cokato Lake Improvement Association Website**
 - Website has been created by Danney Winkelman.
 - Approved up to \$500 to spend on Website Hosting and E-mail system – reimburse Danney Winkelman.
 - Motion: Jaime Chelman
 - Second: Jim Wood
 - Member Vote resulted in Unanimous Approval
 - Louis King to provide Danney additional historical lake association information for website content.
 - Dave Cowger agreed to help upload documents and add historical information to the website.
- **Join Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations and the Wright County Coalition of Lake Associations**
 - Association approved joining these organizations for \$50/year
 - Motion to approve: Jaime Chelman
 - Second: Dave Cowger
 - Member Vote resulted in Unanimous Approval
 - Jake Kirchmaier (association member and 3-Phase Plan committee member) is our contact for these associations
- **Determine if we need/want to conduct a Fish Stocking Fundraiser**
 - We are using current lake association funds to stock Bluegills in 2024.
 - Fish Stocking Fundraiser idea will be revisited after the 3-Phase Plan is reviewed and approved.
- **Determine Annual Meeting Date**
 - Annual Meeting has been set for FRIDAY, August 16th.
 - 6pm Registration and 6:30pm Meal and Meeting.
 - Meeting location is the RV Resort's Big Red Barn
 - The RV Resort's Halloween party is August 17th and it tends to be the most attended event of the year. We decided to host our Annual Meeting the evening before the RV Resort event to hopefully increase attendance at our annual meeting.

Statement of Financial Income and Expenses

July 1, 2023 through April 19, 2024

Income

Dues	\$2310.00
Fish Fund	\$2330.00
Annual meeting meals	\$158.00
Total Income	<u>\$4798.00</u>

Expense

Annual Dinner Meat	\$400.00
Fish Stocking	\$0.00
Total Expense	<u>\$400.00</u>
Net Income	<u>\$4398.00</u>
Transfer to CD	\$2000.00

Statement of Financial Position

Current Assets	July 1, 2023	April 19, 2024
Checking	\$2729.02	\$5127.02
CD	\$3596.12	\$5667.82
Total Assets	<u>\$5190.09</u>	<u>\$10794.84</u>