

Cokato Lake Improvement Association
Quarterly Meeting
June 15, 2024
9:00am
COKATO LAKE RV RESORT - BOARD ROOM
2945 CR 4 SW
Cokato, MN 55321

Attendees: Louis King, Jim Wood, Heather Coffelt, Scott & Lynn Schoolmeesters, Dan Flynn, Danney Winkelman, John & Lori Asmus, Darren Jakel, Jim Anderson, Toby Kotila

Meeting called to order at 9:01am

Motion to approve agenda: Lori Asmus

Seconded by: Scott Schoolmeesters

SECRETARY REPORT:

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

Motion to approve: Scott Schoolmeesters

Second: Lynn Schoolmeesters

TREASURER REPORT:

- Treasurer Report was presented by Jim Wood

Motion to approve: Darren Jakel

Second: Jim Anderson

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

We currently have 78 members. We gained 8 members from the Meet & Greet at the RV Resort on June 15th.

We decided to send an e-mail reminder to people who were members in the previous 3 years but have not renewed their membership this fiscal year.

- Jim Wood to send Heather Coffelt the list of people for the reminder email.
- Heather Coffelt to send dues reminder e-mails.
 - The e-mail will include:
 - A direct link to our website for an online renewal option.
 - People can still mail checks if they wish.
 - Our association's Fiscal Year ends June 30th
 - Annual Meeting details

- We approved sending a dues reminder email every year going forward (in May or June).

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Update from Commercial Carp Fisherman – Louis King**
 - Louis spoke with Jeff Riedeman (commercial fisherman) the week of June 10, 2024.
 - Jeff informed him the carp market price is VERY low and they can't make a profit selling the carp.
 - In order for them to harvest additional carp from Cokato Lake either the market price has to increase to a profitable level or the association needs to hire him and pay per pound of harvested carp.
 - Jeff Riedeman and his crew just returned from a trip to North Carolina and they were paid \$1/pound of harvested carp.
 - Jeff told Louis that he would charge \$1/lb to harvest carp from Cokato Lake.
 - Louis mentioned the government is no longer allowing carp to be used as fertilizer – which also affected the market for carp.
 - Louis mentioned the carp harvest at Lake Marion in McLeod County.
 - They harvested large quantities of carp a couple years ago and they received funds from the local or state government (grants).
 - Additional research is being done on this option via our subcommittee working on the 3-Phase Plan for Cokato Lake.
 - Since Cokato Lake has multiple inlets – we need a continuous plan to control our carp population. It's not a "one and done" approach.
- **Bluegill stocking by Cokato Lake Improvement Association**
 - We stocked 1,300 bluegills in Cokato Lake this spring.
 - 800 bluegills were in the 5-8 inch range. Louis said they were "beautiful" fish.
 - We received all the 5-8 inch bluegills Rademacher Fish Ponds had in stock – we wanted more but this was all they had available.
 - 500 bluegills were smaller than 5 inches.
 - The cost of Bluegill stocking was \$2,000 – paid by the association.
 - Louis spoke to the DNR Fishery and asked for sunfish stocking in Cokato Lake this year to help control the carp population and they said "NO" - that is not an option this year.
 - The DNR told Louis it's too late in the year and they've never considered planting sunfish in our lake.
 - Louis said he will push the DNR harder next year to stock sunfish.
 - The DNR said if they have the possibility of a winter kill in nearby lakes – they might lift fish from that lake and bring them to Cokato Lake.
- **Update or Questions regarding the 3-Phase Plan being created by the subcommittee and presented at the January 2025 Quarterly Meeting**
 - No updates or questions were discussed at the meeting

- We did request a summary of the project from Danney Winkelman to be presented at the Annual Meeting in August
 - Purpose: Raise awareness of our plans and ask for feedback from members
- **Update on Membership Drives:**
 - Jim Wood attended the RV Resort annual meeting on June 8th – great opportunity to meet people and explain the mission of Cokato Lake.
 - 8 new members joined at this event
 - Jim Wood will create a new sign at the boat landing to include a QR code with a direct link to the Cokato Lake Improvement Association website.
- **DNR Boat Access Maintenance Update – Louis King**
 - Multiple sand piles were delivered to the boat access.
 - Louis doesn't believe it will be enough to fix all the problems with the parking lot but time will tell.
 - Expecting work to be done on the landing in the next couple of weeks.
- **Status of Buoy Installation on Cokato Lake**
 - Louis said he is going to wait for the water levels to recede before installing the buoys. With the deeper water – the shallow parts of the lake aren't an issue for boat motors.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Review Cokato Lake Improvement Association Website**
 - Website has been created by Danney Winkelman
 - Danney - Thanks for all your hard work creating an attractive, informative and user-friendly website for our association.
 - Danney will update a few things on the website:
 - Include a mailing address for those who wish to mail dues checks.
 - Add pictures from the boat landing clean-up project
 - Update sunfish stocking information from Spring 2024
 - Add new members to the website
 - Heather Coffelt to send Danney a CSV file of all current association members and he will upload the contact information to the new email system using the website hosting company.
 - Danney is reviewing all the historical information about the association he received from Louis King.
 - He will work to populate some historical data on the website
 - Danney to submit invoice to the association for website and e-mail hosting services
- **Officer and Board Nominations**
 - Treasurer and 1 Board Member position are up for election at the 2024 Annual Meeting
 - Heather Coffelt nominated Jim Wood to continue as Treasurer
 - Heather Coffelt nominated Rick Schultz to continue as a Board Member
 - No other nominations were received

- **Lake Level has increased with recent rain**
- **Discuss Louis King's Fish Tournament idea**
 - Louis talked to the group about the Fishing Tournament in Howard Lake, MN. He was curious if that might be something we consider if we need to raise funds for carp harvest and/or fish stocking.
 - Howard Lake Tournament has a fish house raffle
 - Participation in the Howard Lake tournament has been great over the years.
 - Louis wanted people to think about how and when we could conduct a tournament if the need arises. Summer or winter tournament??
 - We also discussed the possibly of entering a float for the Cokato Lake Improvement Association in next year's Cokato Corn Carnival parade.
 - Possibly partner with the RV Resort to gain support from our community for Cokato Lake.
- **Determine Roles and Responsibilities for the Annual Meeting Potluck Dinner**
 - Annual Meeting will be held on FRIDAY, August 16th at the Cokato Lake RV Resort Big Red Barn.
 - 5:45 registration, 6:00 dinner and 6:30 meeting
 - Please bring a dish to share – pork chops will be provided for your IMMEDIATE family.
 - Heather Coffelt is chairperson for the Annual Meeting.
 - She will provide plates, utensils, napkins and lemonade for the dinner
 - She will order pork chops from White Front Meat Market – we agreed to order 10% more chops than last year.
 - Jim Anderson and Rick Schultz have agreed to grill pork chops
 - Jim Anderson will ensure the Red Barn is setup and ready to use
 - Jim will work with Dustin Rademacher to ensure the microphone is working and ready to use.
 - Lori Asmus agreed to recruit help in the kitchen for serving and cleanup

MEMBER FISHING REPORT:

- Large quantities of small perch
- Large population of bass
 - Toby Kotila talked to the DNR when they were doing their electroshocking test on Cokato Lake in May 2024.
 - They were on the north side of the lake conducting their test.
 - They informed Toby they saw a large population of small mouth bass.
- Overall fishing seems to be slower this year based on comments from numerous fishermen.

Meeting adjourned at 10:12am

Motion to adjourn: Jim Wood

Second: Jim Anderson

Cokato Lake Improvement Association

Statement of Financial Income and Expenses

July 1, 2023 through June 12, 2024

Income

Dues	\$2695.00
Fish Fund	\$2536.00
Annual meeting meals	\$158.00

Total Income	<u>\$5389.00</u>
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Expense

Annual Dinner Meat	\$400.00
Fish Stocking	\$0.00
Credit Card Fee	\$13.51
Website/Tech	\$0.00

Total Expense	<u>\$413.51</u>
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Net Income	<u>\$4975.49</u>
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Transfer to CD	\$2000.00
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Statement of Financial Position

Current Assets	July 1, 2023	June 12, 2024
Checking	\$2729.02	\$5704.51
CD	\$3596.12	\$5667.82
Total Assets	<u>\$5190.09</u>	<u>\$11372.33</u>