

Big Sand Lake Association Board Meeting

Date: Saturday November 22, 2025

Location: Paul's Cabin + Dennis on phone

Time: 10am – Noon

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

Absent: None

Approval of 03Nov2025 Board 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 11/11/2025

President, Paul Hassing, called the board meeting to order at 10:03am

Old Business:

1-Bank change, new checks, Venmo Link Chg?, Key to P.O. Box for Jane – Steve

- *Venmo linked to new account ok, ordered new checks, bank changes all done*
- *Jane given 2nd key to P.O.Box. Steve signed up for USPS informed delivery emails*
- *Steve set up to pay some bills electronically. He can now deposit checks via phone*
- *Financial update: 2025 FY dues collected about same as last year. Bank balance today is similar to previous years.*

2-Move of “No Power Loading Sign” at DNR Landing – Chip / Chris Spaight (DNR)

- *Chip talked to Chris. Chris has removed the bent sign and post for winter and will re-install in the spring*

3-Wetlands Expert Tour of Beaver Dams & AdamP involvement – Karen

- *Topic was tabled until next spring*

4-Hwy 70 Culvert Height review by DOT – Paul

- *Paul got a summary of history of the culvert and findings from Pete Young in WI DOT. They see no reason to re-survey without a government directive. This ends BSLA investigation into this topic. Link to WI DOT response is here: <https://www.bigsandlakewi.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Hwy-70-Culvert-WI-DOT-Formal-Response-to-remeasuring-height-Nov-2025-1.pdf>*

5-Adopt-A-Highway Section Update- Steve

- *Sadly, the Hwy 70 spot that was open has been taken by Viola Lake Residents*
- *Steve looked at 2 other spots on 70 but they were all were taken also*
- *Chip suggested we call Viloa Lake Residents to see if they want to partner with us, Steve will contact them*

6- Sand Lake Culvert Dredging idea from Adam at annual meeting – Karen

- *The idea is to dredge the lake side of culvert area – along the path we manually cleaned out this past summer. This would result in a major eradication of invasive hybrid cattails and improve stream flow. Could also do some dredging on the north side of the road also.*

- *Karen's family continues to investigate this idea. She is trying to get a Corp of Engineers contact to understand permitting, laws, costs etc. Chip asked for rough cost and who pays. Karen's group may have the machine needed she said the Corp of Eng's work doesn't need DNR "sign-off" if all the correct permits are done. Paul asked Don if Walleye ever spawned in the culvert area, Don said no that was never a spawning ground when he was young. Karen will continue to investigate. A formal motion will be brought to the BSLA board if we get to a point of viability for moving forward.*

7-YE BSLA 2025 Accomplishments Report (Draft sent by Chip 11/10) – Chip

- *Board reviewed the write-up. The plan is to send this out in January*

8-Update on Max Dues for a Lake Association – Chip

- *JFYI - To be a DNR qualified Lake Association for grants, dues max is \$50/yr. Our new dues of \$40 in 2026 is within this specification*

9-2026 Annual Meeting Picnic need a Host – All

- *No one has volunteered yet. Karen will discuss with her family about hosting the picnic at the Eagle Deer Reserve common area*

10-2026 Annual Meeting Speakers – Chip's recommendation:

- *Emily Moore from BCLS on 2025 AIS Survey (15 mins)*
- *Someone from YRPC Org on their mission/projects (30 mins)*
- *Update on DNR Grant (If approved) – Scott (30 mins) or even a Video clip*
- *The board agreed with above suggestion. We will decide the final agenda at April board meeting. Jane noted our summer mtg agenda should also include a campground update*
- *Date for Annual Meeting/Picnic was decided as 3rd weekend in July; Sat July 18th.*

11-Paleolimnological Study of BSL: DNR Grant Update – Chip/Don

- *\$5K Gap for project is resolved – Chip*
 - *We received an anonymous BSLA Member donation of \$1K. The Tribe agreed to contribute \$4K. Both are contingent on getting the \$20K DNR grant*
- *Status of DNR Grant application – Chip.*
 - *Everything is submitted. February 15th we will hear back from DNR. The board has no further actions until we hear back.*
- *Review of Scott's Surface Water Grant Coordinator Role Description – Chip*
 - *We reviewed the role write-up, no concerns, we will file it for reference.*
- *Discussions with Conrad St John during \$4K req/approval cycle – Chip*
 - *The Tribe is very supportive of the project*
 - *They are interested in Wild Rice core sample study also. We investigated adding this to the grant request but couldn't contain in the scope/cost of the current DNR Grant application. We could look at doing a rice study in 2027*
- *Tribe perpetual paid up Membership to BSLA*
 - *One paid-up perpetual membership to BSLA will be granted to the Tribe if the DNR Grant is approved and the Tribe makes their \$4K donation to the project. This would enable one Tribe person to vote at the annual meeting. (Each BSLA paid member gets one vote at the meeting).*
 - *Paul motioned that we create a new Individual Lifetime Membership to BSLA for a contribution of \$4K more. Karen 2nded. Discussion: lifetime of*

the person? Decision was the lifetime membership payer can select one person (that meets the BSLA criteria for membership) to hold the membership. Dennis felt we should maybe restrict this to just the offer already made to the Tribe and not open this up further. Vote taken: Passed unanimously.

- BSLA future Board position – someone from Tribe
 - *Dennis stated he is planning to retire from his BSLA board position at end of term (July); so we will have an open board position.*
 - *Chip noted that Conrad is on the board of YRPC and the Tribe has expressed interest in getting one of their members on the BSLA Board.*
 - *Chip motioned we invite Conrad to canvas his group and if there is a Tribe member interested in a board position and if so, we invite that person to our April board meeting. 2nd by Jane. Vote taken, passed unanimously*
- Sand Lake Observer V3, No 4 – decide if/when publish. Chip sent to board 11/20.
 - *It will be delivered electronically. Paul suggested we send out in February after we know about DNR grant. Discussion was that December was not a good time as few are thinking about lake topics in December, Don agreed. Chip will send a link out in February.*
- Follow-up#1 “Escape clause” – ref: email from Scott Chip sent the board 11/20
 - *Karen will review and let board know if there are any further concerns*
- Follow-Up#2 “Mitigating cost overrun” – ref: email from Scott Chip sent board 11/20
 - *Karen will review and let board know if there are any further concerns*
- Follow-Up#3 “Core count and size” – ref: email from Scott Chip sent to board 11/20
 - *The study will take one core sample, 1-2 meters long gathered from 50’ hole area. Only 1 core is needed since lake is more a single bowl shape.*
- Articles of Incorporation & 5013c IRS Letter aka: BSLA vs BSLPA – Chip
 - *We discussed the history of BSLA and BSLPA. The net is at the June 2016 Annual Meeting, the former BSLA organization was dissolved as an entity and merged with BSLPA. The merged association used all the BSLPA collateral and shortened its name to just be BSLA.*
 - *Dennis will follow up with Benson on this topic*
- *The board would like to give a huge shoutout. THANK YOU! for all the hard work **Scott Button** has put in on the above DNR Grant Request!*

New Business - Items from 29Oct2026 Mtg with Tribe – Chip, Jane, Steve, Don

12-BSL Yearly Stakeholders meeting with Tribe Jan/Feb – Decide if GO

- *Paul & Jane are out of town in February so can’t attend but everyone agreed to have Chip get rolling with this with the Tribe on this.*

13-Tribe youth help next year on cattail clearing

- *Just a suggestion for the future that if BSLA needs any manual help, especially in the summer, the Tribe may have youth willing to help*

14-Beaver Trapping, Tribe offer

- *The Tribe contracts with a trapper to trap on various lakes where the own property. Should BSLA decide to pursue this topic, they may be able to assist via their contracted trapper.*

Other New Business:

17 – Oct 5th Email to BSLA from Janine & Bernie Allen requesting BSLA get involved in getting Sand Lake Township area zoned to prevent more campgrounds.

- *Karen's son (Adam) is on the Town of Sand Lake Planning Commission. Karen said many property owners in the Townships are against further zoning. The only BSLA board members that could logically be involved are the 3 permanent residents (Karen/Jane/Don). Jane will do some further investigation of this topic, specifically she will discuss with Jason Towne and Township Of Sand Lake board.*

18-YRPC Someone to be a rep, maybe attend their meetings, maybe join their board?

- *No one on the board was interested due to time commitments*

19-Winter Project to Map out all Beaver Dams from Big Sand Lake to Jackson Lake to the north of us. Length and Height of each dam – Chip

- *Don gave Chip permission to walk his land. Karen will ask her family if Chip can walk their side of the stream. Chip will check with John Francis also.*

20-Pick a date in April for 1st board meeting of 2026

- *Next Board meeting: Saturday April 18th 10am @ Paul's cabin*

21-New Business from around the room

- *Don – brought up lake water sampling and analysis. Paul said he has a contact from the BCLRA meeting he attended that does water sampling, he will contact him to discuss*
- *Don – Fish sticks, winter is a good time to put in some. Don will discuss with DNR*
- *Jane – still no answer from DNR on status of ramp repair funding they requested*

Motion to Adjourn via consensus. Meeting Adjourned at 12pm

Reminder \$40 yearly BSLA dues for 2026 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