

BSLA Board Mtg Minutes 07Jun2025

Date: Saturday June 7th, 2025

Location: Paul's Cabin

Time: 10am-Noon

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

Board Members Absent: none

Approval of 26Apr2025 BSLA Board Meeting Minutes – Chip

- Approval via board email vote. Vote unanimous by board members present
- Minutes were published on BSLA website & emailed to members via Mailchimp on 5/9/2025

BSLA President, Paul Hassing, called the meeting to order at 10:02 am

Agenda with Minutes:

1. Financial Update – Steve

- a. Signature card at bank is ok/current with 3/7 board members. Steve ensured West Bend insurance has our current board roster. Insurance was paid; Burnett Co Land Services was paid for AIS work.

2. Big Sand Lake Water Flow Roundtable 6/4 Update – Chip, Don, Jane, Steve, Karen

- a. 17 people from 9 different organizations attended including: BSLA, Burnett County Lakes and River Association, BC Land and Water Conservation Dept, Yellow River Protection Conservatory, Chairs of Town of Sand Lake and Town of LaFollette, WI Dept of Transportation, St. Croix Tribe, WI DNR. Discussion was on these topics:
 - i. The general issue is lack of end-to-end flow of water into and out of Big Sand Lake and effect that has on water quality and fish (walleye) spawning.
 - ii. **Hwy 70 culvert:** Road was repaired in the 70s. Near zero water flows through the culvert. Discussion was about whether the culvert was placed too high and if it's big enough. The recommendation was to get with the DNR + DOT to request a culvert height and size evaluation be

done.

iii. **Invasive Hybrid Cattails at the culverts**

under Sand Lake Road: Sand Creek flows under the road and the flow is restricted by an infestation of invasive hybrid cattails on both sides of the culvert. We discussed various types of cattail eradication techniques.

iv. **Culvert under Sand Lake Road:** Conclusion was the dual culverts are not obstructed and there is decent flow through them

v. **Beaver Dams along Sand Creek:** Multiple dams have turned what once was a steady creek flow, into ponds with very little water leaking through the dams. We discussed the logistics of trapping

b. **Hwy 70 culvert.** Paul motioned that we pursue the assessment of the culvert on 70. Dennis 2nded.

Discussion was that this first step is just a starting point, it doesn't commit action on changing the culvert. It's possible that the results could show culvert is correct. Vote taken: 6 approved, Karen abstained. Paul will make contact and request the survey be done.

c. **Sand Creek Beavers/Dams** – Suggestion by guest speaker PaulT that Tracy Hames (Wetland streams expert) be invited to a BSLA board mtg, do a tour of the situation, and discuss the beaver issue at our fall board meeting. All agreed. Chip will contact him

3. Guest speaker - Paul Thompson on Invasive Hybrid Cattails and Mitigation

a. Paul covered a presentation he gives on this topic. He said you can tell hybrid by the gap in the stem between the male (top) and female (bottom) part of the flower. The invasive hybrid came from Europe in 1900s and has cross pollinated with native broad leaf cattails and has taken over. 90% of cattails in WI are now invasive hybrid. It spread 3 ways: via seeds, via rhizome roots (largest method), via bog migration. Hybrid have rapid growth and greater feet of root clone reach and produces 10-14x biomass vs native. They also tend to be taller and are more densely clustered. They are more tolerant of water levels, saline levels and phosphorous levels. Breeding fish

cannot breed in a hybrid cattail bed due to the density.

- b. Control methods. You can (a) pull them up by the roots (b) Chemical treatment (c) Drowning, via cutting at high water level, 4” below the waterline. (d) Dredging with a machine (e) Controlled burning
- c. PaulT has eliminated all the hybrid cattails on his 90 acres along the Yellow River via pulling and drowning
- d. You can harvest manually or drown a 35 feet width of your shore without a permit.
- e. Board Discussion followed: Motion by Jane that BSLA coordinate a small (4 person) work party to clear some invasive cattails on the north and south side of culvert under Sand Lake Road. We will recruit a few volunteers at the annual meeting and do in September. Paul Thompson had volunteered to help supervise. Dennis 2nd. Vote taken, all approved.

4. BSLA Board Wake Boat Position Statement – Paul

- a. Since BSLA is not going to take forward a draft ordinance to the Town of Sand Lake and the Town of Lafollete, we tabled writing up a formal board position on this topic.

5. 2025 Annual Meeting & Picnic discussion – All

- a. Mtg Date is set as Saturday July 26th 10am
 - i. Dennis reserved the Siren Senior Center
 - ii. Action: Chip to send out formal 30 day notice next week with RSVP and note to bring your own lawn chair to picnic
 - iii. Paul has a projector for PaulT to use, Dennis will check on screen @ location
- b. Picnic is set at Jane & Don’s home on south side BSL after the mtg ~(noon)
 - i. The following will bring tables: Paul, Steve & Dennis
 - ii. Dennis gave Jane the box of supplies. Jane will get the food

c. Proposed Annual Meeting Agenda:

- i. **Welcome/Board Intro** – Paul (5 mins). Board will have name tags
- ii. **Guest Speakers**

1. Amy Thiex: Burnett Co 911 Call Center & Travis Thiex: Burnett Co Detective on Property Crimes and how to prevent (30 mins).
2. Paul Thompson on Invasive Cattails (30 mins)

iii. **Financial Report** – Steve (5 mins)

iv. **Update on June 4th mtg on BSL Water Flow In/Out** – Chip (10 mins)

v. **AIS Projects Update** – Chip (5 mins)

1. **Boat Cleaning Station (Sign) at DNR landing**

2. **Lake AIS Surveys**

vi. **Discussion on Wake Boat Ordinances** – Paul (5 mins)

vii. **BSLA expiring board Positions** – nomination, vote (5 mins)

1. **Secretary** (currently: Chip, re-elected Aug 2023)

2. **Treasure** (currently: Steve, elected Aug 2023)

3. **Director At Large #3** (Currently: Karen, elected Aug 2023)

viii. **Adjourn** (est mtg time = 1 Hr 35 mins)

6. Directors Insurance review Follow-up – Paul

- a. Paul followed up with our insurance agent and the BSLA board has appropriate coverage

7. Road Salt Follow-up Discussion – Don

- a. Don talked to the Town of Sand Lake board and explained concerns specifically with Sand Lake Road and the environmentally sensitive area along the marsh. They agreed to modify their salting process.

8. Scientific Article Follow-Up – Don

- a. Don provided copies of his paper “Trajectory of Northern Pike and Bluegill Mass in a Wisconsin Lake 1966-2022” to the BSLA board members who were at the 6/4 mtg. Don is now working on 2nd draft of the paper.

9. Invasive Species Projects update – Chip

- a. IS Surveys: Aquatic: Point Intercept survey completed. Shoreline Plant: will be completed in July. Payment for work was delivered to Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Dept. Results will be discussed at the July Annual meeting
- b. Decontamination Station Sign at DNR landing. Wood for sign and brush/hook purchased. Will assemble and get installed in July.

10. **Next Board meeting** – we decided we do not need another mtg before July 26th. Next board meeting will be in the fall. Date: TBD

11. New Topics - News from around the Room – All

- a. Don brought up creating shoreline wood sticks for fish habitat. Cut tree branches, drag over the ice, weigh down and sticks will drop in lake to create fish habitat.

Motion to Adjourn via consensus. Meeting Adjourned at 12:05pm

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
- Or pay via Venmo:
https://account.venmo.com/u/Big_Sand_Lake_WI_Association

Respectfully submitted,

Chip Applegath, BSLA Secretary