

MINUTES OF THE LAKES AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2024

Committee chair Roger Flynn called the meeting to order at 2 pm. Present at the meeting were Mr Flynn, Larry Gwaltney, Don Collins and Dalas Weisz. Staff present was Larry Lynch, DPE Manager.

Lynch gave the committee an overview of the fall fish stocking status, where 5000 pounds of 11-16 inch rainbow trout were stocked in the lake in early October. Lynch stated that the fishing has been good this fall in the lakes. The committee discussed fishing activity, most of them being avid lake users and anglers and the consensus was that the fishing was very good. Mr Gwaltney commented that Village Lake was fishing exceptionally for much of the fall with excellent success on trout, bass and crappie. He also reported that the fishing was a little slower at Hatcher Lake this fall for some reason. Mr. Collins reported that the fishing on Lake Pagosa was excellent this fall, where he is consistently landing 20 plus trout a day.

The committee discussed the possible drawdown of Lake Pagosa next year by PAWSD where they need to draw the lake down to make a repair on a sewer lift station vault in the northeastern part of the lake shore. The committee had some concerns about this regarding the fishery, and just wanted to make sure everyone was on the same page about timing of all this so any preparations may be made for this event. Don Collins suggested that PAWSD should be aware of water temperatures and time the project in the cooler months where the fish would be less stressed.

It was also discussed that the drawdown may present some opportunities to do some lake improvement projects. The possibility of installing a concrete boat ramp during the drawdown was discussed. Lynch stated that was something not necessarily in the budget but it could be looked at as we get closer and discussed with the board as a possibility. Perhaps it could be done for a reasonable price. Mr. Weisz suggested that a small gravel ramp could be considered at the common boat storage area over in the northwest part of the lake where owners can store small kayaks and canoes. A small gravel ramp for small boat hand launching could be built by staff for little expense and would be much easier to do when the lake is down. Lynch stated that he would look to get that accomplished if the opportunity arose and it could be done by staff.

The committee discussed the main lake improvement project for 2024 which was the installation of a new floating dock on the west side of Hatcher Lake near the water treatment plant. The committee felt that this a great addition to the lakes and that regular and daily users

were heavily utilizing the new dock and it is a good spot for fishing because there is good depth at that location and the views of the lake and mountains are hard to beat.

Lynch gave the committee an update on the new fishing permit sales changes that staff has been working on. The new permit sales would be much easier to track and issue for all concerned, owners could purchase the permits on their own devices by credit card, or still come in with cash or check if they like. The permits would be printed at the front desk in the form of a label that would be attached to a colored card, laminated and issued in a short couple minutes. The committee felt like this would be a good upgrade to permit sales and make it more efficient all around.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.