



St. Paul Yacht Club

St Paul Yacht Club
SPYC General Meeting
Tuesday, June 11, 7pm ~ 8:30pm
[See calendar for Zoom info](#)

Approved by: Andrea Johnson , David Nelson , Lynn Adler , Diane Scovill , Andy Ristrom , Bill Tschohl

Board members present: Bill Tschohl Nathan Schumann , Lynn Adler , Troy Janisch Andrea Johnson , Greg Jorgensen David Nelson , Andy Ristrom , Diane Scovill (Remote), jon.oulman@stpaulyachtclub.org (Remote)

Absent: Tom Surprenant

Staff present: Kristina Cummings

Guests: Carol Janisch, Mary Rossi, Eric Cobb, Peter & Michelle Borne, Coleen Velo, MJ Babccok, Barbara Haake, Bonnie Jean, Tom Marrone, Kathy, Bruce Johnson, Paul Amann, Others (not signed in)

Minutes

- **Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance (7:02)**
- **Approval of Agenda**
- **Open Comments from the Floor**
 - **Member:** “Staff switched out the electric meter for us and helped diagnose the issue causing higher-than-expected bills. Would like to see billing more often.”
SPYC Action to be Taken: Marina manager will share meter photos with the member.
 - **Member:** “Will we have access to our boats during the Minnesota Yacht Club Festival.”
SPYC Response: Yes. Parking in Lower harbor will be severely restricted. 25 parking spots for Liveaboards will be available at Raspberry Island.
 - **Member:** “Members need to get bills at the same frequency as the club gets it. This makes it impossible to manage their utility use effectively.”

Note: It is always a good idea for members to monitor their meters periodically to ensure that electric is spinning at ‘a normal rate’ and no excessive power use goes unmonitored.
- **Board Officer Reports**



St. Paul Yacht Club

- Commodore - Bill Tschohl (attached)
“Lease renewal is progressing through Parks leadership and will go to the City Council in a couple weeks or so.”
Go forward goal: Frequent conversations with the city about anticipated projects so we are always doing what we say we’re going to do and have no surprises with projects or otherwise.
- Vice-Commodore - Nathan Schumann (No report)
- Treasurer - Lynn Adler
Owed to us: \$130k (\$66k over 60 days)
“Since 2021, we’ve added 51 new boats and 2,111 feet of dockage valued at \$149,881 (new boats or boats under new ownership)”
- Secretary - Troy Janisch
 - Member Survey
 - Member Survey Deadline is 7/15
 - Survey results will be summarized by AI (Chat GPT4). This reduces bias and makes it possible to repeat the process annually.
 - Opportunities for improvement can be implemented for 2024-2025.
 - Verify weighting of 1-5 response scale
 - Add “Likelihood to recommend SPYC to others” question so that Net Promoter Score (NPS) can be added to future summaries.

- **Marina Manager Report** (see attached)

Motion: That 25 slipholders not replacing their own lines for slip covers in 2024 be charged \$40 of line cost.

Made by: Troy Janisch

Seconded by: Andy Ristrom

Status: Passed

SPYC Action to be Taken: SPYC Investigate the cost of renting a golf cart for liveaboard transportation needs during the time liveaboard parking is limited to Raspberry Island.

Efforts are in place to attract food trucks to Harriet Island Regional Park.

- **Committee Reports**

An overview of each committee will be shared by committee chairs

- Clubhouse & Amenities
- Finance
- Marketing & Membership
- Operations (No Report)
in-House Dredging in progress.



St. Paul Yacht Club

- Social Committee
 - Discussing options to re-integrate some version of the Commodore's Ball into the Social Calendar.
 - Cocktails and Caftans Saturday on Miller Dock (Ladies-only event)
- Strategic Planning (see attached)

● Old Business

- Procedures for determining slip changes, informing members of pending changes, and opportunities to discuss changes before they happen (from 5/14 Meeting)
AR: Procedures in progress.
- Plan for configuration of Lower Harbor (from 5/14 meeting)
AR: Plan in progress.
- Progress: Lease (covered earlier)
- Progress: Marina Permit (covered earlier)
Permit may be the City's responsibility.
- Utility Bills (quarterly schedule) (covered earlier)
Water meter readings were recently completed. Billing will be completed shortly.
Member: "It's OK to read the meters every 3 months or less. If we, as members, read our own meters in between".
Member: "We used to have quartermasters in each harbor. They would read meters and manage cords".
SPYC Action: The Club is investigating instances where electric or water bills vastly exceeded norms.
- Minnesota Yacht Club festival - impacts (Transients, access, etc.) (covered earlier)
- Yard clearing request from City and impacts (covered earlier)
- Yard policy clarifications. Members living on boats is not allowed.
- Commodore's ball reschedule (covered earlier)

● New Business

Motion: Approve the following Standing Rule regarding interactions with minors..



St. Paul Yacht Club

Proposed Rule: "Minors (under 18) are prohibited from conducting official business with SPYC staff and board members. All official business must be conducted through a parent or legal guardian. Emergencies should be reported to the proper authorities."

Made by: Bill Tschohl

Seconded by: Nathan Schumann

Status: Passed.

- **Adjourn to Closed Session (8:43)**

- **Adjourn Motion: Adjourn**

Made by: Lynn Adler

Seconded by: Nathan Schumann

Status: passed

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- 6/13, Strategic Planning Meeting (Clubhouse, 6-7pm)
- 6/18, New Boater Orientation (Clubhouse, 6-8pm)
- 6/29 Steak Fry (Clubhouse, 5-11pm, \$10)
- 6/30, Member Survey Deadline
- 7/4, Independence Day (Office closed)
- 7/9, SPYC Board Meeting (Clubhouse, 7pm)

Commodore's report 6/11/2024

Welcome back everyone and Welcome new members!

The river is always full of surprises.

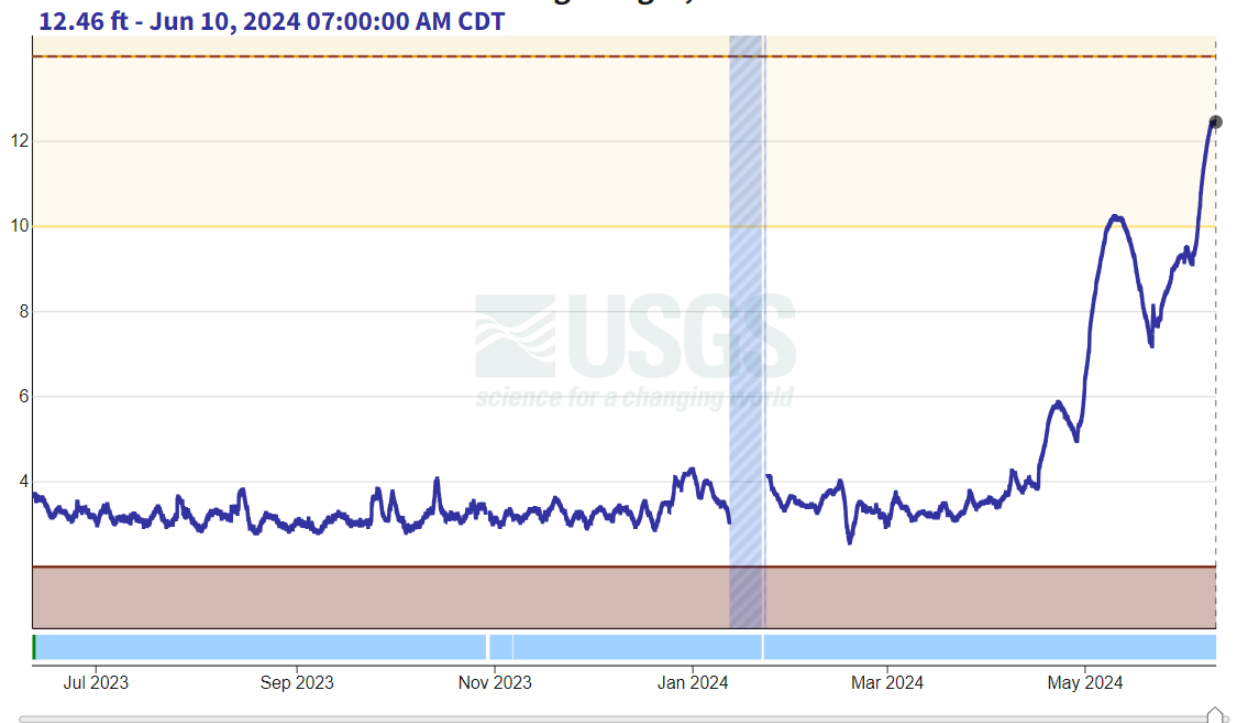
The boating season is here and boy do we have water!

Just back in early April we were at a pretty normal pool and I along with many members I talked to didn't thought we'd be struggling all spring with harbor movement with silting being our biggest challenge. We really didn't have much rain expected and much of the Twin Cities area had been in drought conditions since 2022. That pivoted on us pretty substantially here in May. The Mississippi river just crested at 12'4" on Sunday. It is expected, by the NOAA hydrologists, to drop to around 10' by Monday, June 17th. The river is pretty fast currently and there's a fair amount of debris being carried down river. WONderfully, the entire state of MN has been lifted out of drought conditions with all the rain.

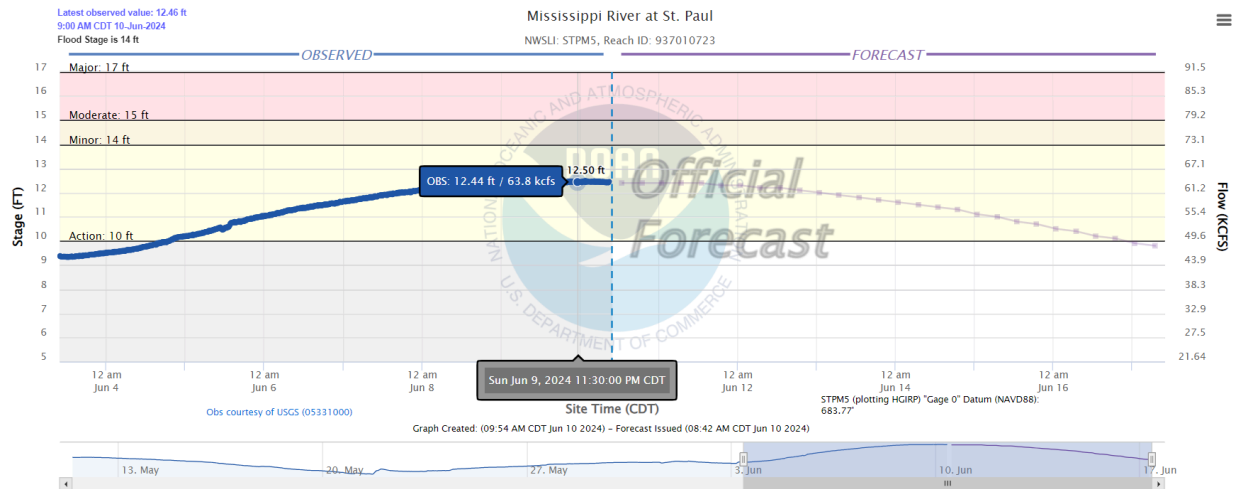
Mississippi River at St. Paul, MN - 05331000

June 11, 2023 - June 10, 2024

Gage height, feet



<https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?gage=stpm5&wfo=mpx>



Whether you're new to the river or experienced captains with an abundance of knowledge, it's good to know the above information and monitor it occasionally. What this may not tell you clearly is that the number on the right side of the above flood guage information is the Flow rate expressed in kcfs or in general terms water passes at X Thousand cubic feet per second. Normal pool that kcfs is about 21kcfs. As you see above when the river was at 12'4" the flow was at about 63kcfs. For our purposes you can just use this as a take-away. At this river level the water is moving 3.5 times its normal speed. (Yes, there's not necessarily a direct correlation to volume and speed, but for our purposes there really is a correlation there.)

Relevant River level impacts:

8' is a lot of current and we recommend staying off the river. That's also the point where the current starts to bring in extra volumes of silt and debris.

14' is considered the first "flood stage". This shuts down Lilydale road and parts of Harriet Island Park. The ramps down to the docks start to have problems.

17' the discomfort starts. There is water on the cement rails of the travel lift and closes large sections of the park. At 17' we would have to look at the forecast and determine if we need to get boats launched or onto the levee. Launching is the better option, but it all depends on the weather and how the yard looks with ice, etc.

18.5' closes the lift and puts the water into the lot down by the gas dock. We pull fuses on at least some of the electrical feeds.

19' shuts off all the dock utilities, closes all the ramps, water into the paved parking lots, and about up to the garage in the boatyard. Start thinking about moving boats.

20' we're taking boats out to Water St. and other local roads. Water is into the garage and close to the entrance gate. Pool & Yacht is flooded.

22' boat yard is closed and mostly underwater. It actually becomes part of the river. Docks are reachable only by boat. Garage has 2' of water in it. Clubhouse is subjected to current.

23' the water is up to the office and is out on Lilydale Road in front of the entrance gate. That's as high as we've seen it.

Operationally the timing of this water makes it really great for our crew this year. We were able to dredge significant portions of the Upper Harbor with our dredge before the river put the bottom out of reach. We also have LS Marine ready to bring in their equipment to do cuts in the harbor mouth, well and under the clubhouse as soon as the permit is finished with the DNR, which should be any day now. During the clubhouse phase, the clubhouse will be moved into the Upper Harbor fairway and the mouth will be closed with the equipment. Expect to see communications on timing later this month.

Fortunately, launching boats is a bit easier at this river height because the crew doesn't have to lower boats 8-10' to get them in the well. If you haven't been launched yet, do get in touch with Kristina or submit a launch request online: <https://forms.gle/tEQHVmMNW5vRdCEBA>

The Mississippi River is a force of nature in her own right. Keep an eye on the river levels before undertaking your trips and as always make sure your boat is in proper running shape beforehand as well.

Your Commodore,

Bill Tschohl

SPYC 2024 Board member information: <https://www.stpaulyachtclub.org/about>

You can email the entire board at this single address: board@stpaulyachtclub.org

Marina Manager Report: Kristina Cummings - June 2024

Financial

Checking Account - \$421,463.72

Mud Cat Loan - \$151,226.60

Did not receive the water or electricity bills from the utility company yet – No Report this month but will report next month for both if we get them in time.

Most of the flowers have been planted, I will get more pots for Dahlgren and plant flowers in the pot at Gate G. If you see them dry, please water as you can. I want to express my gratitude on behalf of the SPYC to Jerry Quaal for donating all of the flowers to fill the pots around our gates. They are beautiful and will be enjoyed by all!

Intentionally In Charge – we had 20 people attend the class to put our motto into action.

Gas dock – Up and going, we had to work through a few challenges with our vendors but it is working fine now.

New Slip Sales- We have had a bit of demand for Jet Ski docks. These docks seem to be great entry for renters and having the docks allow them not to need a large vehicle for them to tow them around. See attached proposal. The other companies were higher.

Since 2021 we have added 51 new boats totaling 2,111 feet of dockage and new revenue this year alone of \$149,881. Continuing to fill our slips will help us continue to improve the marina and will help reduce the potential need for slip rate increases year over year.

Dredge Plan – We will resume slip dredging after LSM has completed the mouth and under the club house. We will be getting a dredge permit that includes all of our sediment and the sediment that is being removed by LSM. We are waiting on this from the DNR so we can get things going. The guys have filled almost 4 of the 5 bags we can do this year before we have to remove the sediment. If we have time we will be able to pull out the sediment out this fall before we fill more bags.

Dock placement – The new 25 ft slips on Miller are complete. We need our members on Miller to move their boats to finish the new 20 ft slips. We have sold 3 so far. We are having many more calls about those slips coming in and hope to get those done when we are done dredging.

Slipcovers - They are done and thanks to Act Roofing for completing it in 1 day. The club had to spend \$640.28 on new line for the covers. How should we deal with that expense? 25 slip holders didn't buy line and the others did.

Live a board water meters - Several liveboards have not submitted their water meter readings from the winter yet and I cannot complete the winter utility billings until they are all received.

Strategic Planning June report

It's been a great start to the year with tons of awesome ideas submitted.

We are still in the process of refining and planning, but have moved into our second stage with refining all of the ideas down to a few. My personal opinion, which we'll be reviewing at this Thursday's Strategic Planning committee meeting is to move forward with three really good ideas we can kick off this year and early next year.

Those three ideas are:

Enhance the club by removing dead trees, invasive species, etc. around the Lower Harbor and Upper Harbor as well as the yard.

Install a boat dock at the Lilydale Regional Park boat launch ramp.

Assist the City Parks and MN DNR locate a wildlife camera.

Cost estimates for all of the above are currently in progress. We've gathered estimates from arborists for tree removal. We've met with Minncor about constructing the dock and expect an estimate soon. The wildlife camera should be minimal to no cost to the City or club, but we have follow-up meetings to discuss various points.

For those new to the club or long-term members not yet engaged. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month. One is zoom only and one is in-person only. The schedule can be found on the club calendar page. <https://www.stpaulyachtclub.org/calendar>

FYI -

Strategic Planning's purpose, mission and timelines.

Committee Members: Bill Tschohl (Chair), Brett Cummings (Co-chair), Troy Janish, Lee Pfeilsticker. Dave Nelson

Purpose: Gather and develop projects from ideation to deliverables with input from stakeholders.

Mission: The Strategic Planning committee will serve to benefit the St. Paul Yacht Club, City of St. Paul's Parks and enhance our outreach to the community. The committee will deliver detailed plans with expected benefits, costs and ongoing maintenance analysis for club and board review and approval.

Timeline:

Spring meetings : gather ideas and concepts

All ideas are good ideas. That said, the ideas and concepts phase is not to revisit board decisions, but to gather ideas and even generate ways to gather more ideas via surveys, visits with area stakeholders, etc.

Summer meetings: refine list to 2-3 ideas for further project planning /development. From the ideas gathered in the Spring along with input from our St Paul Parks contract representative, determine which are meaningful projects to further evaluate and plan, budget, estimate further.

Fall meetings: Finish project planning and development, create presentations, verify costs and funding.

Projects should be as thoroughly designed as possible. Wherever possible they should have full design, benefits anticipated, cost analysis, anticipated timelines and agreement from any necessary committees such as amenities, operations, etc.

Budget: The committee has no fixed budget. That said, projects that partner with the City of St. Paul's Parks and are approved by the city can potentially lessen our lease payment if Parks agrees the item is mutually beneficial.

Note:

Projects should be fully developed before the November Board meeting to be included in the following year's budget, if approved.

Location:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/SyLQm2X5vY2LxKov9>

Marina Amenity thoughts

Essentials:

Boat slips

Boat and trailer storage

Fuel dock

Wants:

Boat ramps for visitors

Boat rentals

Business center

Clubhouse

Complimentary WiFi

Fitness center and sauna
Grills
Kayaks and paddle board rentals
Laundry
Marina store
Media equipment
Picnic area
Poolside bar
Private beach access
RV parking
Shower facilities
Tennis court
Transient slippage
Water skiing
Waterfront pool
Improved boat dock access

Non-Boating or Programming activities, that correlate well in the park?

Biking
Bird watching
Guided history tours
Photography
Scooters
Wildlife and wilderness exploration - Wildlife camera?
Run or race with canoes/ kayaks? Hidden falls to here? Food trucks and music in the yard, stop at pool& yacht

Large boat moored for rental, living activities, programming on the river

Balcony / patio area with roof, food trucks, music area accompanying

Movies at night