

STURGEON CHAIN LAKES ASSOCIATION

-Meeting Minutes-

DATE: March 30, 2023

BOARD MEMBERS:	<u><i>In Attendance</i></u>	<u><i>Not in Attendance</i></u>
Matt Specht	X	
Dede Antonelli	X	
CJ Specht	X	
Tom Erickson		X
Dave Sorensen		X
Matt Lucas		X
Carl Schneider	X	
Mark McKenna	X	
Brian Nosie	X	
Gary Jensen	X	
Neil Gardner		X

- I. Meeting called to order by Matt Specht @ 6:02pm. Roll taken – see above.

- II. Administrative Updates:
 - a. Treasurer’s Report. (Tom Erickson)
 - i. Bank Account = \$6,961.039
 - ii. Cash to be Deposited = \$700.00
 - iii. Receivables = \$0
 - iv. Outstanding Bills = \$754 (Liability insurance premium)

 - b. Legal Update. (Matt Specht)
 - i. IRS Form 990-N. Because of our Tax Exempt status we are now required to file a form 990-N with the Federal Government on an annual basis. Matt Specht is working with Sterle & Co. in Hibbing to ensure that this form is correctly filled out and submitted in a timely manner.

 - c. Membership Stats. (Dede Antonelli)
 - i. 2022 – 77 paid memberships.
 - ii. 2023 YTD – 69 paid memberships for a total of \$3,450.00.
 - iii. 2023 YTD - \$2,585.70 in additional fisheries donations.

 - d. Website. (Brian Nosie)
 - i. Seasonal newsletters. Board decided to move forward with a quarterly newsletter platform where we can securely create a distribution list.
 1. Format that can be easily updated.
 2. Commitment for Presidents Letter and program updates.

- ii. We need to get Brian specific dates on when we will be doing upcoming events around our core 6 projects and membership drives. This must happen in the next few weeks so that we are on top of everything moving into Spring.
- e. Membership Drive. (Dede Antonelli)
 - i. Dede is working on getting a weekend put together for a full membership drive around all seven of our lakes. Thinking maybe Father's Day weekend.
 - ii. The goal is to talk to people and leave them with some information about the Association and how they can support and help us. Matt S. has all the business cards and letters for the pack that we will leave with the homeowner or on the door.

III. Program Updates:

- a. Aquatic Invasive Species. (Matt Specht)
 - i. 2023 grant has been written and submitted. We will once again be partnering with the Soil and Water District.
 - 1. Matt S. has meeting with Soil and Water District to discuss schedule for upcoming Summer 2023.
 - a. Will be seeking to tap into grant funding to put up additional signage around AIS and the importance of cleaning and inspecting at our larger public landings.
 - b. Will be looking to hire and train inspectors for the Summer. Will get link over to Brian N. to put on website.
- b. Fisheries Management. (Matt Lucas and Bill Vukich)
 - i. Bill Vukich has been having some difficulties locating a fishery that will have enough stock to sell to private Lake Associations. He has located one at this point and we will be moving forward with a Springtime deep water entry.
 - 1. Setting our goal for \$4,000 worth of fingerlings.
 - 2. Lucas to find out when we are shooting for on Spring stock.
 - 3. How many volunteers do we need to make it happen?
 - ii. Would like to purchase a more professional looking sign to put onto the can trailer. Something that has the Association branding on it.
 - 1. Rob and Betty have also offered space at the Side Lake Store to park the trailer during the Summer. I will have Matt L. check with Bill V.
- c. Water Health/Clarity. (Neil Gardner)
 - i. Water clarity sampling will be done this year. Starting probably in May and continuing for 5 months total.
 - 1. One to two samples need to be taken from each lake and the same time, so we will need volunteers so that we are coordinated to help Neil get this done.
- d. Water Levels/Static Dam. (Matt Specht)
 - i. Matt S. has met with Rep. Lislegard to discuss this issue and was given assurances that he will work with us to get the DNR to make long term changes.
 - 1. All material has been gathered and transferred over to electronic format. That material has now been sent to Rep. Lislegard for his meeting with the DNR Commissioner.

- ii. First step is to get the DNR to complete is watershed study for our area. I believe that ALL our inlets and outlets are currently plugged by either beaver dams or debris.
 - iii. Matt S. has contacted the DNR to see if they can clear out all of the debris around the dam to ensure that we have full flow as we move into a high water Spring on the chain. They have requested that Matt S. send some photos of the dam showing the flow restrictions and debris that we are talking about.

- e. Channel/Landing Maintenance. (Dave Sorensen and Mark McKenna)
 - i. Dave Sorensen and Mark McKenna will get a date on the website for a Spring and Fall channel and landing inspection. At that point we can remove any debris or beaver dams that are becoming problems for navigation and fill any holes around the docks/piers at our landings.
 - ii. Matt S. did get Rep. Lislegard all information regarding permitting to dredge out the channel between Little and Big Sturgeon.
 - 1. The goal would be to dredge channel out wide enough so that two boats could come in and out at the same time. Once we can do that we would like to put break-walls in so that it stays wide. Again, Rep. Lislegard will be talking about this with the DNR Commissioner.

 - iii. Need to contact a few local beaver trappers so that we can start to bring down the populations around our lakes and especially rivers, inlets, and channels.
 - iv. Get the video that Matt L. sent out on the website. Great information that should be sent out to membership.

- f. Community Infrastructure. (All)
 - i. Matt S. has been in communication with the Township supervisors about the need to look at widening some of our roadways to create walking/biking lanes for safety.
 - 1. Matt S. presented Township with the "Town of French Land Use Plan" dated May 2000 where this very item was studied and discussed.
 - 2. Also sent several links to grants to help fund this sort of infrastructure project.

 - ii. Will wait until summer to address this issue with Township. Matt S. will contact Township and get on to the agenda of a Township meeting where our members can come and voice their opinions along with me.
 - iii. Pickleball Courts. Marie Erickson and Sue Perunovich are spearheading this with the Township. While the Association is not taking the lead on this, we are lending our support and allowing private donations to be made through us for charitable purposes.

IV. Meeting adjourned at 6:54pm by Matt Specht.