

MINUTES OF THE LAKES AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 4 pm by Roger Flynn, committee chairman. Present were Mr, Flynn, Joe Margraff, Don Collins, Larry Gwaltney and Dalas Weisz.

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

Lynch gave the committee an update on spring fish stocking, stating that close to 8000 pounds of 12-16 inch rainbow trout had been stocked total in all four lakes and that an additional 4000 pounds should be stocked around the second week of June. Lynch stated that it did not appear that any Tiger Trout would be available this spring, but some could be possibly this fall. Additionally, the bass and crappie have not been available this spring but if any came up it would be in fall, generally 4-6 inch size class for bass and crappie. However, the lakes were stocked with bass and crappie regularly over the past 5 years and the populations are in good shape. Don Collins commented that the crappie fishing was outstanding at Lake Pagosa last couple of years and the committee agreed that the bass are in good shape with numbers in the lakes. There was an agreement that we should look to establish some additional predator fish in Lake Pagosa due to smaller yellow perch that are reproducing in the lake.

The committee also discussed the trending fish price increases we've seen over the past 3 or 4 years, which has resulted in fewer fish being able to be stocked in the lakes. The committee discussed a few possible future recommendations to address the price increases which could include a possible reduced daily bag limit of fish, possible small increase in fishing permit prices and public education on the costs of the fishing resource. It was agreed that this would be contemplated this summer with any recommendations to the board sometime in September.

The committee received an update on the capital improvement projects for this year, the first of two vaulted toilet units should be going in up at Hatcher Lake sometime in June, and the second unit is scheduled for later this fall at Lake Pagosa near the dam. A new floating dock was received this spring and will be installed at the Jetty on the west side of the lake providing a nice new fishing platform at an excellent location. The committee also reviewed the long range capital improvement project list and rankings from the July 2021 meeting and felt that those were still a solid recommended list of capital for the board to consider, which included the eventual install of permanent vaulted restrooms at all four lakes; improvements to the boat ramps; the addition of additional floats and sizing to the Village Lake fishing Pier; and new lakeside park development at the Northshore Cir greenbelt site on Village Lake and Tract C at Lake Pagosa with parking, fishing amenities, possible covered gazebo and floating piers (see Minutes of the Oct 2021 committee meeting).

Lynch gave the committee a quick overview of the spring weed and algae control plan where early season algaecides and vascular plant control applications were being made at key locations for recreational access and appearance.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm

