

BSLA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2017

Attending:

Dennis Loots, Jim Anderson, Jim Cobb, Jeanne Young, Ginny Patnaude, Don Button, Jerry Trader

Articles of Incorporation (i.e. Purpose of the BSLA)

Denny cited the stated purpose of the association as shown on the website.

Mission statement:

Goals are to improve the quality of the lakes water, and the balance among its ecosystem components, while improving the prospects for better fishing, providing better recreational activities, and reducing the likelihood of a biological upset.

Goal: The goal of our association is to restore and preserve the health of Big Sand Lake as a well balanced natural system.

Jim provided the following description from the Articles of Incorporation.

The corporation is organized for educational and lake protection purposes. Specifically, the corporation is to provide information to property owners on Big Sand Lake, Burnett County, Wisconsin and those within the immediate vicinity of the lake, to help them understand, protect and preserve the quality of the lake and also to undertake those activities necessary to pursue those purposes. Notwithstanding other language contained in this creating document, the purposes will be limited exclusively to exempt purposes within the meaning of IRS 501(c)(3).

Treasurer's Report

There are 39 paid members for 2017. This is down from 59 in 2016. Dennis will see about contacting these people to see if they will re-join. Receipts in December are counted as membership for the following year. Current bank balance is \$6347.55. Jeanne reported that we have income of approximately \$1000 per year compared to \$1200 in expenses.

Ideas for annual meeting, picnic, speakers, etc.

Don volunteered to host next year's picnic. Denny suggested Sorenson as a speaker and will investigate.

Update on meeting with the Tribe

Scheduled for December 11th.

Update on WE natural gas pipeline on Basswood and Sand Lake Road

Very few responses so the project was cancelled. Could be resurrected if enough people respond.

Update of printing waterproof Big Sand Lake depth maps

All agree that we should reprint for next season.

Thoughts on having BSLA issue a "State of BSLA: report in November.

All agreed that this would be a good idea and Denny will begin drafting a letter.

Do we want to start a services page on our web site.

It was suggested a Facebook group page as a mechanism. Denny will suggest this approach in the newsletter.

By-law discussions. Questions, clarifications, suggested changes and process for such

Don proposed fix dates for the board meetings. The majority felt being flexible was more important. Don also discussed raising the dues to \$100. The group felt there would need to be specific justification for any dues increase.

Appropriate use of BSLA's property owner's database

Must be used only for official BSLA business. It is important that we use Mailchimp for all official BSLA communications. It complies with laws regarding the use of mailing lists by giving people the option of opting out and protects the recipients email address from being viewed by others. Official communications approved by the BSLA president or vice president should be forwarded to Jim Cobb for distribution by the Mailchimp system.

Discussion of select lake topics

Don provided an explanation of the life cycle of lakes. Concentration of algae controlled by the fish. Concentration of nutrients controlled by the algae. BSL doesn't have many nutrients therefore we don't have very many fish.

The action items regarding Blue/green algae and apex piscivore were briefly discussed from Don's stewardship plan action items. No conclusions or actions for the BSLA resulted from the discussions. (Don's stewardship plan was distributed to board members directly by Don and are not included here.)

Don indicated that we do have blue/green algae and the amount is increasing. It does not seem to be clear if this is an actual problem for the lake and if it were what we would do about it. Ginny suggested that we communicate to the lake land owners that we are monitoring the situation.

Don is trying to get data from the tribe on lake water temperature. This will be brought up at the meeting with the tribe.

Jim Anderson suggested we find out what the current thinking of the DNR and the tribe are about Big Sand Lake. This can then be discussed at the next board meeting to see if there are any things that the association can work on.

In attempting to establish priorities, there was discussion on why people like Big Sand Lake. Most agreed that the water quality (i.e. clarity) is a big reason and that fishing is a secondary concern and is sufficient for most home owners. Therefore preserving and not changing what we have is a priority for many if not most of the home owners.

Follow Up

Collectively submit questions to Denny by November 3rd that we will ask the DNR and tribe at the December meeting.

Denny will set a date for the next meeting in January to allow input for those who travel in the winter. Jim will send out a Doodle survey to find the best date and time to include the most board members.