

STURGEON CHAIN LAKES ASSOCIATION

-Meeting Minutes-

DATE: August 30, 2022

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

Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm.

GUEST SPEAKER:

- Marc Johnson – Conservation Officer MNDNR: Great introduction to the new CO for our lakes. He talked a lot about his style of enforcement and the things that we, as an Association, can do to help make our lakes healthier and safer. We also had a nice conversation about our beaver issues and the regulations for controlling the population on our lakes. He also took a variety of questions from members who attended the meeting.
- Rep. Dave Lislegard (District 7B): Unfortunately, Rep. Lislegard had our meeting on the wrong day. Hopefully we can get him at our end of summer meeting. I know that he is very excited to meet and take questions from our members.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

- **Bank Account Balance:** \$7,567.84.
 - Bills Due: \$4,050.00 to company that we bought the walleye fingerlings from for fish stocking.
- **501(C)(3) Status:** IRS has granted our tax exempt status. ALL membership dues and additional donations are fully deductible. Matt S. also filed the required 990-N form with the IRS for tax year 2022.
- **Liability Insurance:** Tom E. has submitted the premium for the Association's liability insurance policy with Hallmark Insurance Company.

- **Membership Stats/Updates:**
 - 76 paid 2023 members
 - 21 members from 2022 that have not yet paid their 2023 dues. Matt S. will be following up with these members.
 - Dede A. will be running a membership drive on June 17th. Meeting time and place will be posted on the website (sclamn.org). We will be covering each of the seven lakes within our coverage area to spread the message that we have an Association and what we are doing to help keep our lakes and community healthy and safe. Volunteers are needed. Please go to the website for information.

- **Association Website Update / Newsletter:**
 - The first newsletter was sent out via email to our members. A huge thank you to Brian Nosie for all of his efforts to make not only the website but also this new quarterly newsletter happen.
 - Matt S. will be transitioning over to a service to send out email messages to members in between quarterly newsletters. Brian N. will be training Matt S. on how to use and utilize all of the new technology (Mailchimp).

- **Board Member Elections:**
 - Matt Specht; Charity Specht; Matt Lucas; and Brian Nosie were all up for election this year. No one ran against either and they were all voted in for another 3 year term. Elections will be held for three Board Members every year at our Spring meeting. We will post a reminder on the website prior to the meeting each year.

PROGRAM UPDATES:

- ***Aquatic Invasive Species*** (Matt Specht)
 - Association is partnering again with the North St. Louis County Soil and Water District to perform inspections at some of our landings throughout the summer months. Matt S. will be working with them on staffing and any issues that they encounter during their shifts.
 - May have a full decontamination unit at the Rudstrom road landing during the 4th of July weekend.
 - Still seeing Purple Loosestrife popping up on different areas of not only our lakes but also 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.

- ***Fisheries Management*** (Matt Lucas and Bill Vukich)
 - Stocking took place in May 2023. Association was able to purchase approximately \$4,000.00 worth of 3-6" walleye fingerlings (2,600 fish) from a private fishery in Alexandria, MN. Bill Vukich, along with Richard Kelly and Brian Nosie stocked them equally into four locations - Side Lake, Perch Lake, Big Sturgeon, and Sixberry's Landing, which feeds well into West Sturgeon and Little Sturgeon. There was a question about why we didn't stock into South Sturgeon. Matt S.

was going to follow-up with Matt L. and Bill V. to see why. As we are now putting the fingerlings directly into deep water, they once again had very low dead loss. Bill reported that everything went smoothly and he wanted to thank Dave Wiesel from the MN DNR for providing the required permits. He and the Association also wanted to thank Matt Lucas, Richard Kelly, Warren Grillo, Dave Sorensen, Mark McKenna, and Jerry Casey for all of the help bringing the aluminum cans into Radko. If it isn't already, Matt Lucas and Bill will get the can trailer back in front of the fire hall. The MN DNR will be conducting a netting survey this summer and does plan to additionally stock our lakes in the Fall.

○ **Water Health & Clarity** (Neil Gardner)

- Water quality and clarity testing was also partially completed in May - the remainder will take place June 24-26. Thank you to Neil Gardner for leading this effort. Our volunteers for May were myself, Neil Gardner, Mark McKenna, Dave Sorensen, Jim Zahorsky, Steve Byer, Arden LaBonte, Bruce Sandberg, Jerry Janezich, Nick Kruchowski. If you are interested in volunteering for the June testing please contact Neil Gardner. Results will be emailed out and put onto the website when we have them.
 - Testing requires volunteers to go out to a designated spot on each lake and do two tests. First, clarity with a disk on a measured line. Next, water samples that are then mixed with a solution and put on ice to ship to lab.

○ **Water Levels/Static Dam** (Matt Specht)

- Dam gates were cleaned out by myself and Jerulle Construction in May. St. Louis County graciously loaned us their grappling hook that they use to clean out culverts. Lots of debris and bogs.
- Word on the street is that the DNR's watershed and dam study may be complete. I will be following-up with Jason Boyle to see if that is true. As soon as something is concrete, I will invite Jason in to talk us through the results and the next steps.

○ **Channel and Landing Maintenance** (David Sorensen)

- Channels and landings were checked by myself, Dave Sorensen, and Mark McKenna in May.
 - Beavers are really at it in the Little/Big channel. Have built two large lodges and taken down quite a few trees on both sides. DNR says Association can't do anything about it until it becomes a navigational issue. Home owners that are getting trees taken down have every right to dispatch the beaver, as long as it is actually on their property causing damage.
 - DNR has been made aware of the Washouts at Rudstrom Landing. I have followed up multiple times and will continue to do so until it is fixed. It was supposed to have been repaired in the Fall of last year.

○ **Community Infrastructure** (All)

- Matt S. has been in communication with Township Board regarding possible shoulder widening for walkers and bikers on a couple of the more heavily traveled thoroughways (McCarthy Beach Road, Sturgeon Road, Rudstrom Road). He will be getting the Township a map of discussed roads and contacting the St. Louis County Engineer to discuss potential.

- Pickleball Courts. This is a very fast growing sport across the US right now because it can be enjoyed by a very wide age range. A group of locals are working with the Township to potentially install Pickleball courts. Discussion took place on whether new, dedicated courts would be built or whether the hockey rink could be used in the summer months for the courts.
 - The costs of all options are being collected and the appropriate research is being done to determine which, if any, will get the Township the biggest bang for its buck. The group also stated that it will be applying to grants and asking for private donations. The Association was asked if we would support their efforts to get more use out of our community area through these courts, and if we would allow donations to be made through our website so that the donations would be tax deductible. The Board will vote on that if the initiative gets that far.

PUBLIC FORUM:

- Can Donation Trailer. Where is it? Matt S. will follow-up with Bill V. and Matt L. to see where we are with it. Last thing that was communicated is that we were having issues finding anyone that will buy aluminum right not because of the lower-than-normal price right now. For it to make any sense financially, we have to at least be at \$.27 a pound and it is way lower than that right now. More to come.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.