

Minutes of the Lakes and Fisheries Committee Meeting

May 28, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 pm by committee chair Roger Flynn. Committee members present were Mr. Flynn, Larry Gwaltney, John Unger, Joe Margraff and Don Collins. Staff present was Allen Roth GM, and Larry Lynch.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved unanimously by the committee.

Lynch updated the committee on the status of the most recent capital improvement projects including the new vaulted restrooms at Hatcher and Lake Pagosa installed last fall; the floating dock at Hatcher that is scheduled to be installed in June and the boat ramp work that took place this past spring where about \$3K in new gravel and grade work was completed. The committee commented in general that the new restrooms were a big upgrade from the portable units.

Lynch also gave the committee a summary of spring fish stocking to date, that 5000 pounds of rainbow trout were stocked in early May, and that 3500 each largemouth bass and black crappie were stocked in late April. Additionally that 5000 lbs of 12-16 inch rainbow trout are scheduled to be stocked around the first week of June. The committee consensus was that the fishing has been exceptional this spring in all four lakes and were reporting big days on the water.

Allen gave the committee a report on the status of the Village Lake boat ramp, Tract A; indicating that the Association legal team was working to settle the matter and that hopefully this issue should be resolved soon. In the meantime, a judge has issued an order allowing continued use of the property to owners.

Lynch advised the committee of a recent proposal from Williams Creek Anglers to provide guide services to owners of Pagosa Lakes where owners only could secure guided fly-fishing days on the lakes with a licensed guide and a cost split between WCA and PLPOA would be arranged. WCA also proposed a possible fishing tournament for owners where prizes such as guided trips, fly rods etc. could be provided for winning fish in a catch and release format (photo entries) would be judged. After much discussion the committee felt that guided services on the Pagosa lakes would be a difficult thing to regulate and could interfere with regular users of the lakes. They also felt that a tournament of this type may be difficult to monitor and officiate and could result in some unintended fish death. The consensus of the committee was to not recommend at this time that guided services of this type or a fishing tournament of this type would be in the best interests of the lake resources.