

***Cokato Lake Improvement Association  
Quarterly Meeting  
January 14, 2023  
9:00am  
GRACE HILL CHURCH  
15905 US Hwy 12  
Cokato, MN 55321***

**Attendees:** Louis King, Heather Coffelt, Jim Wood, Rick Schultz, Jaime Chelman, Danney Winkelman, Jake Kirchmaier, Toby Kotila, and John & Lori Asmus.

*Motion to start the meeting: Danney Winkelman  
Second: Jaime Chelman*

Meeting was called to order at 9:05am

**Secretary Report:**

Annual Meeting Minutes from August 2022 were read by Heather Coffelt

*Motion to approve Secretary Report: Jaime Chelman  
Second: Toby Kotila*

**Treasurer Report – Jim Wood:**

**Statement of Financial Income and Expenses**

July 1, 2022 through January 9, 2023

Income

Dues	\$1615.00
Fish Fund	\$16.00
Annual meeting meals	\$230.00
Total Income	<u>\$1861.00</u>

Expense

Buoy Chain	\$52.95
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Annual Dinner Meat	\$318.00
Total Expense	<u>\$370.95</u>
Net Income	<u>\$1490.05</u>

## Statement of Financial Position

Current Assets	July 1, 2022	January 9, 2023
Checking	\$1593.97	\$3084.02
CD (matures 10/22/23)	\$3596.12	\$3596.12
Total Assets	<u>\$5190.09</u>	<u>\$6680.14</u>
Liabilities	\$0.00	\$0.00

Note: The current checking account balance included \$500 designated for the fish fund.

Membership Update: 49 Active Members, 25 members relapsed from 2022

We discussed assigning a point person at the campground to encourage membership of the association. Dustin Rademacher's name was discussed because he's done a great job of being involved at meetings and helped organize a crew for the clean-up project at the landing.

***Motion to Approve Treasurer's Report: Danney Winkelman***  
***Second: Rick Schultz***

### Old Business

- Update on 3-year plan (Louis King)
  - Commercial Fishing/Carp Removal
    - Commercial fisherman came to bait the carp this fall (he baited 6 times) without success. The carp did not congregate like he had hoped so he wasn't able to start the harvest.
    - We are still hopeful he can possibly harvest the carp this winter but we need ice conditions to improve greatly in order to support his heavy equipment. They need at least 20 inches of ice.
    - A few members from the housing development on Nugent Ave offered to have the commercial fisherman use their private landing on the southwest side of Cokato Lake. The carp are currently located on the south end of the lake and allowing closer access to a landing would be of benefit to the commercial fisherman.
    - Louis said he would call the commercial fisherman to offer him use of this private landing.

- **Plan to replenish sunfish** – on hold until the carp are removed.
- **Vegetation Plan** – will be completed once carp are removed and additional sunfish are stocked in the lake.
- **Lake Access Clean-up Project:**
  - Thank you to the volunteers for their help with this project – it was a success and it helped improve the sight lines from the landing to the lake and vice versa.
  - Louis requested additional help this spring to till some tree roots and other brush in this area so it can be mowed this summer.
  - Danney Winkelman offered his personal tiller for this project. He will be in touch with Louis this spring to finish this project. Thanks Danney!
- **Lake Access Depth:**
  - Much was discussed about ways we can potentially improve the landing:
    - A member has agreed to dredge the landing this spring at his own expense – thank you!
    - We need to keep pressure on the DNR Parks & Trails people to ensure they do their annual maintenance of the lake access. They did not complete any maintenance last year and it was much needed!
  - **CALL TO ACTION FOR MEMBERS:**
    - Please call Tim at DNR Trails and Access department and ask the DNR to maintain our landing to a suitable condition:
    - Contact Information:
 

**DNR Office – Sauk Rapids**  
**Phone Number: 320-223-7878**  
**Option #4 (Parks & Trails)**  
**Option #2 (Tim – Supervisor)**
  - We also discussed our current dam situation and how it affects lake depth.
    - We agreed to contact the DNR about the dam's current status (history, analysis and investigation of dam) and discuss potential ways it could be improved to benefit the lake (depth and carp situation).
      - Jim Wood and Dustin Rademacher were assigned to work with the DNR on this project.
    - There was concern from one member at the meeting about the lake level and potential issues when the lake levels rise. We are hopeful the information gathered from the DNR regarding the history, current status and potential improvements of the dam will help ease this concern, but we won't know until we start the fact finding mission with the DNR.

## **New Business**

- **Fish Stocking plans for 2023**
  - Discussion about the fish stocking plan was placed on hold until our April meeting (when we know if the carp have been harvested or not).
- **New Carp Plan**
  - People have offered to donate money for carp removal. Ideally the commercial fisherman (that Louis has been in contact with the past few years) will do it for free if the ice conditions improve. The preferred method for carp harvest is under the ice.
  - As mentioned before, Louis was going to call and offer the fisherman the use of the private landing on the south end of the lake in hopes that would entice him to come this winter. Ice tends to be thicker on the south end of the lake.
  - If the fisherman isn't able to harvest the carp this winter – we discussed hiring someone. This would require donations.
    - First – we need to find out how much it would cost to hire someone to harvest the carp in Cokato Lake and what that all entails. We also need to know if we can hire someone else – the fisherman Louis has been working with said he had exclusive commercial fishing rights to Cokato Lake.
      - Heather Coffelt volunteered to contact the Sauk Lake Association to ask about their process (how it was started, who they used to harvest the carp and how much it cost). They harvested carp from their lake in March 2022.
- **Officer Nominations**
  - Currently accepting nominations for 2 positions – voting will occur at the annual meeting in August 2023:
    - Secretary (3-year term) – currently held by Heather Coffelt
    - Board Member (3-year term) – currently held by Jim Anderson
  - Nominations must be submitted prior to our Quarterly Meeting in June 2023 (which is the last meeting before the annual meeting)
- **Fundraiser**
  - If we decide to pursue hiring someone to harvest the carp from Cokato Lake, we will need to organize some type of fundraiser or call to donate.

## **Member fishing report**

Huge population of perch, crappie and walleye on live scopes. Also seeing large catfish.

Member caught a 25-inch walleye ice fishing and a lot of 16-18 inch walleyes.

Crappie fishing has been great.

***Motion to adjourn meeting: Jim Wood***

***Second: Jaime Chelman***

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30am