

Big Sand Lake Association Board Meeting

Date: Saturday April 18th, 2026

Location: Paul's Cabin

Time: 10am – Noon

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

Invited Guests: Scott Button, BSLA Grant Coordinator- dialed in, Conrad St. John (Tribe Chairman) and Jeremy Bloomquist (Water Resources Mgr for Tribe)

Absent: Dennis Loots

Approval of 22Nov2025 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 12/09/2025

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

1-Treasure Report - Steve

- *\$150 Donation to BSLA from Mary & Chris at Boone Dock Marine received in December. Thanks given via email and noted in 14Jan2026 BSLA Year End Report*
- *Steve reviewed latest budget report. He now has the Core Study Project Grant and Donations \$'s called out and tracked separately*
- *Steve explored a separate savings account to hold the Core Study money, but logistics and costs made it not viable. Decision was made to just track via spreadsheet*
- *West Bend Board Insurance policy changes, Steve will send out for review*
- *We discussed logistics around paying bills for Core Sample Study Project. We believe the flow is: (1) the DNR will give us an advance payment (\$15,000) check. (2) As SCWRS work is completed, they will invoice BSLA (3) BSLA Fills out Request Reimbursement form from DNR (4) BSLA will pay the invoice via Debit Card or Check. Scott will verify this process/flow and get back to the board*
- *We discussed logistics of Tribe \$4K Donation payment. (1) BSLA (Steve) sends invoice to the Tribe, (2) Tribe will get us a check. We will likely arrange a photo op for PR*

Old Business:

2-Adopt-A-Highway Section Update- Steve

- *Per Nov 2025 mtg, no open spots. Chip suggested we call Viloa Lake Residents to see if they want to partner with us. Steve reached out to DOT to see if we could help the Viola Lake group. The DOT doesn't don't release the contact names, but they sent our info out to the 3 groups that have highway sections from Viola Rd to the Tribe area, to see if any of them have interest in help from BSLA*

3- Sand Lake Rd Culvert Dredging idea 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 her family (Joe) did some preliminary investigation of this, initial research says it may be viable. The process starts with DNR discussion. Conrad noted that the Tribe is supportive of exploring this further, he noted increased water flow helps wild rice beds. Karen to update us at next mtg*

4-BSLA Board “Director At Large” Position Opening (Dennis/July)

- *The Tribe is interested in filling the upcoming open board position and BSLA board would value that. Conrad and Jeremy were invited to attend this board meeting to meet the team and see how we operate. Conrad said he was interested in filling the open board position. He noted he can’t guarantee to make every Saturday board meeting, but he said if he was unavailable, Jeremy would attend to rep him. The board agreed this would work fine. Note: Conrad also is on the Advisory Board for YRPC so there is excellent synergy there also. At the July Annual Meeting, the BSLA board will nominate Conrad for the Director At Large position Dennis is vacating*

5-Articles of Incorporation & 5013c IRS Letter aka name: BSLA vs BSLPA

- *This is nearly resolved. Dennis confirmed via Benson Law that our Articles of Incorporation had been changed in June 2016 to the correct (BSLA) name. Steve sent change info to IRS in Jan to update the name to BSLA and he confirmed that change is in process*

6-2026 Annual Meeting (Sat July 18th) Logistics & Speakers:

- *Dennis booked Siren Sr Center for 10am and the \$70 fee has been paid*
- *We closed on two speakers:*
 1. **Update on DNR Grant Project** – Scott Button (25 mins) either remote or in person. If remote we will send us a slide deck and we will connect him via phone via Bluetooth speaker to the meeting
 2. **Someone from YRPC Org on their mission/projects** (20 mins). Chip arranged for Arnie DeWitt from YRPC to speak on Yellow River Watershed water testing
- *We also discussed the idea of having a Tribe speaker for the 2027 meeting*

7-2026 Annual Picnic (Sat July 18th) Picnic need a Host – All

- *Karen discussed with her family about hosting the picnic at the Eagle Deer Reserve common area. Karen volunteered the use of EDR Commons area which the board agreed would work well. Karen will get a porta-potty, and her family can supply the grills and possibly even grill cooks. This is an ideal location as there is plenty of parking. Final logistics will be sorted out at next board mtg*

8-Paleolimnological Study of Big Sand Lake

- **DNR Grants (\$20K total) were APPROVED!** Delta funding (Tribe + Donation) acquired. **Project is underway!**
- *Core Sample collection date is set for Thursday May 7th (Weather permitting). SCWRS will use their own pontoon boat. They invited a BSLA board member to join them during the core collection. Jane volunteered to join them*
- *Scott reviewed Paleolimnology Study Major Events chart with the board which included key dates and review cycles from the board*

- SCWRS said the cycle time is 1 year from sample to final results from the lab
- Scott has put in ~100 hrs into the lake history report, it's coming along nicely. Chip is going to go the county Historical Society to see if he can get additional info on resorts, etc
- Re: history pre 1900s, Conrad said the Tribe doesn't have any good written history summary. Chip suggested he could possibly do an interview with a Tribe elder and take some notes
- Don created a special version of his "Sand Lake Observer" which describes the core study we are doing. You can read it here: https://www.bigsandlakewi.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/ObserverV5No2_V5.pdf

9- Yearly Big Sand Lake "Stakeholders Meeting" – Chip

- Mtg was held 25Mar2026 with BSLA, Tribe, Wi DNR, County (Emily Moore), YRPC
- Below were the **topics discussed** and the specific next steps or actions that we discussed in this board meeting:
- **1a Hybrid Cattail removal at Sand Lake Rd culvert**
 - BSLA is going to remove cattails again this summer, this time in July. Steve volunteered to lead it 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
- **1b Culvert on Sand Lake Road Beaver clogs**
 - We discussed if we want to set up mtg with Town of Sand Lake to discuss further. Grates keep the jam fill out of the culvert so you can clean the grates easier. But grates must be regularly cleaned. After discussion we decided to table this for now
- **2a BSL Core Sample Study**
 - Per request of Tribe - Get a cost estimate from SCWRS on adding Wild Rice & Walleye DNA testing. Per 4/9 SCWRS discussion, they are prototyping Wild Rice and Walleye analysis this summer on another lake. SCWRS wants to complete this and refine their process before doing BSL. Therefore, we penciled in as a possible 2027 project
- **2b Water Lake sample testing vs Garry Loufek 6/7**
 - Garry is on the Burnett County Lakes & Rivers Association (BCLRA) board and is a High School Biology teacher who Paul met at the BCLRA meeting. Garry does this testing on other area lakes. Paul will take Garry out on his boat to get the water samples, Paul said Garry will do the actual testing. The board requested that the results initially be sent only to BSLA board vs being published somewhere
 - 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's team will do shore plant AIS survey again this summer, BSLA will coordinate removal of any purple loosestrife and yellow iris identified

- We discussed getting into the west marsh to survey and remove. Paul noted it's likely a logistics nightmare to remove (as the loosestrife clumps are likely big and you can't do with a just kayak). Jeremy suggested this may be a good place to work with DNR on beetles. The discussion ended by saying that BSLA board would like to try and kayak back into there this summer and further assess the situation
- Discussed getting BSLA volunteer(s) trained to look for AIS Plants in the water. Aka set up a formal "Early Detection" process/program. Chip said he would bring up at our annual meeting, explain the program, and ask for volunteers. Possible education session in the fall if we get volunteers
- Conrad noted the Tribe is opposed to any chemical treatment of lake
- **2d Lake Maps at DNR Launch Ramp**
 - Emily Moore will create a Big Sand Lake map showing no wake zones etc
 - BSLA consider using this new map on future maps we produce
- **2e Citizen Lake Monitoring (Secchi disk re: clarity) via Tom Selbin – will continue**
- **2f Water AIS Point Intercept Survey**
 - Last done summer 2025, do again in 5 years
 - Emily will put BSL in her queue for 2028ish
- **2g Education to BSLA Members – will continue via emails and presenters at mtg**
- **3a Wake Boats in Wake Enhancing Mode**
 - Nothing further BSLA can take action on. Both Towns around BSL halted regulation efforts due to lawsuits against other Towns with new regulations
 - State of WI continues to struggle(debate) regulation, DNR has no power
- **3b New Campgrounds within 1 mile of BSL – no news**
 - Re: Bocan project on Olsen Rd & Hwy 70 court case granted Conditional Use Permit. Jason Towne noted no permits have been issued for any construction related to this. The Tribe has been directly involved in opposition/mitigation of this project. Conrad noted there are burial mounds in that area where CUP is situated
- **3c Short Term Rentals on BSL**
 - Via a scan of ABNB and VRBO websites, 7 on lake now
 - Discuss creating a "Good Lake Stewards & Lake Regulations" type packet to give to each owner to have in rentals. Paul+Jane volunteered to investigate this. Chip will get them an example from a different lake association
- **4a Fish Stocking by Tribe in BSL**
 - Walleye stocking to BSL is done in the fall via leftovers from other lake stocking programs the Tribe does
 - The Tribe is looking to increase their overall stocking capability. They invited a few members of the BSLA board to observe this spring when they sort from their growing ponds. Chip will stay on touch with Jeremy on date
 - The Tribe has no plans to stock Sturgeon in BSL
- **4b Excessive Canadian Geese- No Actions identified, BSLA not tagging this year**

- **4c DNR Owned Launch Ramp** – BSLA continue to press for repair – Jane said Dan (DNR) said they did not get funding (\$1/2M) in this budget cycle. 2027-2029 is the next budget cycle. It was noted that the DNR has taken major budget hits
- **5 Other**
 - Emily (County) has Shoreline Restoration Grant money available. Chip will get some additional info on this that we can get out to members
 - 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
 - We plan to do a "BSL Stakeholders" meeting again next March 2027

10 – Oct 5th 2025 Email to BSLA from Janine & Bernie Allen requesting BSLA get involved in getting Sand Lake Township area zoned to prevent more campgrounds. - Jane

- Jane talked to Melanie Johnson (Chair of Town of Sand Lake) and Jason Towne (Burnett County Land Services Zoning Director). The summary of those conversations is: The Town has no near-term plan to adopt the unified County zoning laws as there is significant opposition to this from residents in the Town of Sand Lake. As such, any land in the Town that is "unzoned" has no restrictions and campgrounds can continue to proliferate and grow. However, in the specific case of land near the lakeshore, that land does fall under zoning requirements that require the Burnett County Conditional Use Permit process. Any potential campground growth from a CUP that was previously approved is regulated via the CUP process. Jane closed back with Janine on this and there is no further action she is asking BSLA to take on this

11-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

- No action was taken on this. Tabled for next winter

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

- Chris Spaight (DNR) took down bent sign and will replace. Chip working with him on getting BSLA mailbox installed correctly on it

13-Wetlands Expert Tour of Sand Creek Beaver Dams

- Was tabled from last fall – discuss if we want to look into, Paul Motioned to table, Chip 2nded. Vote taken – motion passed unanimously

New Business:

20-Extension Lakes –Association info. <https://extensionlakes.org/Organizations/Details/55>

- BSLA Board Information was out of date. Dennis got Chip access and updated

21-Wild Rice Growing Experiment – Don. reference Paul's email 3/9/2026

- Don met with Jeremy on getting seeds, but Don wasn't able to do this spring. Tabled till next spring

22-Garry Loufek from BCLRA Water sample/test June 7th 10am – Paul

- See notes in Item 9, 2b

23-Order new Lake Maps?

- *Dennis looked up the history, we last ordered 500 maps in April 2023 for a cost of \$735. Dennis said we have enough left for one more summer. Net: we put out about 125 each summer for a cost of \$183/year*
- *Steve volunteered to pick up this role from Dennis*

24-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 put his name in for consideration*
- *Director At Large #2 – currently Don. Don put his name in for another term*

25-New Business from Around The Room

- *None*

26-Next Board Meeting. Decide on date

- *June 13th 10am Paul's cabin. Dial in Scott Button, invite Conrad & Jeremy as guests again*

Motion to Adjourn via consensus. Meeting Adjourned at 12:46 pm

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