

Big Sand Lake Association Board Meeting

Date: Saturday Sept 27th, 2025

Location: Paul's Cabin

Time: 10am-Noon

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

Absent: None

Approval of 26Jul2025 BSLA All Members Meeting Minutes – Chip

- Approval via board email vote. Vote unanimous by board members present
- Minutes were published on BLSA website & emailed to members via Mailchimp on 08/28/2025

President, Paul Hassing, called the board meeting to order at 10:00am

Agenda & Minutes

1. Financial Update – Steve

- *Dues received this year are roughly same as 2023 and slightly under 2024.*
- *50% of dues were paid via Venmo. 12/47 paid \$50 or more. Avg paid was \$31*
- *Most expenses for the year are now paid. Account Balance is ~\$1K less than YE 2024 but this is due to planned spend on the AIS Lake Survey this summer*
- *Account at bank being changed as old bank was sold. Costs are similar. Karen suggested we get new checks made with updated name and check carbon copies, Steve will look into this, and if Venmo Link needs to be updated.*
- *Burnett County Lakes and Rivers Association dues are due \$200*
- *Chip made Motion to pay: BCLRA \$200 & spend up to \$50 for new checks, and approve Steve's financial report. Karen 2nd. No discussion Vote taken, unanimous. Motion Passed.*

Old Business

2. Boat Cleaning Sign @ DNR Landing update – Chip

- *County doesn't have correct matching right ½ of sign, BSLA would need to purchase a new sign. Given DNR installed their own sign this spring at all landings, and the Solution Spraying part of the sign is not applicable due to DNR policy, we decided to halt any further action on installing the 4'x8' county supplied sign.*
- *Chip will ask DNR if they can move the existing "No Power Loading" sign they put up as people keep hitting it with boats during pontoon load/unload*

3. DNR Ramp repair – any news on \$300K Funding for 2026/2027? – Jane

- *Jane checked with DNR, No news yet*

4. August Invasive Cattail Project on Sand Lake Road Culvert Report – Steve

- *Steve showed before & after pictures of the culvert invasive cattail clearing project. 5 people; 5 hrs. resulted in 3 trailer loads of invasive cattails removed!!*
- *Huge Thanks to **Paul Thompson, Jami Haupt, Shawn Good, Don Button, Steve Farnham** for their hard work that day!!!*
- *On the lake side, once they cleared to a certain point, the cattails became the non-invasive type and were left. Don said there is a beaver dam in the lake out past where they cleared to.*
- *Town of Sand Lake came after BSLA completed and cleaned out the culvert from beaver plug.*
- *Immense flow improvement was seen - until beavers re-clogged up the culvert 2 days later*
- *Steve's recommendation is we consider maintaining the existing, now cleared waterway on both sides, each year. The board agreed to consider doing it again for 2026*

5. Invasive Purple Loosestrife Kayak pulling Report – Paul

- *Paul and family members kayaked around the north side of lake and found the locations of purple loosestrife identified by the AIS Survey we had done by the County this summer. They manually pulled out most of the areas noted.*

6. June Water Flow BSL Roundtable; Pending Actions

- Chip to contact Tracy Hames, Wetland Streams Expert, for a tour (Beavers)
 - i. *Karen will get back to Chip if Adam is willing to be involved before we contact*
- Paul to request culvert Height & Size Survey be done on Hy 70 culvert
 - ii. *Paul got no responses, will try to reconnect*

7. Beavers Clogging Sand Lake Rd Culvert – All

- Town of Sand Lake and Grate/Screen?
 - i. *Brad from the Town of Sand Lake said the grates trap more sediment over time so they are not recommended.*
 - ii. *Paul said he attended a presentation on beavers. Installing a PVC pipe through the culvert extending 4' on each side of the culvert has had some success*
- Trap beavers?

iii. No discussion

New Business

8. Bocan Campground expansion Conditional Use Permit 25-16-BOCAN– Chip/Jane

- *This new CUP asks to nearly double the density of camping spaces at the new campground on corner of Olsen Rd and Hwy 70*
- *Jane attended the Town of Sand Lake board meeting on Sept 8. The town wrote a letter opposing. Town of LaFollette said they will also take a formal no position*
- *Letter of opposition from BSLA – Chip*
 - i. Letter Written, reviewed, mailed in*
- *Oct 7th Public Hearing on CUP*
 - i. New news as of Oct 2nd is Bocan withdrew his new CUP. As such it is not on the agenda for the Oct 7th Public Hearing. The Land Services contact at the county did not have any further details on why the CUP was withdrawn*
 - ii. BSLA will continue to monitor this situation and inform our members of any changes*

9. Adopt A Highway (Hwy70; 1.7 miles near the SandBar on 70) 7/28 email – Steve

- *Requirement is Twice a year April 1st - Nov 1st do a litter pick up. The Adopt a Highway group provides safety equipment & bags. No costs to us.*
- *Jane noted Hwy 70 is a busy, dangerous road.*
- *Steve said he would be willing to Captain this idea if we decide to proceed*
- *The execution would solicit volunteers from BSLA members to join some of the BSLA board to do the litter pick up. Paul noted that if we can't get volunteers from the organization, the Board would need to do it.*
- *Steve made a motion we pursue the available adopt a highway stretch. Chip 2nded. There was no further discussion. Vote taken, all in favor, motion passed.*

10. Sand Lake Road Culvert area dredging – suggestion by Adam Pavlicek @ Annual Mtg

- *Karen said their family has discussed this, an Army Core of Engineering contact is being determined. Karen is going to continue to investigate*

11. BSLA Member Outreach in 2026 – Chip

- *We need to validate our membership roster, pick up new property owners, and generate additional dues payments.*

- *Chip made a motion that next summer we divide the lake up and the board contact ~20 house each and knock on doors to validate roster and address and promote BSLA membership. 2nd by Steve. No further discussion. Vote taken - all approved. Motion passed.*
- *Year End Report Summary – Chip volunteered to create a Year End BSLA Accomplishments report that we will publish, and we can hand out during 2026 outreach*

12. BSLA Dues increase- Paul

- *BSLA Annual dues have never been increased since original BSLA was created decades ago; but general operational costs continue to go up each year.*
- *Paul suggested raising dues to \$50 vs \$25. He said some other lake associations charge \$50 or \$100.*
- *Chip had a concern about doubling the cost to \$50. It was noted our average collection today is \$35 (as many property owners donate extra or pay for spouse too)*
- *We discussed various amounts*
- *Paul motioned dues to be increased to \$40 starting in 2026. 2nd by Jane. No further discussion, vote was unanimous. Motion Passed.*

13. BCLRA LakeLines Letter Grant. Request for letters and commitment of time to write article

- *Email Dennis sent to board 9/3*
- *No action was taken as BSLA did not want to commit to writing articles*

14. DNR Research Grant, (Paleolimnology Study of Sediment Core) BSLA Sponsorship
– Don & Scott Button

- *DNR fish shocking survey information over the years has shown that Big Sand Lake has trended in a negative direction wrt to its fishery.*
- *Scott and Don Button have proposed a known scientific approach to analyzing a core sample from the bottom of a lake from which a timeline of key changes can be identified. They approached the BSLA Board asking if we would sponsor a DNR Grant Request to do this study on Big Sand Lake.*
- *Scott and two others dialed in from remote to our meeting for this agenda item*
- *Scott Button gave a summary of the Grant Request and introduced the people that we would partner with: Dr Mark Edlund, PhD Senior Scientist Director of Aquatic Research & Collections and Dr David Burge, PhD Assistant Scientist. They are both Aquatic researchers at the St Croix Water Shed Research Station, Science arm of Science Museum of MN. Mark and David would perform the work.*

- *A lake bottom core sample is collected and then analyzed.*
- *Intent is to understand the history of the lake fishery over time based on sediment accumulation analysis. From this, we can gather insights into the history of the lake, how it got to where it is today. The Outcome of this research is a series of recommends to keep the lake from further changing in a negative direction.*
- *Bone Lake and Big Blake Lake have done this analysis, Scott sent the board these two reports to review*
- *Cost for this study is \$25K, DNR Surface Water Grants are available. BSLA is a qualified organization for DNR grants. DNR Grant Funding request needs to flow through a non-profit, hence BSLA sponsorship request*
- *President, Paul, had oked a Grant Pre-application being sent in a few weeks ago to get this into the DNR process. This Initial submission does not commit anything.*
- *The Grant requested does not require the creation of a formal Lake Management Plan as an outcome. BSLA would be directly involved in deciding what recommendation from the study be taken forward in the final report.*
- *The process would be to apply for (2) \$10K Grants with grant deliverables clearly differentiated in two stages. Total of grants = \$20K. One of the deliverables is the final report*
- *If granted, the grant money would go to BSLA and we would pay the invoices for the work done. BSLA is liable for the money granted to us if deliverables are not delivered; but this is very low risk given the researchers being considered and their experience. Invoice is usually done in two stages: upfront 75%, after final report approved remaining 25%*
- *The final Report is delivered to BSLA and BSLA gives final report to DNR*
- *If granted \$20K by DNR there is still a \$5K shortfall in funding for \$25K total cost of study*
- *Nov 15th is the deadline for final grant application*
- *Karen expressed concern with us doing projects that draw additional DNR focus and attention to Big Sand Lake*
- *Chip said Tribe involvement is required. He suggested they be co-sponsor or be directly involved since they own a lot of the land on east side of BSL.*
- *Next Steps:*
 - i. *Scott solidifies the deliverables and specifics of the two \$10K grants*
 - ii. *\$5K delta funding gap solved without BSLA directly paying*
 - iii. *BSLA Board review of two other lakes reports that Scott will provide*

iv. Scott to provide details of exactly how contracts and the invoicing works

v. Future board vote on whether BSLA sponsors, before Nov 15th

15. Brainstorming Topics for 2026 Members Annual Meeting – All

- *Karen suggested another **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)** speaker. Dennis suggested Emily Moore from Burnett County come and discuss the AIS survey we had them do. Someone bring pictures or physical examples of purple loosestrife*
- *Chip suggested If **DNR Grant (topic 14)** goes forward to have Scott or one of the two researchers come and discuss the Grant and work being done*
- *Karen suggested **Wakeboats**, a speaker on studies done and impact to lakes*
- *Jane/Karen both suggested **Short-Term Rentals**, what is the county approval and regulation process. Who decides on approving, How are complaints handled, etc*
- *Speaker topics will be further discussed at our next board meeting*
- ***Contact one of the board members if you have ideas for speaker topics. We are also always looking for members willing to host the annual picnic, let us know if you would like to be host for next summer's picnic.***

16. Decide on Next Board meeting date.

- *Need one more before YE*
- *Next board meeting set for Sat Nov 22 10am. Paul's cabin*

17. New Topics – News from around the Room – All

- *None*

Motion to Adjourn via consensus. Meeting Adjourned at 12:18pm

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