

## Cokato Lake Improvement Association

### Quarterly Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2023

9:00 am

Grace Hill Church

15905 US Hwy 12

Cokato, MN 55321

Attendees: Louis King, Jim Wood, Heather Coffelt, Jim Anderson, Rick Schultz, Scott Schoolmeesters, Alan Hayda, Rob Radermacher, Danney Winkelman, Craig Griep

**Motion to start meeting:** Heather Coffelt **Second:** Jim Wood

Meeting called to order at 9:06 am

#### **Secretary Report:**

Quarterly Meeting Minutes from April 15, 2023 were read by Heather Coffelt

**Motion to approve Secretary Report:** Scott Schoolmeesters **Second:** Jim Wood

#### **Treasurer Report:**

Read by Jim Wood

## Statement of Financial Income and Expenses

July 1, 2022 through June 10, 2023

#### Income

Dues	\$2175.00
Fish Fund	\$276.00
Annual meeting meals	\$230.00

Total Income \$2681.00

#### Expense

Buoy Chain	\$52.95
Annual Dinner Meat	\$318.00

Total Expense	<u>\$370.95</u>
Net Income	<u>\$2310.05</u>

## Statement of Financial Position

Current Assets	July 1, 2022	June 10, 2023
Checking	\$1593.97	\$3904.02
CD (matures 10/22/23)	\$3596.12	\$3596.12
Total Assets	<u>\$5190.09</u>	<u>\$7500.14</u>
Liabilities	\$0.00	\$0.00
60 Active Members		

**Motion to approve Treasurer's Report:** Rick Schultz **Second:** Jim Anderson

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Carp Harvest Report – Spring 2023**
  - Commercial fisherman (Jeff Riedeman and crew) harvested 16,000 lbs of carp from Cokato Lake on April 25<sup>th</sup>. They used seine nets and harvested the carp along the southwest shoreline. They used the private landing on Nugent Ave – thanks to the homeowners on Nugent Ave for allowing us to utilize that landing. Special thank you to Bruce Irvin for helping and for the use of his skid steer and to Mark McDonald for helping with the netting of the carp.
- **Update on 3-year plan (Louis King)**
  - Commercial Fishing/Carp Removal (Phase 1)
    - The commercial fisherman plan to harvest more carp from Cokato Lake in February or March 2024 (dependent on ice conditions). They estimated we have approximately 90,000-100,000 lbs of carp in Cokato Lake.
  - Plan to replenish sunfish (Phase 2)
    - After more carp are harvested from Cokato Lake – the association plans to heavily stock the lake with sunfish.
    - Sunfish eat carp eggs which helps control carp population.
    - We plan to host a fundraiser to raise funds to purchase sunfish for Cokato Lake.
      - We discussed a Facebook Fundraiser and soliciting businesses in Cokato.

- We will also ask for donations to the sunfish stocking fund at our Annual Meeting in August.
  - We need to raise approximately \$10,000 to fund our anticipated stocking efforts and vegetation plant. We plan to stock the lake with sunfish that are approximately 4-6 inches and cost \$1/fish.
- Vegetation Plan (Phase 3)
  - We plan to plant vegetation after additional carp are harvested and we stock with sunfish. Long stem bush rushes and lily pads were discussed.
  - Louis noticed some long stem bull rushes from our planting efforts years ago finally taking root on the southeast corner of Cokato Lake – he attributed it to shallow water. He also noticed a bed of long stem bull rushes on the north end of the lake.
  - Plan to utilize metal posts and fencing when planting vegetation.
- **Fish Stocking Plan 2023**
  - Lake Association purchased 50,000 walleye fry (Louis estimated we may have received up to 100,000 fry) in April 2023. We spent \$1,400 of association funds for the walleye fry - Membership was all in agreement.
  - Waiting to stock sunfish and crappies until after the carp harvest in winter 2024.
- **Lake Access Tree/Brush Clean-up Project**
  - Need to finish cleaning up tree roots and brush along the shoreline of the Cokato Lake Access parking lot. Louis will work with Danney Winkelman if he needs a tiller for the project.
- **2022/2023 Winter Freeze**
  - Joe from the DNR fishery department didn't think we experienced a complete freeze.
  - Nobody at the meeting noticed an excessive amount of dead fish
  - Louis has fielded the "freeze out" question from many people this spring so he just wanted to see if anyone noticed any dead fish. Collinwood Lake had a bad winter freeze and he mentioned that sometimes people get Cokato Lake and Collinwood mixed up.
- **Lake Access Update**
  - DNR came to the landing this spring but they only cleared the culverts – they didn't dredge the pond or the lake landing.
  - A local resident has offered to dredge the landing – Louis will be in touch with him to see if he still plans to do it and when we can expect it to happen.
  - We need to continue putting pressure on the DNR Trails and Access department. Please call Tim at the DNR office with complaints about the current condition of the boat landing:
    - DNR Office – Sauk Rapids
    - Phone Number: 320-223-7878
    - Option #4 (Parks & Trails)
    - Option #2 (Tim – Supervisor)

- **Buoys were placed in the lake**
  - 4 buoys were placed on the prominent shallow spots in the lake.
    - The lake association owns 3 buoys and we received another buoy as a donation from Scott Schoolmeesters. Thanks Scott!
- **Update on Cokato Lake Dam Research Project**
  - We continue to receive complaints about low water levels.
  - Jim Wood & Dustin Radermacher agreed to start discussions with the DNR regarding the Cokato Lake dam.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Additional Carp Removal**
  - Commercial Fisherman told Louis he will be back this winter (Feb/March 2024) to harvest additional carp from Cokato Lake. Ice conditions will dictate timing of removal.
- **Officer Nominations for Secretary and Board Member**
  - Rob Radermacher (RV Resort resident) was nominated for the Board Member position.
    - Nominated by: Scott Schoolmeesters
    - Second: Danney Winkelman
      - All voted in favor
  - Dan Flynn (RV Resort resident) was nominated for the Board Member position.
    - Nominated by: Jim Anderson
    - Second: Jim Wood
      - All voted in favor
  - Heather Coffelt was nominated for another term as Secretary
    - Nominated by: Scott Schoolmeesters
    - Second: Rick Schultz
      - All voted in favor
  - The election will take place at the Annual Meeting in August.
- **Annual Meeting Planning**
  - Annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>
    - Heather Coffelt will order Pork Chops from White Front Meat Market
    - Heather Coffelt will provide plates, napkins and utensils
    - Jim Anderson to setup Big Red Barn and the grill
    - Rick Schultz and Jim Anderson will grill pork chops
    - Cleanup Committee: Heather Coffelt, Jim Anderson, Jim Wood, Louis King and Scott & Rhonda Maki
  - We decided that ALL IMMEDIATE family members are eligible to receive a free pork chop dinner (at annual meeting) with paid association membership.

**Motion to adjourn meeting:** Jim Anderson **Second:** Rick Schultz

Meeting was adjourned at 10:57am