

Big Sand Lake Association Board Meeting

Nov 11, 2023

Location: Loot's cabin

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

Absent: Don Button

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

1. Approval of 15July2023 BSLA Meeting Minutes – Chip Applegath

- Approval was via board email vote. Vote was unanimous by board members that attended that meeting
- Minutes were published on the BSLA website & emailed to members via MailChimp tool on July 30th
- Chip shared some email metrics with the board. We average 70% open rate on emails we send out. The 30% 'no open' could be mail getting filtered directly to spam, people simply not caring enough to open, or people with old email addresses they no longer monitor

2. Financial Report – Steve Farnham (Treasure)

- Transfer of information and books from Karen to Steve completed in September
- Steve complimented Karen on how well organized everything was
- We had 52 paid members in 2023
- Expenses were slightly higher than income for 2023, but BSLA is in fine financial shape
- For more detailed financial information you can contact any board member

3. Summer 2024 All Members Annual Meeting and Picnic

- Guest Speaker discussions
 - Karen suggested someone to discuss utilities: internet, electric, etc
 - Chip suggested shoreline erosion like Corp of Engineers on shoreline work permits, etc
 - Dennis suggested Emily Moore the Burnett County AIS Coordinator. She has received good reviews as a speaker at other Lake Association meetings
 - Motion by Chip to invite Emily Moore as our guest speaker. Seconded by Dennis, vote: unanimous. Dennis to check with Emily on availability
 - We discussed getting well water test kits we could hand out at the meeting. Chip will investigate this
- We discussed two dates (at the meeting and in subsequent emails after the meeting); July 20th and July 27th. July 20th enabled us to get the speaker we want (Emily) but it was noted this is the same date as the Burnett Co Airport Air show. The decision was made to go with July 20th.
- **Members: Hold the date: Saturday July 20th, 2024 for meeting at 10am and picnic to follow.** The tentative meeting location is the Siren Senior Center
- Picnic Location:
 - Susan Raisanen volunteered to host the picnic this year. Dennis will confirm with her.

4. General Topics

- Update on nearby Campgrounds
 - Bocan proposed campground off Olsen Rd. We believe the next court date is January. Dennis will check and get back to board
 - Dongola Rd Campground – was lightly used this summer
 - Campground on 70 (approved expansion to the north) – no news
- Update on County Well Water Testing via volunteer sampling
 - Dennis will see if Emily has results of 600 wells tested and if we can publish that info on our website

5. Bylaws: Distance from lake for BSLA membership – Chip Applegath

- Chip described an issue with the change we made to our BSLA bylaws two years ago. membership boundary was changed from 1 mile from lake to 1000 feet from lake. It turns out that to apply for any DNR grants, a Lake Association needs to use the 1 mile from lake measurement. Therefore, to enable BSLA to apply for DNR grants if desired, a motion was made by Chip to change the bylaws back to 1 mile. This change would be voted on at the July 2024 all member meeting. Motion was 2nd by Jane. Vote taken and passed unanimously.

6. Big Sand Lake “Stakeholders” meeting in 2024 – Dennis Loots

- Recall this is a yearly meeting that includes DNR, Tribe, County and BSLA. We have not held one in few years now
- Dennis said the DNR person previously assigned to our lake has been re-assigned and there is no replacement. DNR said they would participate in a meeting but not lead it. Dennis will contact the Tribe to discuss. Burnett County or BSLA would lead the meeting

7. DNR Geese Banding (and Deterrent) Project – Jane Jensen

- Jane said she would lead this again, but the DNR likes to rotate lakes and we need to see next spring if results from last year impacted the goose population any. Jane will check in with DNR on this in the spring

8. DNR Boat Launch Repair Project – Jane Jensen

- An Engineer was assigned and the project has been sized. It is much bigger than DNR initially assumed and is more than the funding which was approved. They want to do it right, they will pull concrete, put in new concrete, and redo the parking lot. The DNR will have to ask for additional funding. As such, the timeframe for the project is TBD.
- After our board meeting, in early December, Jane had a call with Dan Yankowiak from the DNR. He must put together and submit a new project for the boat ramp to get it approved. He said the funding would be between \$200,000 - \$500,000 with the average of 350,000. They only received funding of \$30,000. Therefore, it may be 2 to 5 years before it gets it done, but Dan is trying to get it prioritized. He said it is helping to have BSLA pushing for this improvement.

9. “No Power Loading” Sign at ramp – Steve Farnham

- Steve showed a sign you can get about no power loading that can be put at the ramp. Other lake associations have installed these
- Recall, “Power Loading” is when a boat owner gets the front end of boat up on trailer and “gooses” the engine at high throttle to drive boat on trailer. This action is detrimental to the lake bottom
- Sign costs \$30 and we install ourselves
- Motion made by Steve to pursue: Jane to check with DNR if we can install, Steve to get sign if ok. 2nd by Karen. Vote taken: Unanimous
- Jane addressed this topic with DNR in her call with them in December. The DNR said that we could not post the sign about Power loading prohibited at the boat landing. However, they have one that they will post by the spring there for us. It is not against the law to power load, but DNR knows it is not good for the environment.

10. Automated Lake water monitoring Project – Paul Hassing

- A few people were interested in this topic and chatted with Paul at the July meeting/picnic
- However, general interest in spending BSLA money on this was mixed
- Dennis will mention this topic to the Tribe and see if they are interested at all

11. Discussion on 2024 BSLA goals

- Karen provided a brief the history of BSLA.
- Discussion of Lake Districts vs Lake Associations was had. The net is a “Lake District” is a formal government sanctioned democracy that can initiate taxes on property owners for large cost projects (like sewers or expensive lake management projects). Example: Clam Lake has a robust weed removal program; they created a Lake District to fund this.
- BSLA is a Lake Association, not a Lake District. The general board consensus is we do not have the need or desire to become a Lake District.

- Chip suggested we contact a couple of other Lake Associations to see what they focus on. We proposed contacting Yellow Lake, Clam Lake and Devil's Lake with Chip, Steve and Dennis volunteering to contact. However, after the meeting Dennis shared with the board information, he had recently received, which provided us with most of the info we were seeking.
- Paul suggested someone from BSLA get more involved with Burnett Co Lakes & Rivers Association. Suggestion to get someone from our board to attend their meetings. Paul will reach out to them to understand their schedule
- Dennis discussed an idea from one Lake Association for a Lead weight disposal box at landing
- Jane suggested a Welcome letter or basket/gift to new property owners on the lake. We can get info on property transition at courthouse (public record) and info also available online. Chip volunteered to write a welcome letter. Jane volunteered to run with this and made a Motion to pursue the idea. Steve 2nd. Vote: unanimous

Next board meeting: Saturday April 13th 10:00am Dennis Loots cabin

Motion to adjourn by Chip, 2nd by Karen. Meeting was adjourned at 11:13am

Reminder \$25 yearly BSLA dues can be paid by:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Chip Applegath
BSLA Secretary