

Big Sand Lake Association Board Meeting

Apr 13, 2024

Location: Loot's cabin

Board Members Attending: Dennis Loots, Chip Applegath, Jane Jensen, Paul Hassing, Steve Farnham, Don Button

Absent: Karen Pavlicek

BSLA President, Dennis Loots, called the meeting to order at 10:04 am

1. Approval of 11Nov2023 BSLA Meeting Minutes – Chip Applegath

- Approval via board email vote. Vote unanimous by board members that attended the meeting
- Minutes were published on the BSLA website & emailed to members via Mailchimp on Dec 7th

2. Financial Report – Steve Farnham (Treasurer)

- Steve updated the board on cash inflow and outflow. We received a few 2024 dues paid already and paid a couple of small bills due. See a board member for detailed specifics on financials

3. Summer 2024 All Members Annual Meeting (10am) and Picnic - Saturday July 20th

- Specifics:
 - Location: Siren Senior Center – confirmed
 - Speaker: Emily Moore the Burnett County AIS Coordinator - confirmed
 - Picnic Location – Susan Raisanen is still willing to host. Dennis will confirm once more
 - We discussed at Nov mtg about getting well water test kits we could hand out at the meeting. Chip will investigate this

4. General Topics

- Update on nearby Campgrounds
 - No new news
- Update on County Well Water Testing via volunteer sampling – Dennis Loots
 - County has ~600 wells signed up to volunteer test. They have not done the testing yet.
 - Kits go out in May. When testing is complete Dennis will see if BSLA can share results.

5. Big Sand Lake “Stakeholders” (BSLA/DNR/Tribe) meeting in 2024 – Dennis Loots

- Dennis called the tribe this winter. He also sent them info about the consulting firm proposals for lake projects. They have not gotten back to him

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

- Once we get a large number of geese on the lake again this summer, Jane will call DNR again. The DNR had said they might come and re-band again like they did last summer

7. DNR Boat Launch Repair Project – Jane Jensen

- The DNR put in a formal funding request for 2025-2027 cost of \$250K-\$300K. Their proposal is to fix the concrete ramp and repave the parking lot. The DNR dock is deemed to be in good shape as it was replaced just a few years ago. DNR feels the \$'s will likely get approved. BSLA will Promote, monitor, and communicate status as this works through their planning process. The DNR cut down a few swamp trees to the east of the ramp parking lot this spring.

8. “No Power Loading” Sign at ramp – Steve Farnham & Jane Jensen

- New DNR sign was put up this spring

9. Automated Lake water monitoring Project – Paul Hassing

- This topic will be closed for now. Don attended the recent WI Lakes and Rivers Association Convention where he presented a paper. He said there was no talk about other lake associations using this product.

10. Welcome basket/letter idea voted yes at Nov mtg, Update – Jane Jensen

- Chip will figure out who to call in county to get recent lake property sale records
- Dennis discovered a Big Sand Lake is on the “Nextdoor” community App. Not sure if it's our BLS and no further discussion was had on this topic.

11. Discussion on 2024 BSLA goals

- From Nov board meeting. 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 to reach out to them to understand their schedule.

12. New Business – Carson Lake Management Company proposals – discussion

- Dennis had contacted them to see what services they offer. They send us 2 proposals with cost estimates:
 - **(1) Fishery Survey** – DNR reviewed their proposal, they already do most of it. Board agreed not a good investment
 - **(2) AIS Focused intercept survey** – Don feels commercial surveys are a waste of money. The rest of the board wants to investigate further. See goal section for more details
- Don said narrow leaf cattail which has cross bred with broad leaf is very invasive and that's what is clogging up the Sand Lake outlet under Sand Lake Road. He said the most effective treatment is to cut off below water level and apply a herbicide. Dennis will ask Carlson if they offer any cattail removal services. Note: nothing would be done by BSLA on this topic without DNR involvement.

13. Discussion on BSLA Board Membership with terms expiring

- Dennis is retiring as president in June. He would like to remain on the board if possible
- Paul's term as an At Large Board Member is up June. He would consider the President role

14. BSLA Goal Setting Session – Chip Applegath lead a 45 min goal setting exercise

The focus was on these four themes. Summary is below:

A. Lake Enjoyment Disrupters

- Continue existing efforts on: Ramp repair, Excess Geese, Campgrounds. No new initiatives were identified

B. Lake Protection/Preservation:

- Motion by Chip: Investigate Invasive Species Lake Mapping to establish a baseline. 2nd: Jane. Vote taken: all approved all except Don who opposed.

C. Stakeholder Communications

- General discussion was around getting more involved with the Tribe. Dennis will reach out again to them (call vs email) to try and connect again
- We discussed providing additional information to our association on topics of interest to our lake community. No specific actions were identified but we will watch for opportunities

D. Sense of Community

- Adopt a highway (sponsored by BSLA) cleanup/sign – Steve will look into this.
- Roadside Earth Day clean up. Chip motioned we promote clean up. Steve 2nd. All voted in favor. Chip will post something out via email and on our private FB Group.
- Discussion about getting dues collected before summer meeting. Chip will send out notification in April to pay dues in advance of the meeting.
- Discussion on BSLA swag (T shirts or sweatshirts) to sell. Possibly add a small (\$5 fee) to BSLA. Motion by Jane to pursue getting BSLA design created and make it available for sale. Steve 2nd. Motion passed unanimously. Jane will pursue
- Discussion about the new 911 facility expansion going in at the government center during the county jail project. Have someone come to the annual meeting to update us on the 911 project. Dennis will investigate this.

Next board meeting: Sat June 22nd. 10am. Dennis cabin

Motion to adjourn by Jane. 2nd by Chip. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 11:45am

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

- Mail check Payable to: Big Sand Lake Association and mail to:
Big Sand Lake Association
PO Box 145 Siren WI 54872
- Or give check, or cash, to any board member

Respectfully submitted,

Chip Applegath
BSLA Secretary