

Cokato Lake Improvement Association
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2024
9:00am
GRACE HILL CHURCH
15905 US Hwy 12
Cokato, MN 55321

Attendees: Louis King, Jim Wood, Heather Coffelt, Dan Flynn, Danney Winkelman, Jake Kirchmaier, Toby Kotila, Al Hayda, Mark Raymond, and Rachel Huls

Meeting called to order at 9:03am

Motion to approve agenda: Danney Winkelman

Seconded by: Jake Kirchmaier

SECRETARY REPORT:

- Annual Meeting Minutes from August 2023 were read by Heather Coffelt
Motion to approve: Jim Wood
Seconded by: Al Hayda

TREASURER REPORT:

- Treasurer Report was presented by Jim Wood
Motion to approve: Danney Winkelman
Seconded by: Dan Flynn

Statement of Financial Income and Expenses

July 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024

Income

Dues	\$2170.00
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Fish Fund	\$2250.00
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Annual meeting meals	\$158.00
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Total Income	<u>\$4578.00</u>
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Expense

Annual Dinner Meat	\$400.00
Fish Stocking	\$0.00
Total Expense	<u>\$400.00</u>
Net Income	<u>\$4178.00</u>
Transfer to CD	\$2000.00

Statement of Financial Position

Current Assets	July 1, 2023	January 31, 2024
Checking	\$2729.02	\$4907.02
CD	\$3596.12	\$5667.82
Total Assets	<u>\$5190.09</u>	<u>\$10574.84</u>

67 Paid Active Members for Fiscal Year 2023/2024

- **Discussed ways to increase membership:**
 - Heather to update Lake Improvement Association Brochure to advertise the goals and accomplishments of the association. Provide the RV Resort with copies of the brochure to be distributed to their members.
 - Possibly attend a Meet & Greet event at the RV Resort if they host one.
 - Will revisit this option at the April 20th meeting.
 - We offered to have someone from the Lake Improvement Association attend the RV Resort's quarterly meetings to provide resort members an opportunity to learn about our association and become members if interested.
 - Dan Flynn will be the association contact with the RV Resort
 - Replace or Update the Cokato Lake Improvement Association sign at the landing.
 - Direct people to the website via QR Code on the sign – rather than having a specific phone number listed.
 - Continue to ask for donations to the association and post QR Code.
 - Jim Wood will work with Rod Huls to replace/update the sign.

OLD BUSINESS

- **DNR Fish Stocking - Spring & Fall 2023**
 - DNR placed 92,000 fry into Cokato Lake – Spicer Strain

- DNR Fishery manager said the Spicer Strain of walleye fry are thriving in the Cokato River Watershed District.
 - DNR placed 4,300 walleye fingerlings in Cokato Lake on October 10, 2023 (we were fortunate to receive this allotment of fish – it was left over from DNR stocking other lakes)
- **Cokato Lake Fish Stocking - Spring 2023**
 - Lake Improvement Association placed 50,000 walleye fry in Cokato Lake.
 - No sunfish were stocked this year – waiting until additional carp are harvested.
- **Update on 3-PHASE plan (Louis King)**
 - ***Commercial Fishing/Carp Removal***
 - Commercial Carp fisherman have been in contact with Louis. They are hopeful they can harvest additional carp from Cokato Lake in April (open water harvest) – or possibly before April if ice conditions allow harvest under the ice.
 - ***Plan to replenish sunfish***
 - We would like to harvest an additional 50-60,000 lbs of carp before we implement the sunfish stocking plan.
 - If the carp are harvested – we will discuss the plan (Cost and Quantity) for sunfish stocking at the meeting in April.
 - We plan to purchase fish from Rademacher Ponds in Waconia, MN when we implement this phase.
 - ***Vegetation Plan***
 - 3rd Phase of our plan – to be implemented after sunfish stocking.
 - Subcommittee has been formed to document our vegetation plan for Cokato Lake. More details to follow in the coming months.
 - See additional details in New Business portion of these minutes
 - Plan to include Species, Quantity, Location of vegetation plants, planting methods to be used, Cost, etc.
- **Update on Cokato Lake Dam Research Project**
 - Dustin Rademacher & Jim Wood
 - No update was presented at the meeting

NEW BUSINESS:

- **DNR conducting maintenance on the landing this year!**
 - Tim from the DNR told Louis they plan to bring in material to fix the potholes and ruts in the landing.
 - The DNR also plans to dredge the landing
- **Commercial Carp Fisherman have been in contact with Louis and they want to harvest carp from Cokato Lake again this year.**
 - Commercial Carp fisherman have been in contact with Louis. They are hopeful they can harvest additional carp from Cokato Lake in April (open

water harvest) – or possibly before April if ice conditions improve and allow harvest under the ice.

- **Electrofishing Survey (Population Test) Results – Louis King**

- Louis accompanied the DNR for the Electroshocking Test – Fall 2023
 - Results: 79 walleyes per pond hour
 - Very good test result – anything over 25 is considered a successful plan
 - When Louis first started accompanying the DNR for this test they would get 2 walleyes in the test net and now they are getting around 5 on average. Good indication that the stocking efforts have been successful.

- **Water Level**

- Christmas rains increased lake levels but with the lack of snowfall this winter it remains to be seen how it affects our lake levels this spring/summer. Hopefully we can get back into a normal rainfall pattern.

- **Sunfish Stocking Plans for 2024 (Phase 2 of 3 Phase Plan)**

- Much of the meeting discussion centered around creating a detailed 3 PHASE PLAN document made accessible for everyone to review.
- Note: We changed the title of the plan to 3 PHASE PLAN from the previously named 3 YEAR PLAN – because this plan doesn't correlate to years.
 - We decided to create a subcommittee to outline the details of the 3 PHASE PLAN.
 - Danney Winkelman and Jake Kirchmaier agreed to formulate a detailed plan outlining each phase of the plan.
 - **Phase 1: Carp Harvest**
 - Explain the purpose of Harvesting Carp
 - Determine the Carp Harvest Goal we want to achieve before moving to Phase 2
 - **Phase 2: Sunfish Stocking**
 - Explain the Purpose of the Sunfish Stocking
 - Determine the Quantity, Cost and Timing of sunfish stocking.
 - **Phase 3: Vegetation Planting**
 - Explain the Purpose of the Vegetation Planting
 - Determine Species, Quantity, Location of Plant, Planting Methods, Materials Needed, Cost, Approvals needed, etc.

- Determine if there is Grant money available for this project.
 - Last time the association was involved in a vegetation plan (over 8+ years ago) Louis said the DNR matched funds.
 - Vegetation was purchased by the DNR from a place (?) in Maple Plain.
 - The last vegetation plant in Cokato Lake involved 6 different species but wasn't successful. The carp destroyed the plants. They planted small trees surrounding the vegetation species (per direction from the DNR) but it seemed to encourage the carp to swim right through the vegetation and destroy the root base.
 - Draft of the plan to be completed and presented at the next quarterly meeting on April 20th.
 - Membership will review the plan draft, make changes to the plan (if necessary) and vote on the plan at the April 20th meeting.
- **Lake Access Tree/Brush Clean-up Project – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**
 - Clean-up project will be conducted on April 13th 12pm-2pm
 - The RV Resort is holding its quarterly meeting that morning.
 - WE NEED VOLUNTEERS to help – please reply to this email if your interested or contact Louis King at 612-490-0482
 - Clean up the trees/brush along the shoreline at the landing with the goal of improving visibility and allowing space for a picnic table.
- **Buoy Installation on Cokato Lake – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**
 - Please contact Louis King at 612-490-0482 or reply to this email if interested.
 - A volunteer is needed to help place the buoys in the lake in spring and take them out this fall.
- **Determine if we need/want to conduct a Fish Stocking Fundraiser**
 - A fundraiser will be conducted but we need to complete a few items prior to announcing a fundraiser:
 - Need to finalize the 3 PHASE PLAN document so we can effectively communicate the details to all members and share this information to raise funds for our lake.

- The subcommittee will present a draft of this plan at the April 20th meeting.
- Establish a website to include Lake Association Information, Meeting Minutes, Online Payment option for dues, share our 3 Phase Plan and provide people an option to register for our association via submitting an online form.
 - Danney Winkelman offered to create a website for Cokato Lake Improvement Association – we appreciate your help!
 - Heather Coffelt & Jim Wood will provide Danney website content and bank routing information
 - Danney Winkelman agreed to provide website maintenance training to the Cokato Lake Improvement Association board – to enable the board to update and add things as needed.
- Create a QR code to direct people to online payment option for membership dues and website.
 - Jim Wood will create the QR code
- At the April 20th meeting – we will discuss a Marketing Plan for the Association and specifically determine plans to advertise our fundraiser.
- **Determine meeting dates for the remainder of the year**
 - April 20th – 9am – Quarterly Meeting
 - June 15th – 9am – Quarterly Meeting
 - Annual Meeting date will be established at our April 20th meeting
 - We need to coordinate annual meeting date with RV Resort Event schedule

Member fishing report

- Limited fishing has been done this winter due to poor ice conditions
- Louis reported a good presence of walleyes in the 7-10” range which indicates another successful stocking effort. It takes approximately 3 years for the walleyes to reach harvestable size (14-16”) in Cokato Lake.
- Louis also reported an excellent population of perch in the 3” range. Louis also said we have a large population of baitfish.

Adjourn meeting at 11:09am

Motion to adjourn meeting: Dan Flynn

Seconded by: Jim Wood