STURGEON CHAIN LAKES ASSOCIATION

-Meeting Minutes-

DATE: August 30, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS:	In Attendance	<u>Not in Attendance</u>
Matt Specht	Х	
Dede Antonelli	Х	
CJ Specht	Х	
Tom Erickson		Х
Dave Sorensen	Х	
Matt Lucas	Х	
Carl Schneider		Х

Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

- Bank Account Balance: \$6276.50.
 - Bills Due: \$3587.65 to Soil and Water District for AIS grant project.
 - Deposits Available: \$550.00 for new 2023 membership dues.
- **501(C)(3) Status**: IRS denied status due to an error on the form. Matt Specht will be refiling so that members will be able to deduct dues and donations to the Association.

• Association Website:

- Brian Nosie and his company Emerging Business Solutions graciously donated their time and money to create a website for the Association. The address is: sclamn.org.
 - Website will have a lot of info about the core programs that we will run: Aquatic Invasive Species; Fisheries management; Water health and clarity; Water level management; Channel and landing maintenance; and Community Infrastructure.
 - We will also have a listing of upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.
 - Brian is in need of additional pictures for the website and there is also some additional organizational work to be done. It should be fairly wrapped up by the end of October 22.

PROGRAM UPDATES:

• Fisheries Management (Matt Lucas and Bill Vukich)

- Guest speaker from the MN DNR. Dave Weitzel, the Area Supervisor for the Grand Rapids DNR Office of Fisheries Management. 218-328-8836
 - The Sturgeon chain, together with Beatrice and Perch is the largest chain that he manages in his region.
 - Chain needs proper management for fishing to be good again. Need to manage walleyes and crappie.
 - Fish surveys have been conducted since the 1950's and will continue to take place. This gives us a lot of information on our fishery and what we can do to manage it better. DNR will conduct survey on our chain in 2023 and again in 2028.
 - Currently we are putting in the Lake Vermillion strain of walleye for better adaptability and survivability. There are other members, however, that believe that we should be using the Winnie strain of walleye. This is an item that should be followed up on with Dave.
 - Optimal amount is 100 pounds in non-stocking years and 450 pounds in stocking years. Donations will be needed.
 - All of our lakes received walleye fingerlings last year except Beatrice and S. Sturgeon.
 - \circ $\;$ Main things to monitor in lake is phosphorus level and alkalinity of water.
 - Bill Vukich mentioned that he would like to open at least one gate in the dam to allow for fish to spawn upstream. Not sure if we could even physically clean out the debris around the dam at this point.
 - Collecting cans for fish stocking is going well. Bill Vukich indicated that he will stop collecting in October and will have roughly 2K pounds of aluminum. Hoping to get \$.35 a pound. Thanks was given by Matt S. to all those that are bringing their cans to the trailer.
- Water Health & Clarity (Neil Gardner)
 - Volunteers will be needed for 2023 to do water sampling. It is a very specific task that needs to be conducted on all lakes at the same time.
- Aquatic Invasive Species (Matt Specht)
 - As of the date of the meeting 428 inspections had been completed at the various landings on our seven lakes.
 - 80% were in-state tags and 20% were out of state.
 - No invasive species were found on any boat or trailer going in or out.
 - Purple Loosestrife reported to be popping up on different areas of not only our lakes but also property around the community. Hand pulling is recommended. They spread through seed so try to bag them before pulling them by their roots. Otherwise, a larger problem could be created. Matt S. will also follow-up with DNR on beetles for shoreline stands.
 - Matt S. will look into having larger "Clean, Drain, Dry" signs put up around our landings.
 - Matt S. will explore what needs to happen to renew AIS grant. Might be an every other or every three, but we will find out.

• Water Levels/Static Dam (Matt Specht)

No new update other than Matt S. touched base with Representative David Lislegard, who is
running for a MN House Seat for District 7B. He has worked with other communities in the past
regarding opening up their static dams to allow the Township to manage the level of the dam so
that both sides get what they need for water. He is interested in sitting down to learn more
about it. Matt S. will schedule a meeting.

o Channel and Landing Maintenance (David Sorensen)

- Volunteers needed for September 11, 2022 to run channels and landings and assess for damage, debris, rocks, etc.
 - Move and/or pick up what you can.
 - Mark any rocks with buoys.
 - Meet at Rudstrom Landing at 11am.

• **Community Infrastructure** (All)

- There is still interest in working with Township to widen shoulders on several of our primary roads for walking/bike lane.
- This is a safety concern for the community.
- Township meeting September 6th.

ELECTIONS:

- The goal of the Board would be to have representation from each of the seven lakes that we serve. Right now we have representation from Big Sturgeon, Little Sturgeon, the Sturgeon River, and a nonlakefront.
- We would like to encourage community members from South Sturgeon, Side Lake, West Sturgeon, Perch, and Beatrice to join as Board members.
- Elections for interested parties:
 - Motion was made to add Mark McKenna (W. Sturgeon) to Board. Motion was seconded and the "yes" prevailed. Mark McKenna will be a Board member.
 - Motion was made to add Brian Nosie (W. Sturgeon) to Board. Motion was seconded and the "yes" prevailed. Brian Nosie will be a Board member.
 - Motion was made to add Neil Gardner (Beatrice) to Board. Motion was seconded and the "yes" prevailed. Neil Gardner will be a Board member.
 - Motion was made to add Gary Jensen (Perch) to Board. Motion was seconded and the "yes" prevailed. Gary Jensen will be a Board member.
- Still need representation for South Sturgeon and Side Lake.

PUBLIC FORUM:

• Corporate sponsorship. Have their logo on the Association website. Maybe \$150 a year?

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.