

Big Sand Lake Association Annual Member Meeting

July 15, 2023

Location: Siren Senior Center

Board Members Attending: Dennis Loots, Karen Pavlicek, Chip Applegath, Jane Jensen, Paul Hassing

Absent: Don Button

BSLA President, Dennis Loots, called the meeting to order at 10:05am

- Approximately 37 people were in attendance

1. Approval of 02June 2023 BSLA Board Meeting Minutes

- Approval was done via board email vote, vote was unanimous.
- Minutes were published on the BLSA website & emailed to members using MailChimp tool

2. Welcome & Update – Dennis Loots

- Board Member introductions
- Update on Campgrounds
 - Bocan proposed campground - has 2 lawsuits in process. No real news
 - Dongola Rd - as of late July only 13 of 60 spots occupied
 - Campground on 70 - bought land north and expanding 100 sites
- Update on Water Testing
 - Per Lakelines report: Burnett County has over 75% of its groundwater supply at less than 20 feet below the surface. With shallow depth and sandy soil, wells are more susceptible to contamination
 - County will sample 600 wells around the county, you may want to sign up to get tested. Contact Emily Moore 715-349-2109 ext 2613 or emily.moore@burnettcountywi.gov to learn more.
 - If you wish to sample your own, kits are available from Burnett Count DHHS located at 7410 County Road K, Suite 280 Siren Wi. 715-349-7600
 - BSLA is encouraging people to test their well water
- Updated Lake Maps available at landing and given out at the meeting. Now also posted on our website at: <https://www.bigsandlakewi.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/BigSand-Map-2023-1-1.pdf>

3. Guest Speaker – Kim Ammann, Winged Freedom Raptor Hospital, Spooner

- Kim Ammann, vet from Winged Freedom Raptor Hospital spoke about the work they are doing to rescue, rehabilitate and release wild raptors and to humanely alleviate the suffering of those raptors whose circumstances preclude rehabilitation being rehabbed. See <https://www.wingedfreedomrh.com/>
- Kim is a licensed vet and licensed falconer. She is retired from daily practice but is now full-time volunteer running Raptor Hospital
- They are the only center in NW WI taking Eagles and the volume of Eagles in this area is large
- Not for Profit origination – all money goes to bird care, staff is all volunteers, no state funding, but she does pursue grants. Some initial funding to start the center was out-of-pocket
- Rescues: Eagles, Hawks, Owls, Turkey Vultures. They don't do Loons as Loons are not raptors and require specialized care and rehab facilities
- Just moved into a new impressive fully built-out bird hospital/treatment and rehab/treatment area, rehab enclosures. Building was built all with donations, especially from two key donors
- Kim does lots of: orthopedic surgery, head trauma from car hits, blood work, lead poisoning
- Takes calls from DNR, Sheriff, Public, etc on downed/injured birds. Picks up birds in any weather
- Tiny levels of lead will kill raptors. Lead from: Fishing gear, birdshot, venison meat
- Primary goal is rehabilitated and release the birds, about 50% of birds taken in are released

- Bald Eagle releases are usually public – crowds of up to 150 people attend
- They get a lot of babies in the summer. Kim wears a turkey hat and uses puppets when rehabilitating so they don't imprint on humans
- Interactive map on their website that shows local rehabilitator to find help
- Birds are not banded when released since there is no banded local

4. Financial Report – Karen Pavlicek

- Financials were passed out at each table. See a board member for details
- About ½ of our normal members have paid to date. Fiscal year is Jan1st-Dec31st
- BSLA Organization is in fine financial shape

5. DNR Geese Banding Project – Jane Jenson

- DNR came and banded geese which disturbs them and some leave eventually
- First time DNR has been on BSL for geese
- On June 29th The DNR came in 8 trucks. They had 15 Kayaks, 35 people and boats on water to move the geese
- Herded geese into a net and caught: 6 geese + 30 goslings. The DNR then banded each
- DNR said the most effective deterrent is fences. Careful use of Laser pen harassment also works
- Jane may have DNR come again in future years

5.5 DNR Boat Launch – Jane Jenson

- As most are aware, the only public landing on the lake (owned by the DNR), is troublesome to use due to tilt. BSLA member boats are getting damaged using it.
- Jane got a name at DNR to discuss
- Great news - DNR has funding for repair and it's "on their project list". They hired Engineer and took initial look at it
- Don't know timeframe yet for repair or any details. BSLA will communicate when we know more.

6. Automated Lake water monitoring project – Paul Hassing

- Goal is to generate some BSL baseline data on various metrics
- 14" disk floats in the water. Monitors: Air temp, water temp, solar light, turbidity, chlorophyll, algae. Keeps historical tracking data.
- Monitors & gathers & uploads data every 30mins
- \$1,500 upfront cost, \$2,000 per year
- More info can be found at: algeatracker.com
- Questions from the audience around what data would be used for and who would use it or have access to it. Got a suggestion from the audience to get some existing user feedback.
- Dennis asked the audience to think on this more and get back to us, as the board is pondering.
- Straw poll taken to look into this further: ~40% audience raised hands

7. DNR 2022 BSL Fish Report – Chip Applegath

- Report is now posted on our website at this link <https://www.bigsandlakewi.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/2022-DNR-Fish-Report-for-Big-Sand-Lake-1.pdf>

Background

- Survey says "Draft" on front, but it's approved/final, just not yet published on DNR website
- Survey done every 12 years – last was 2008/2009
- Electrofishing method
- Pike/Walley surveyed 2022 April 21st – shortly after ice out
- Bass/Panfish surveyed 2022 June 2nd

Summary (Pages 6 & 7)

- *Walleye* - extreme low density, mostly from stocking by tribe
- *Pike* – healthy population. Numbers likely higher than measured due to method used
- *Large Mouth Bass* – moderate density, size improved since 2008
- *Bluegill* – abundant, size structure decreased slightly

Page 8 Walleye stocking history 2000-2022

- DNR stopped stocking walleye in 2008, Tribe continues to stock yearly
- Tribe stocked 217,901 fry this May (2023) - {not in DNR 2022 report}

DNR recommendations (Page 7)

- Harvest smaller (< 14") Bass & Pike
- Focus on increase woody habitat, protect aquatic vegetation, restore vegetative buffers
- Focus on Invasive species monitoring and programs

8. Board Elections – Dennis Loots

- **Secretary**
 - **Chip Applegath** volunteered for a 2nd term
Nominated by Jane Jensen, 2nd by Dennis Loots
 - Discussion: None
 - Vote: Approved Unanimously
- **Treasurer**
 - **Steve Farnham** volunteered for 1st appointment
 - Nominated by Dennis Loots. 2nd by Chip Applegath
 - Discussion: Steve was not at the meeting due to his wedding anniversary party but Dennis outlined his qualifications. Someone asked if Steve was aware he was being nominated (answer is yes)
 - Vote: Approved Unanimously
- **Open At Large Director Position**
 - **Karen Pavlicek** Volunteered for 1st appointment
 - Nominated by Chip Applegath. 2nd by Jane Jensen
 - Discussion: The Board thanked Karen for her excellent service as Treasure and highly recommended her appointment as At Large Director.
 - Vote: 99% =Yes, Gary (husband) jokingly voted no. Approved.

8. OPEN Q&A Session

- Question about membership, number of people that pay dues. Chip looked up this information after the meeting:
 - 177 Names/Property addresses in our lake spreadsheet. This number does not include lots on Angelina Ave associated with the St Croix Chippewa Tribe due to volume of lots.
 - We have 127 email addresses we email to. Some properties have more than one email.
 - On any given year 40-55 members pay dues
- Discussion about 1-2 wakeboats now on the lake and how detrimental they are for the lake.
- Discussion about jetskis speeding 60 mph close to the shore

8. Closing – Dennis Loots

- Meeting was adjourned at 11:45am

9.. Annual Picnic

- Thank you Deb & Dennis Loots for hosting! Thank you to all that attended and brought items to share. We had approximately 44 people attend, and many new connections were made to others on the lake.

Reminder that \$25 yearly BSLA dues are due.

- Mail check Payable to: Big Sand Lake Association
- Mail to: PO Box 145 Siren WI 54872

Respectfully submitted,

Chip Applegath
BSLA Secretary