

Big Sand Lake Association Board Meeting

Date: Saturday June 13, 2026

Location: Paul's Cabin

Time: 10am – Noon

Board Members Attending: Paul Hassing, Jane Jensen, Steve Farnham, Chip Applegath, Don Button, Dennis Loots, Karen Pavlicek (Arrived at 10:18)

Invited Guests: Scott Button, BSLA Surface Water Grant Coordinator- dialed in

Absent: None

Approval of 18Apr2026 Board Meeting Minutes – Chip

- Approval via board email vote. Vote was unanimous
- Minutes were published on BSLA website & emailed to members via Mailchimp on 04/30/2026

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

1-Treasure Report - Steve

- *West Bend Board Insurance policy changes, Steve sent to board for awareness 4/30*
- *Steve provided a financial update; Account balance is similar to the last 3 years. For 2026 calendar year we have received 26 dues payments from 23 properties. Over 60% via Venmo*
- *Steve opened a BSLA Savings Account to hold the Lake Core Study funding separate from other BSLA funds; per requirement from the DNR Grant acceptance terms*
- *Core Study \$4K financial contribution from the Tribe was received 5/27/2026*
- *Total Project funding is now in BSLA escrow savings until invoices need to be paid*
- *Steve noted we need a new 3rd officer signer for our checking and saving accounts at Old National, given Dennis Loots is retiring from the board in July. Jane Jensen (VP of BSLA) volunteered to be the 3rd signer on the bank account. Steve will work with her on the switchover.*
- *BSLA Website, domain expires 7/5/2026. Action needed? Chip followed up with Jim Cobb and the domain expiration was resolved*
- *Scott clarified the logistics around paying bills for Core Study Project per emails with Jill (DNR) on 5/6 which were shared with the board. One lingering Question about payment on the final bill timing and if we have enough time to get money from DNR to pay vs having to float a loan from our BSLA account. Scott will continue to investigate this question.*
- *Paul Motioned to approve Steve's report. 2nd Jane, Discussion-none. Vote unanimous (Karen was absent for this vote)*

Old Business:

2-Adopt-A-Highway Section Update- Steve

- Steve – No news on our request to assist another group on hwy 70 sections. The Viola Lake section now says cleaned up by “Acres of Fun” on sign. We have decided to table this whole topic for now, but Steve will keep investigating

3-Dredging the Sand Lake Road Culvert (from Adam at 2025 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 said there is no new news

4-Annual Meeting (Sat July 18th) Logistics & Speakers:

- Projector (Paul will provide) & Screen (Don will provide). Paul will run Scott's slide show from his laptop
- Review of Draft Mtg agenda Chip sent out. Add: Photo Op of Tribe Check at mtg. Chip will discuss Early AIS Detection volunteers. Per Paul's request Chip will also review the water testing results Gary did at the meeting
- Our two speakers are:
 1. **Arnie DeWitt from YRPC on Yellow River Watershed water testing** (20 mins).
 2. **Update on DNR Grant Project – Scott Button** (25 mins) remote. Scott will send us a slide deck, and we will connect him via phone via Bluetooth speaker to the meeting. Chip will test this out in advance
- Chip will publish the formal annual meeting notice by June 18th (30 days in advance of mtg)

5-2026 Annual Picnic (Sat July 18th) @ EDR Commons area

- Picnic is a go rain or shine. If there is dangerous weather, the decision to cancel will be made at the meeting preceding the picnic
- Assume 40-50 people, Karen will get the supplies/food
- Chip will get lemonade and water
- Karen will provide 2 white portable tables, porta-potty and maybe some picnic tables
- BBQ Grills: Karen's son's likely to bring and would then cook the burgers & brats
- The EDR Common Area is the first road to the right, just past the gate, on South Basswood Drive. Chip will put up the usual two directional signs on the road corners
- Karen is exploring possibility of Tribe doing a Drum Circle & Dancers

6-Paleolimnological Study of Big Sand Lake

- Chip went to the County Historical Society to see if he could get additional info on resorts, etc but there was no useful info there
- Core Sample collection was obtained as planned on May 7th. Jane attended the collection
- Update from Scott – Core sample has been sectioned and put in the queues for their instruments; that queue is long, around May of 2027 will start getting results
- Scott has asked for a bill for the 1st payment on the core collection
- Draft of Scott's document was emailed to the board last week. Motion by Chip to approve Scott's awesome document (which is key input to the study). “Big Sand Lake Land-Use and Development History: A Chronological Reconstruction for

Paleolimnological Interpretation". 2nd By Dennis, Discussion none, Vote unanimous.

- *Scott will provide final version to Chip to publish on our BSLA website. Scott will also Archive the document on Zendo for long-long term storage.*
- *Here is the link to the document, it's well worth a quick skim! <https://www.bigsandlakewi.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/V08BigSandLakeLandUseHistory-Final.pdf>*

7- Yearly Big Sand Lake "Stakeholders Meeting" Active Items – Chip

- **1a Hybrid Cattail removal at Sand Lake Rd culvert**
 - *BSLA is going to remove cattails again this summer. Steve volunteered to lead it again. Date? Steve will reach out to Paul Thompson to see if he wants help again, and Steve will set a date. After the meeting the dates were picked as either 7/28+7/29 or 8/4+8/5 (two dates each so we have a rain date). PaulT is going to help us again*
 - *We plan to utilize Tribe youth help (Mon-Thurs 9am-5pm) and Emily's interns help. Chip will arrange with both when date is picked*
 - *It was suggested we have the DNR do DNA testing to confirm hybrid. Jeremy said this usually doesn't cost anything. Chip will contact Ben at DNR to discuss*
- **2b Water Lake sample testing vs Garry Loufek 6/7**
 - *Paul took Garry out on his boat to get the water samples June 7th*
 - *Results for oxygen, phosphates, pH, Nitrates and turbidity were available immediately. Within five days he had a report on the BOD5 result. BOD5 is an indirect measure of the sum of all biodegradable organic substances in the water. Overall, the results look good. Summary is:*
 - *The measured values were: Dissolved Oxygen (9mg/L), pH (7), Phosphate (41.5mg/L), Nitrate (0), Turbidity (0), Total Solids 180 mg/L. Dissolved Oxygen (DO) Day1 (9 mg/L), DO day5 (6 mg/L), therefore Biochemical Oxygen Demand 5 - day (BOD5) = 3 mg/L. In a nutshell BOD5 test measures how much oxygen microorganisms in the water consume while decomposing. 2-5 mg/L is typical of a healthy lake and below 2 is very good. Similarly, DO above 7 mg/L is considered good for fish and aquatic life.*
 - *These key metrics are put through a formula that results in a score of 82.5% where 70%-89% is "Good Water Quality". (90% is Excellent)*
 - *Garry said Phosphate is higher but typical for Burnett County Lakes given farms in the watershed and Lawn fertilizer being used on lawns near lakeshore*
 - *Re: BSL Water testing the Tribe does – get a copy of their last report to understand specific water measurements they do. Jeremy will have Chad get us some historical data*
- **2c Invasive Plants shoreline survey & Water AIS**
 - *Emily Moore's team will do shore plant AIS survey again this summer, BSLA will coordinate removal of any purple loosestrife and yellow iris identified. Chip to see if they have a date yet*

- Discussed getting into the west marsh to survey and remove purple loosestrife. Paul will kayak in and assess the situation. If the infestation is big, maybe explore a bug-based eradication process
- Discussed getting BSLA volunteer(s) trained to look for AIS Plants in the water. Aka set up a formal “Early Detection” process/program. Chip will bring up at our annual meeting, explaining the program, and ask for volunteers. Possible education session in the fall if we get volunteers
- **2d Lake Maps at DNR Launch Ramp**
 - Emily Moore will create a Big Sand Lake map showing no wake zones etc. Chip to Check on Status w/Emily
- **3c Short Term Rentals on BSL**
 - Via a scan of ABNB and VRBO websites, 7 on lake now, more in process
 - Discussed creating a “Good Lake Stewards & Lake Regulations” type packet to give to each owner to have in rentals. Paul+Jane volunteered to investigate this. Per Emily’s suggestion Chip reached out to the Makenzie Lakes Association to get their example, but they didn’t respond. Chip will try again
- **4a Fish Stocking by Tribe in BSL**
 - The Tribe is looking to increase their overall stocking capability. They invited a few members of the BSLA board to observe this fall when they sort from their growing ponds. Chip will stay in touch with Jeremy on exact dates which are late June-Early July & Early Sept.
- **5 Other**
 - Emily (County) has Shoreline Restoration Grant money available. Since this information is readily available via many channels, we decided to take no further action on this topic.
 - Emily’s interns will be doing Clean Boat/Clean Water education for a few weekends this summer at the BSL Landing. Chip will get info on when & give them a thanks

8-Lake Map Box & DNR No Power Loading Sign at DNR Landing

- Chip got the Lake map mailbox from Chris Spaight (DNR) & installed on a post
- The DNR installed new No Power Loading signs on the pier edge at the landing
- Steve will check if need to reload mailbox with maps
- Paul brought up for discussion whether we should keep printing and distributing the lake maps. It was noted we have the key AIS info on the back. After discussion we decided to reassess this when current supply of lake maps is used up.

9-Board position up for election July 2026 (All positions are 2 year terms). Status on each

- President – currently Paul. Paul put his name in for another term
- Vice President – currently Jane. Jane put her name in for another term
- Director At Large #1 – currently Dennis, OPENING, Conrad St John put his name in for consideration
- Director At Large #2 – currently Don. Don put his name in for another term

10-New Business from Around The Room

- Per suggestion from Jim Cobb, Chip is attempting to get 100 copies of these documents to hand out at the Annual Meeting. (1) “Shoreline Living” Volume 1 & 2 . (2) “Protecting inland lakes through natural shorelines: An introductory guide to bioengineering”

BSLA Board Mtg Minutes Agenda 13June2026 - Distributed to members via mailchimp <DATE> & Posted on website

- Fish Sticks, Don has trees he could contribute if we decide to take action on this

11-Next Board Meeting.

- *Saturday Oct 10th, 10am Paul's cabin. Dial in Scott Button*

Motion to Adjourn via consensus. Meeting Adjourned at 11:13am

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