

Big Sand Lake Association Board Meeting

Date: Saturday Oct 3, 2026

Location: Paul's Cabin

Time: 10am - Noon

Board Members Attending: Paul Hassing, Jane Jensen, Steve Farnham, Chip Applegath, Karen Pavlicek, Conrad St. John, Don Button (via phone)

Others Attending: Scott Button (via phone)

Absent: None

BSLA President, Paul Hassing, called the meeting to order at 10:06 am

Approval of 18July2026 BSLA Annual Meeting Minutes

- Approval was done via board email vote, vote was unanimous
- Minutes published on the BSLA website & emailed to members via MailChimp tool 22Jul2026

Mtg Agenda with Minutes from the meeting

1. Financial Update – Steve

- **51** property addresses have paid dues for 2026 calendar/fiscal year covering **59** members
- Similar count to last October, but revenue up slightly YTY due to dues fee increase
- All known expenses for the year have been paid except for one receipt from the picnic yet to settle
- Reminder if you have not yet paid your 2026 dues, please do so to support our efforts. Payment instructions are at the end of these minutes
- Motion to approve Financial Update by Paul, 2nd Chip. No discussion. Vote taken, Unanimous
- Old National Bank announced they now accept Zelle payments, Steve will investigate further

2. 2026 Annual Meeting & Picnic reflection discussion – All

- Only meeting glitch was small I/T panic: next year prep better by ensuring all presentations are sent in advance and loaded on a laptop that connects ok to the projector
- Suggestion by Karen that we publicize/promote the meeting/picnic more and maybe bring a corn-hole game to the picnic
- We discussed 2027 Annual Meeting & guest speaker ideas:
 - Our plan is to focus speakers on our BSL Paleolimnological Study vs other topics
 - Consider Conrad updating us on the Tribe's planned Artificial Spawning Reef Project (discussed below)
 - Consider holding 2027 Annual Meeting at the Tribal Center
 - Conrad gave a quick update on a few topics of interest the Tribe is focused on:
 - Oct 5th was the Sturgeon stocking release into Clam Lake. It was done at county landing across from Big Mikes. For future, General Public is welcome to watch

- The Tribe gives tours of their various facilities. We discussed BSLA possibly sponsoring a tour of Tribe facility next summer
- This winter, if the ice is adequate, they are installing an artificial walleye spawning reef in Big Sand Lake at a cost of ~\$110K. This is funded by the Tribe and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC)

3. **Aug 4th Cattail Project at Culvert on Sand Lake Road Update – Steve**

- Our 2nd yearly eradication project was completed. The water was super low this year so cutting to drown invasives wasn't as viable. Instead, the focus was mostly removal of large clumps of dead roots (on the south side of the road) from the previous year's effort
- The DNR never responded about doing DNA test to verify cattail type so that was not done, but Paul Thompson from YRPC educated the team on how to tell native vs invasive hybrid
- **Huge thank you to all the participants!**
 - Emily Moore (Burnett County) & her 3 Interns
 - 5 Tribe Youth
 - Shawn Good & Steve Farnham from BSLA
 - Paul Thompson from Yellow River Protection Conservancy (YRPC)
- Steve noted that "ridge" in the water on the south side you can now clearly see from the road (with the water so low), is a well-built beaver dam that's been there for years
- Karen investigated the previously discussed dredging on the south side of the road. It would require a permit via DNR that would cost ~\$350. The Pavlicek's don't have the correct equipment to do it; it would need larger machine or a barge machine. Karen's rough estimates are \$2000 - \$10,000 for machine/time. Chip Motioned this topic remain tabled. 2nd by Steve. No further discussion. Vote taken, Approved Unanimous to remain tabled

4. **Burnett County Lakes and Rivers Association (BCLRA) Annual Mtg Aug 8 – Paul**

- Paul said one of the Interns reported on a study of loons and gave a cool story. On a local lake a Mallard pair plus one baby loon died for unknown reasons. The loon couple then adopted the baby mallard. The Loon parents taught the mallard baby to dive for food!

5. **Paleolimnological Study Project Update – Scott**

- Scott wrote an article on our project which was published in the YRPC online Weekly News Sept 2nd. A second, longer article will appear in an upcoming BCLRA LakeLine newsletter
- The project is on track; there is just a known long lead time on the data analysis phase. We have not yet been billed for anything
- We got the initial loss on ignition (LOI) results from Mark Edlund's lab. Calcium carbonate was fairly steady through the core, but organic matter increases above about 130 cm (a jump in lake production), and mineral matter increases above 30 cm (possibly erosion). These shifts could relate to logging or road building, or something older such as the Medieval Warm Period. Carbon dating will tie the depths to dates
- Next Steps: the core is in the carbon-dating queue. If the queue is about a year, dating results will arrive around May 2027. Mark's team will then deliver the analysis report,

followed by creation of BSLA recommendations for board approval. The final report is due to the DNR by YE 2027.

- No 1Q2027 board meeting is needed. Recommendations should be ready to review at our spring 2027 board meeting

6. Purple Loosestrife ID/Pull Update – Paul

- Emily Moore's team completed BSL shoreline survey for this invasive plant on Aug 10th
- BSLA Board Members directly pulled some that were IDed along the north shoreline
- Chip posted location info & with pictures on Facebook Private Group Sept 1st
- Link to Emily's ID map for lake owners to look for this and pull it out again next summer <https://www.bigsandlakewi.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/Big-Sand-Lake-Purple-Loosestrife-2026.pdf>
- Emily has noted in the past that beetle treatment could work for larger patches. Conrad said the Tribe has property near H&G and they raised the right beetles and released them. It knocked it back but didn't eliminate. He said they tried this for ~5 years haven't done it recently
- We discussed two things (1) Beetle experiment in one area on BSL via Emily Moore (2) how to better notify individual property owners to trigger pulls once detected. Decision was made to re-address this topic next spring

7. Short Term Rentals – “Good Neighbors” guide document – Paul & Jane

- Paul couldn't find any good examples at BCLRA Annual Meeting he attended
- McKenzie Lakes Association ended up being no help. They responded to a phone call and follow-up txt msg but never followed through with info
- Chip mentioned an option of discussing with the two Town Boards about requiring their rental rules be made available before STR application approval
- Chip had created a draft 1st pass “good neighbors” document via Chat GPT a month ago. He will hand it off to Paul and Jane to proceed further

8. Lake Map Update from Emily Moore (for DNR landing mailbox) – Chip

- Emily said she will work on this in 4Q, we need for 1Q printing of new Maps for 2027. Chip will follow up with her in January
- Steve said we only have ~50 maps left. We will re-discuss at our 1st mtg in the spring

9. Publications from Michigan DNR – Chip

- Box of materials was received 2 days after BSLA annual meeting. New plan is to distribute at our 2027 Annual Mtg. Here is what we received and counts:
 - (60) “Shoreline Living” Volume 2 (Jan 2022)
 - (60) “Protecting Inland Lakes Through Natural Shorelines: An Introductory Guide to bioengineering”
 - Chip gave a copy to each board member

10. **BSL Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) early detection “Citizen Monitoring Program” - Chip**

- 3 people signed up as interested at our annual meeting. (Jami Haupt, Dennis Loots, Jim Cobb). More are needed (ideally 6-10), let Chip know if you are interested
- Chip will talk to Emily about education options in the spring or Conrad said Jeremy Bloomquist might be able to provide the education session

11. **March 2027 Big Sand Lake Stakeholder’s yearly meeting – Chip**

- Last year’s meeting was deemed productive, so we plan to hold again in March 2027. Chip will chair it since Paul & Jane are not available (Jane is back last week in March)
- The meeting invitees are WI DNR, BSLA, Tribe, Burnett County Land Services/AIS, Yellow River Protection Conservancy (YRPC)

12. **2026 Year-in-Review email – Chip**

- Chip will draft for board to review in December. Plan to publish early January

13. **Update on Tribe’s Walleye Stocking visit – Jane/Chip**

- On 9/8 Jane and Chip attended the Tribe’s extended growth walleye fish transfer from their growing pond into their transport trucks. These fish were being stocked into 4 different area lakes. Very interesting to see! Each ~6” fingerling costs about \$5 to raise. The Tribe has four 800,000 gal growing ponds in operation with two more being built now!

14. **New Topics - From around the Room – All**

- The July 2026 Sand Lake Observer (Vol. 6, No. 1) by Scott D. and D.K. Button is now available. It explains how two groups of microscopic bacteria help keep Big Sand Lake so clear in summer: slow-working bacteria in the dark, oxygen-poor mud on the bottom that locks up phosphorus, and bacteria in the water that use sunlight like a tiny solar panel to get extra energy when food is scarce. Together they help starve out excess algae. Here’s the link: https://www.bigsandlakewi.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/V03_060-Observer-V6No1-July-2026.pdf
- The Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership (MGLP) has a new Conservation Planner tool that can generate a report on any lake in the region. Jim Cobb generated an initial report for Big Sand Lake and there is a lot of interesting info in it. Scott noticed the initial report listed northern pike, black crappie and yellow perch as “Unknown” even though DNR surveys document them. He got MGLP to fix this. Scott also reported to them that two known culverts (the Hwy 70 inlet and the Sand Lake Road outlet) were missing from the national barrier inventory. That update is still pending. Here is a link to a report we ran Oct 13th and filed on our website. <https://www.bigsandlakewi.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/MGLP-Lake-Report-Big-Sand-Lake-4565-2026-10-13-v2.pdf> .This is a link you can directly run a live report <https://ifr.seas.umich.edu/wab/MGLPLakeReport/?id=4565>
- Jane discussed lake water level, lowest she’s ever seen. Discussion was that BSL is seepage lake, we are at the mercy of groundwater levels. The whole Midwest has been affected by drought this year. Aka: this is nothing unique to BSL and there are no actions we can take
- Wakeboat ordinance - Given the Town of Scott lawsuit was recently thrown out, due to there being no enforcement of their new ordinance, Jane will call Darwin Brown from the Town of LaFollette to see if the Town’s position has changed on creating an ordinance. After the board meeting, Jane talked to Darwin. They are not pursuing a wake boat ordinance because it is

not enforceable. They said that the DNR at the state level needs to issue a wake boat ordinance. He said the DNR is working on it with the state of Wisconsin

15. **Next Board meeting – Saturday April 17th** was penciled in. 10am Paul's cabin

Motion to Adjourn: Chip, 2nd Paul – Vote taken and all approved. Mtg was adjourned at 11:09am

Reminder \$40 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