

**BIG SANDY LAKE
ASSOCIATION**
2015 Board Meeting Minutes

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**Big Sandy Lake Association Meeting
Grace Lutheran Church – January 9, 2015**

Meeting called to order at 8:45.

Board Member Present: Bruce Johnson, Vern Awes, John Gornick, Dick Beatty, Mark Johnson, Jim Carlson, Jeff Backowski, Karen Trembley, John Pilney, Andy Streeter, Jack Johnson, John Sturner.

Board Members Absent: Ben Bisselman, Janet Hill and Mickey Utech.

Guests Present: Kathy Beatty, Don Hollar, Brian Napstad, Bob Griefzu.

Review minutes of 12/12/2014. Vern Awes made a motion to accept minutes, seconded by Jim Carlson.

Treasurers Report: Kathy Beatty (sitting in for Mickey Utech) reported on BSLA money. Vern Awes approved the treasurer's report and seconded by Dick Beatty.

Bruce Johnson will check with the credit union in McGregor on our overdrafts and such.

Bruce Johnson asked Mark Anderson if he would have an interest regarding invasive species. At this point Mark would not be able to do this.

Old Business:

Ben Gisselman will send legacy money to Steve Hughes for our boat landings.

Vern Awes and John Gornick will pursue the scholarship money in Brian Herbranson's name. This will be a one-time deal for scholarship money. Motion was made by Vern Awes and seconded by John Gornick that scholarship money will replace the bench that was talked about for Brian Herbranson.

Jim Carlson made a motion and seconded by Andy Streeter to accept the sign on County 14.

Bob Griefzu gave an overview of water level on Big Sandy Lake.

Brian Napstad gave an overview on High water on Big Sandy Lake. Brian Napstad pointed out that this can change from year to year.

Bruce Johnson pointed out that "no wake" can vary from year to year.

Amber Peterson – DNR, had discussed the fire tower on Big Sandy Lake and would find someone on Big Sandy to look into the fire tower. There was also discussion regarding LaSarde Sam heritage fund for the tower.

New Business:

Bruce Johnson discussed mailings for BSLA. Jim, Jeff, John and Dick will help with the mailings. Vern Awes will indorse these folks to acknowledge the business's in the newsletter. (Bruce I need your input on thie mailing subject) Vern Awes will indorse the businesses in the newsletter. Ben Gisselman can you check on supporters for our newsletter? Andy Streeter will help with the supporters for the newsletter as well.

Motion was made by Vern Awes and seconded by John Sturner to make this a new category and set up for full membership. Vern agreed to write an article for the newsletter that would invite businesses to become members of the lake association.

Bob Griefzu said there is a possibility there is grant money available to supplement hours for folks working at various boat landings.

Director's reports:

Mark Johnson has concerns regarding pipe line. Mark will get in touch with the Chamber of Commerce in McGregor regarding this issue.

There was discussion regarding stickers for your boat and trailer. This sticker would be for invasive species.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn BSLA meeting.

John Sturner will bring treats.

Big Sandy Lake Association Board Meeting Grace Lutheran Church -- February 13, 2015

Meeting was called to order by Bruce Johnson at 8:30am.

Board Members Present: Bruce Johnson, Karen Trembley, Andy Streeter, Vern Awes, Jim Carlson, John Sturner, John Pilney, John Gornick, Jack Johnson and Dick Beatty.

Board Members Absent: Ben Gisselman, Mickey Utech, Janet Hill, Jeff Backowski, and Mark Johnson.

Guests Present: Bob Greifzu, Kathy Beatty and Ron Smith.

Minutes from January were reviewed. John Sturner moved to accept and Vern Awes seconded.

January Treasurer's Report was reviewed. John Sturner moved to accept and Dick Beatty seconded.

Old Business:

Invasive Species: Bruce Johnson distributed an article titled *A Lake Manager's Notebook: Unchanging Lakes* that he received from Mark Anderson. Mark has agreed to provide information to the board on invasive species.

BSLA Website: Bruce Johnson reported that Kathy Beatty made updates to the BSLA website. Meeting minutes are now consolidated by year and a link to the BSLA Facebook page allows users to click on that link, then request to be added to the group.

AIS Grant: Jim Carlson and Bob Greifzu reported that BSLA has been selected to receive \$45,659 from the Aitkin County 2015 Aquatic Invasive Species Grant. BSLA must match 21% of that value (\$12,375) through monetary funds or in-kind support. The money will not be in the BSLA bank account but will be drawn as needed by Employment Resource Center of Brainerd, the firm that will hire the staff and be responsible for paying the inspectors. BSLA will be responsible for tracking and reporting hours. Andy Streeter will contact Steve Hughes of Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation to recommend hiring the inspectors from 2014 plus himself as the area scheduler. The board officially thanked Ben Gisselman, Jim Carlson and Bob Greifzu for writing and supporting an excellent grant application.

Brian Herbranson Memorial: John Gornick reported that he had met with Cheryl Haapoja of Dollars for Scholars. The board agreed to a two-year program. One student will be selected by Dollars for Scholars for an award of \$1000. Selection criteria are: (1) 2015 and 2016 graduates of McGregor High School, (2) academic achievement, (3) economic need, and (4) preference for science if possible. The selection will be announced at the school's annual awards ceremony. The funds will be awarded after the student completes one quarter as a full-time student in post-secondary education with a grade point average of C or better. If the student is agreeable, the board will put the student's biography in the newsletter. Funding for this scholarship is \$1000 from the Big Sandy Lake Foundation and \$1000 from BSLA.

Signs for County 14: Bruce Johnson stated that these signs are in work.

2015 Membership: Bruce Johnson reported that about 1,130 membership forms for 2015 have been mailed. Kathy Beatty will collect and hold all forms with checks until the database is ready.

Business Membership: Vern Awes will modify the membership request form for businesses and mail them to businesses identified by the Chamber of Commerce. Vern can get the envelopes from Bruce and the postage from Kathy Beatty.

5K Run: The annual 5K will be held May 23, the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. Dick Beatty will meet with Don Proulx at Big Sandy Lodge to determine his preferred level of involvement. Possible options to increase attendance were making it a “Walk and Run,” having a card tournament and posting flyers advertising the event.

BSLA Annual Meeting: Dick Beatty will discuss options with Don Proulx to determine an available date in June and suggest a brunch if Sunday or a cookout if Saturday. The Lodge would provide food and BSLA pay for it. The meeting will be shorter without a paid speaker.

Support of Education: Jim Carlson reported that he had McGregor Printing upgrade 52 textbooks titled **Student Workbook – Minnesota Lakes Ecology** that are used in sixth grade. The covers were replaced with new laminated ones. He requested that BSLA pay the \$208 fee. Vern Awes moved and John Sturner seconded the request. Vern also made a motion to buy a stamp to add that BSLA provided funding support to the books and John Sturner seconded.

Water Institute: Jim Carlson requested issuance of the annual check for \$2500 to support the Institute. Immediately following the March 10 Shamrock Township Meeting (approximately 8:15pm), the township board will discuss continued support of the Institute. BSLA members are strongly encouraged to attend and to support this action.

Rivers and Lakes Fair: Jim Carlson reported that the fair will be June 20 in Aitkin. Volunteers are welcome. The board reviewed the payment of \$300 previously approved in the budget. The fair will focus on AIS and will include a demo of a boat cleaning unit.

New Business:

Bob Greifzu suggested that the board send a sympathy card to the wife of Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe member Mushkooub Aubid who died in a single-car accident. Bruce Johnson will do this.

Ron Smith reported that leaf mulch is available for free at the yard waste disposal sites. He also explained that Shamrock Township has 54 public access sites on Big Sandy and four are at the CYC camp. He is proposing consolidating them into one and adding a floating fishing pier with handicap access for campers and the public.

Directors’ Reports

Vern Awes reported that a Jeep partially went through the ice, there was a 4-wheeler accident near Maple Road, and that garbage left on the lake continues to be an issue.

John Pilney reported on a meeting that he, Mark Johnson and Dick Beatty had attended with Andrew Slade of the Minnesota Environmental Partnership in Duluth. The topic was possible Kennecott mining activity in Aitkin County. John discussed the lowered sulfate standards being imposed on taconite tailings and how these standards would likely be applied to tailings from copper mining. Mr. Slade also recommended looking into having the lake designated as a “Wild Rice Lake.” This designation would provide additional statutory protection for the lake. Dick Beatty will follow up on this with the DNR.

Next meeting is March 13. Dick Beatty will bring treats.

Jim Carlson moved to adjourn, Dick Beatty seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Beatty for Ben Gisselman

**Big Sandy Lake Association Meeting
Grace Lutheran Church – 03/13/2015**

Called to Order at 8:30

Board Members Present-Bruce Johnson, John Gornick, Ben Gisselman, Dick Beatty, Mark Johnson, Jeff Backowski, Karen Trembley, Janet Hill, Jack Johnson, Kathy Beatty

Others Present: Bob Greifzu, Bruce Larson

A. Review and Approve Prior Minutes

Mark moved, Ben seconded

B. Review and Approve Treasurer's Report (see attached)

Discussion regarding the water institute line item (McGregor School District)

Jeff moved to approve Treasurer's report, Mark seconded

C. President's Report

- Bruce mentioned that we sometimes get requests for posting various things and the question was raised as to whether we would do so-decision was no unless we are approached personally
- Sympathy card was sent to family of Mushkoob Aubid who is a local Ojibwe leader killed in a car accident in February

D. Old Business

- Update on Ramp Inspectors- Discussion regarding boat ramp access monitoring grant approved and staffers being hired by Employment Services in Brainerd, MN via Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation, shirts and other equipment being purchased, Ben to follow up with Steve Hughes regarding the orchestration of the project and upcoming trainings
- Update on 5k Run-Jack will be in contact with Don and Elisa to learn more details, this year we are trying to increase attendance, Jack to contact Lisa Kruse (The Chamber) and other outlets including the Independent Age
- Annual Meeting Plans-discussion has been had regarding having a brunch meeting on a Sunday at the Lodge. Date determined instead to be June 6th at the Lodge-Dick and Ben to determine events
- Membership Status-Kathy presented on status of membership renewals and new memberships including business memberships (see attached). Discussion regarding the "Newer Members" column and what we can do to attract these people to join. Kathy proposed using Facebook to market those non-members

E. New Business-

- Mark summarized the various shoreline improvement projects underway or already completed including the mouth of the Prairie River, Jack mentioned that there are still funds available, Mark pointed out that the grant runs through December 31st
- Bruce explained that Vern has been actively recruiting new business memberships by sending out more than 70 letters to local businesses
- Janet regarding Sandpiper status-we're in a quiet phase right now, briefs are being submitted, administrative law judge will determine on or before April 13th whether to approve certificate of need. Mark added that the process of providing evidence has completed regarding this stage of the process. Mark added that one of the board members on the PUC has been replaced by the Governor and he was a former Conservation Minnesota lobbyist. Janet added that Enbridge is also pursuing the next tar sands oil pipeline in the same potential corridor
- Mark Johnson regarding sulfates ending up in the lake from mining activity-his research suggests that sulfates will very much negatively affect our TMDL and so he is going to continue to push regulations on mining and potential releases in the watershed
- John Gornick explained that the development of a scholarship fund in Brian's name is underway for Dollars for Scholars, parameters described for applicants to qualify; funding is coming from Foundation and the BSLA. John proposed cutting a check for our portion-500 this year and 500 next year. John made that motion, Dick seconded. Kathy wrote the check. Scholarship awards handed out in May, discussion ongoing regarding whether or not the family should be the one to hand out the actual award
- Ben regarding highway clean-up and the sign-working with Jon Herbranson to arrange a date and get volunteers together, expect to see a change in the sign soon

F. Director's Reports-

- Mark Johnson discussed what he referred to as an EPA 319 Grant that commenced on February 15, 2015, which covers everything from rain barrels to rain gardens, soil erosion projects, septic system analysis, lake association newsletters. This led to discussion regarding BSLA matters that we can apply for funding for such as our recent newsletter that was sent out to approx. 1,200 households. Form distributed regarding keeping track of time for purpose of maintaining our in-kind contribution for grant purposes
- Mark mentioned that on June 29th there will be a plant workshop at Bob Greifzu's home where sloppy joes will be featured, pontoon volunteers needed-Jack, perhaps Jeff, Mark, Pilney as well if he can, Ben too possibly

G. Speakers

- Sheriff Turner-expressed idea that he agrees our membership is not out of line with what would be normal a lake association such as ours and different lake goers have different ideas of what cabin life is about. Seasonal staff coming on and we'll probably see an increased presence, especially in the way of AIS this summer season. Discussion had regarding what authority an access inspector has if a boater does not allow inspection-the answer is there would not be authority to stop that person from having access

- Ron-Township clean-up day is May 2nd. Board of Equalization. Crushing gravel this spring in the new pit. 28 tons of salt dumped this winter, which is an average year. Dust guard (calcium-chloride) is coming out soon for the season-last year 18,000 gallons was put out. You can see where it is not being absorbed because it kills the adjacent grass. Township bought a pump last year for dewatering in the event of flooding-will be ready to go if needed. Yard waste site-rules being proposed regarding items that are too large in the way of brush, etc. (see attached). Too much compost exists presently so encourage those in need to take it. The tennis courts are being assessed for removal and replacement, cost estimated at 200k for that job-grant funding being applied for as this is not something that would be paid for by something such as a tax increase. New replacement would include a new basketball court. Levies increased this year in accordance with the fire department increases in staffing. Election results were interesting-a tie occurred between some candidates for township board supervisor. The tie was resolved via drawing cards and the winner was Allen Eld.

Ron would like support from the BSLA Board for implementing a more formal public access there with a fishing pier and a restroom near the CYC Camp. Dick moved that we support the Board, seconded by John Gornick, voted on and approved.

- Hilary Peterson (business card attached)-works with Conservation Minnesota which is a non-profit based in Duluth. She's working on green energy issues here in the 8th Congressional District on mining, pipeline, and other issues. They are non-partisan and she is there for us if we need her for questions/concerns. They are presently not in favor of the pipeline or sulfide mining. This organization is a good resource for us regarding various water quality issues that we regularly deal with.

Jeff moved to adjourn. Seconded by Bruce at 11:30

**Big Sandy Lake Association Meeting
Grace Lutheran Church – 04/10/2015**

Called to Order at 8:31

Board Members Present-Bruce Johnson, John Gornick, Ben Gisselman, Dick Beatty, Jeff Backowski, Karen Trembley, Janet Hill, Jack Johnson, Kathy Beatty, Mickey Utech, Vern Awes, John Pilney

Others Present: Bob Greifzu, Barb Greifzu, DNR Conservation Officer Amber Petersen, Ron Smith

A. Review and Approve Prior Minutes-Some changes made
Dick moved, Ben seconded

B. Review and Approve Treasurer's Report (see attached)
Bruce initiated discussion regarding ongoing internal audit of our accounts, Bob mentioned that in the past 2 or 3 people were appointed for that task
Jack moved to approve Treasurer's report, Janet seconded

C. President's Report

- County Road 14 Highway Clean-Up sign in memory of Brian has been erected but there is a an error in BSLA in that it states "BLSA"
- Township Cleanup is on May 2nd from 9am-2pm, volunteers are Bruce, Jeff, and Ben at Noon

D. Old Business

- Update on 5K-Jack has been in touch with Don and Elisa but they are presently away on vacation, Bruce mentioned idea of making good signage for this event and getting signage out and about, getting something in the Voyageur Press, idea of having posters made also proposed, discussion of how much we want to spend, Bruce moved \$200 spending, Janet seconded, date of race is Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend
- Annual Meeting Plans-date of Saturday June 6th set at the Lodge from 11-2, meeting business from 11 to noon, business to include summary of past year's events, board elections, words from Sherriff's Department, County, Conservation Enforcement, lunch meeting/social from noon to 2, Mickey to shop and Ben to help, \$200 budget, Janet collected names of people willing to contact various businesses, Ben to collect better data on food, majority of board members are available for this date and will be present, Ben to work on signage
- Membership Status-Kathy presented on status of membership renewals and new memberships including business memberships which includes 62 new individual members and 6 new business members since our last meeting in March (see attached).
- Bruce commented that Vern did a good job in attracting new business memberships with his letter he sent out to more than 70 local businesses. Discussion had regarding ensuring that we are including all businesses, and also what to do when a business pays the individual membership cost and not the actual business fee.

E. New Business•

Officer Elections-Vern has run the elections in the past and this year he will be unavailable and so arrangements will have to be made to have someone else run the elections.

Terms expiring this year: Ben, Bruce, Vern, Mark J. and John Pilney. Karen has decided to discontinue her board role effective at today's meeting, Vern will not renew this summer, and John Gornick will not be renewing. There will be seven open positions this year and we need to recruit some new members.

- Bob discussed idea that AIS inspectors are being hired and discussion being had regarding placing porta potties at each inspection site, clipboards, shirts, towels and other equipment already being purchased, issue of purchasing a water filtering net for each inspection site by the local lake associations, Long Lake Conservation Center being proposed as a home base for all the hired inspectors, discussion regarding having a scheduling coordinator, Andy mentioned that he could be that person although he also suggested Andy Tillman for that role.
- Further group discussion had regarding the AIS grant project in general, some lack of clarity on what days of the week it will occur and, starting when, and at what times, discussion had regarding needing more clarity regarding the project, more discussion needs to be had with Steve Hughes to ensure we are all on the same page regarding how this AIS project will be orchestrated.
- Ben mentioned that the Highway Clean-Up has been scheduled for Saturday April 25th at 10am. Jon Herbranson is organizing volunteers and it looks as though we could have as many as 15-20 at this point. Ben will buy 20 pairs of gloves and \$100 will be contributed to the bill at Zorbaz after.
- Jim Mikkelson-It was discussed and remembered that Jim Mikkelson passed away on April 4th, 2015 and was a former board member and longtime contributor to the Lake Association. Group agreed to send a card and flowers.

F. Director's Reports-

- Mark Johnson via John Pilney mentioned that Kennecott is arguing against and rules that require them to do extensive analysis on the soil regarding sulfide breakdown and iron content-Mark's research regarding the rules are fragmented regarding this topic especially concerning areas with sensitive waters such as those containing wild rice. Janet mentioned that were still being told that this is years away which seems like a fallacy. Further discussion regarding idea that the infrastructure for such a mining operation here is not in place.
- Janet-Decision on certificate of need for the Sandpiper is due on Monday April 12th

G. Speakers

- Conservation Office Amber-mentioned that she is looking for local organizations/sportsmen's groups, lake associations who are interested in meat from car kills such as moose and bear-question is are we interested and would we reimburse her for processing in exchange for being on her running list to accept and use meat, group decided that we are interested in being on this list (Ben to email Amber list of contacts for lake association)

AIS continues to be a major push, trainings involving decontamination systems coming up in June, we may be interested as other lake associations have been interested in purchasing decontamination units, decal requirement is going away.

Amber plans to continue to contribute to the newsletter and Janet mentioned that there has been great feedback from the articles thus far.

- Ron-Calcium chloride being applied.

Tennis courts-awaiting grant for approximately \$100,000 and if that is received, they will move forward with redoing them. This summer they may not be open due to complaints regarding the pavement surface and so this summer if insurance coverage does not give the green light, the courts will be closed.

Road paving is potentially on hold at this time based upon the idea that in early summer there will be a blacktop operation coming into the gravel pit, making the cost for their blacktop tar cheaper at that time so the incentive may be to wait. Discussion had regarding the overall cost and the idea that the savings could be 10,000 to the township just to wait until the new tar operation is operating.

Crushing gravel in the new pit has been delayed due to concerns of how the pit will appear over time to local residents, meeting coming up on April 20th to readdress that issue.

Discussion had with CYC Camp regarding the fishing pier "did not go well". The Camp has a number of concerns regarding traffic being drawn to the public accesses in the middle of their camp. More discussion to come. Sheriff Turner mentioned that there are 174 of these kinds of public accesses in Aitkin County, and their status at this time is not certain from a regulatory standpoint-whether it is a County matter or a township matter.

- Sheriff Turner-Department did some water rescue training last week on Minnewawa, AIS training coming up for the Deputies, Sheriff believes that less influence is going to be had through enforcement alone but through a combination of enforcement and education, goal is to assist with the learning curve. Sheriff discussed idea that for now, we have good funding, but hopefully that scenario does not change in the future. Amber also added that we need to not forget the focus on all water-related equipment including smaller crafts like kayaks and also docks, lifts, and other equipment. Ben asked regarding campfires even during restricted burning and they are allowed unless there is a widespread fire ban. Burning permits can be obtained online.

Mickey moved to adjourn. Seconded by Andy at 11:10

Next Meeting: May 8th; Jeff to bring treats to next meeting

**Big Sandy Lake Association Meeting
Grace Lutheran Church – 05/08/2015**

Called to Order at 8:35

Board Members Present-Bruce Johnson, John Gornick, Ben Gisselman, Jeff Backowski, Janet Hill, Jack Johnson, Kathy Beatty, Mickey Utech, Vern Awes, John Pilney, Andy Streeter, John Sturner, John Pilney, Jim Carlson, Mark Johnson

Others Present: Bob Greifzu, Bill Reed, Curt Sparks, Russ Thompson, John and Win Schmidt (potentially running for Board), Jim Ganz

A. Review and Approve Prior Minutes-Some changes made
Janet moved, Vern seconded

B. Review and Approve Treasurer's Report (see attached)
John moved to approve Treasurer's report, Jim seconded

C. President's Report

- County Road 14 Highway Clean-Went very well, members present were Mark, Jack, Bruce, Andy, and Ben, and a total of about 23 others from Brian's family and friends
- FEMA Email that Bruce received-Discussed sending a response
- Ice Ridge Removal and Repair-Bruce received an email regarding the standards for repair-Bruce questioned whether this would be a good article topic regarding shoreline restoration and repair, Vern pointed out that many are already working on this project, Janet mentioned that there is an article regarding this topic in the next newsletter
- Rio Tinto-Bruce has received emails regarding ongoing mining in the Tamarack area, Mark mentioned that he had attended a conference regarding methyl mercury and sulfates in our watershed-in particular a comparison between the St. Louis River and here (See Attachment). Mark pointed out that there is great concern regarding the status of mercury in the St. Louis River and the fact is that Big Sandy is already an impaired water from a mercury standpoint, and that if/as the St. Louis River becomes more impaired, that could affect us here especially in light of the mining activity in our area. Bruce reiterated that our group isn't opposed to the mining, but the runoff or the exposure of by products to the elements here
- Curt Sparks highlighted three areas we should focus on when assessing mining activity in our area:
 1. Everything taken out goes back in to reduce exposure of those things to the elements
 2. Where they grind up the materials mined is also important; and
 3. Where it is smelted/turned into a final product-it is not likely to be processed in our watershed but that should still be a concern

If any/all of these three things happened here or in Minnesota, that presents an environmental problem for us and so these are things we should focus on when voicing our concerns/preferences to any future mining activity. Bruce asked about open pit versus shaft mining and Kurt responded that open pit is much more environmentally problematic. John G. reiterated that if we have mining, we will have environmental pollution. Bob mentioned that we should remember that all of our state agencies are not working for us. Mark further mentioned that the conversation about wild rice will continually come into play when any discussion about mining and water quality comes up because of the negative effects on the wild rice.

Bruce wondered about us going back to Kennecott and exploring more about what their planned options are. Several of the group responded that they already know but won't give up that information. Bruce asked John Pilney to try to drum up any new information via the contacts that he has with Kennecott.

D. Old Business

- Township Cleanup-Very much a success, Bill Reed worked almost the whole event at the check-in, Jeff worked down below unloading steel, busiest event ever perhaps. Consensus was that next year we need to have two people up top working together at all times if possible. Vern remarked that it appears that a number of people may be bringing things up from home, the Cities
- Update on 5KVolunteers: Mickey, John Sturner, Cindy, Jim Carlson, Kathy B. and Jeff B. Jack continuing to work on the getting the sign from Glen. Bruce encouraged members to remind others to run/walk
- Membership Data (See Handout from Kathy)-we are now at 500 members!
Curt Sparks wondered if there should be a lifetime membership for businesses. Group agreed this sounded like a good idea. Cost of \$1,000? Vern moved that a lifetime membership for businesses be \$500 starting next year, John S. seconded John suggested idea of creating a decal for businesses indicating their membership, others suggested we add such a novelty for all members. Vern to take on this project as his last project before we convince him with a lobster dinner at the Lodge to stay on. Bruce asked Kathy to send JoAnne at McGregor printing a zip code-sorted list of all members, including all business and lifetime. Jim Carlson suggested putting newsletters at the realty offices. Issue is cost at about \$1 a piece if they are all thrown away, suggestion that we get the two seasonal newsletters (spring/summer) to the realty offices-this equates to 35 extra newsletters to be ordered at print time. Janet agreed to deliver these newsletters to the realty offices
- Annual Meeting Plans-

Vern will make arrangements for the election at the annual meeting, although he may not be there to attend. He requested that those in attendance today who are interested in joining the Board give him information in that regard so that can be placed on the ballot and in the newsletter for distribution at the annual meeting. Janet does in fact still have room in the newsletter for more bio information if it becomes available

- Janet on Sandpiper: We are waiting for the MN PUC board to vote on the Sandpiper Certificate of Need, which will happen this summer. Meanwhile, Enbridge has submitted a second Certificate of Need application, for the Line 3 tar sands pipeline, which they are proposing to be built along the same route as the as-yet-undetermined Sandpiper route. Janet mentioned that tar sands permitting is the next part of the process underway

- John Sturner-Road repaving on Ponderosa Point-Some residents are curious about whether or not there will be a temporary patch placed in the meantime until the road is fully repaved. Mark mentioned that the equipment is not here yet and Ron indicated that this project will not be underway until August

E. New Business-

- Opening Fishing AIS Efforts-Andy mentioned that Steve indicated he is not sure that all four accesses will ultimately be covered. Volunteers are still needed as Bob mentioned and Andy has told Steve Hughes that he can help in that effort. Some discussion had regarding the need for more tents for the accesses-this was part of the grant request which has generally been up in the air and therefore we will not move forward with purchasing any more tents at this time

- Duties for Annual Meeting: Mickey to post Treasurer's Report, Ben to Post Annual Minutes 2014, Jeff to conduct drawing, Ben to create visual presentation, Kathy to buy raffle item, Bruce to arrange the PA system, John to run election if Vern does not, Ben to arrange food and signage
Kathy mentioned idea of having a drawing for an inflatable from Willey's at \$250 cost, must be present to win, numbered tickets for that part of drawing, name drawing/other colored tickets for door prizes
Motion to spend the \$250, John S. moved, Janet seconded
Janet suggested that board members sit at different tables
Kathy will be ready to help with sign-in and membership sales, Kathy to have the list of members-paid and not-paid, Deirdre to help, Jeff to help as well
Bruce to create agenda based upon our discussion today, he will also distribute various duties assigned, speakers to be invited include Sherriff Turner, Brian Napstad, Amber Petersen, Tammy Johnson from the dam

F. Director's Reports-

- Mark Johnson-Reminder about Shoreline Planning workshop June 29th at Bob Greifzu's house at 9am, Pontoons needed-Jeff, John P., Mark J., Dick B.-all volunteered, details to come in the BSLAWMP newsletter
319 Grant is still available for us and that requires keeping track of your time, these inkind hours allow us more funding, time sheets passed out-to be returned to Mark quarterly

G. Speakers

- Curt Sparks-Thanked us all for our work on water quality in the area, mentioned that the Foundation's environmental education program met its \$200,000 funding goal last year and that is the same goal they are pursuing this year

- Bob Greifzu-Mentioned that the AIS effort is still looking for volunteers. Ramp inspectors are underway but all slots/shifts are not filled yet.

Aitkin County Rivers and Lakes Fair is June 20th

Bruce adjourned the meeting at 10:52pm

Next Regular Meeting: July 10th

Big Sandy Lake Association Annual Meeting
Big Sandy Lodge – 06/06/2015

Called to Order at 11:00 am

Board Members Present-Bruce Johnson, John Gornick, Ben Gisselman, Jeff Backowski, Janet Hill, Jack Johnson, Kathy Beatty, Mickey Utech, John Pilney, John Sturner, Jim Carlson, Mark Johnson, Dick Beatty

Liaisons Present-Bob Greifzu, Bill Reed

1. Welcome and Greeting by Bruce Johnson
2. Introduction of Current Board Members, both those present and absent
3. Motion to Accept Minutes from 2014 Meeting-Moved by John Sturner seconded by Jim Carlson
4. Welcome and thanks from Don Proulx regarding the Lodge's gratitude for the Association's help with the 5k which was the most successful in 2015 that it has ever been
5. Explanation of Voting Process and Current Board Members on the Ballot by John Sturner
Brief Remarks by Each Candidate
Floor Opened for Nominations to the Board
Nomination for/Volunteer by Gus Winkle
Nomination for/Volunteer by Russ Thompson
Motion by John Sturner to Suspend Actual Voting, Seconded by Bruce Johnson
Introduction of Board Member Electees

6. Guest Speakers

Janet Hill-Spoke regarding our ongoing efforts to thwart the routing of the pipeline in the Big Sandy Watershed with explanation that our stance does not stem from anti-pipeline or an anti-oil sentiment but that there are simply better locations for the pipeline in Minnesota if it has to be, especially considering Enbridge's poor track record, and that Aitkin County and the local community stand to gain less than may be perceived in the way of jobs and other benefits
Tammy Johnson, Corps of Engineers-Spoke regarding water levels being normal this year, updates underway presently to the historical center that was the lock and dam house at the Big Sandy Dam which will be open soon and she encouraged all to come by and take a look this summer

Sheriff Turner-Introduced new water patrol deputy for Big Sandy Lake, discussed decrease in cabin/property thefts, spoke about being mindful of being a good neighbor this summer and especially during the holidays

County Commissioner Brian Napstad-

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:15 with continued raffle and barbeque lunch

Big Sandy Lake Association Board Meeting
Shamrock Town Hall – 07/07/2015

Called to Order at 8:30 am.

Board Members Present - Bruce Johnson, Jeff Backowski, Jack Johnson, Kathy Beatty, Mickey Utech, John Pilney, John Sturner, Jim Carlson, Mark Johnson, Dick Beatty, Russ Thompson, Gus Winkle

Liaisons Present - Bob Greifzu, Bill Reed

Guests Present – Vern Awes, Ron Smith, Sheriff Scott Turner

1. Minutes from May 2015 meeting - Moved by Dick Beatty seconded by John Sturner, to accept the minutes as written. Motion carried.
2. Treasurer's Report from 2015 Annual Meeting was approved as written.
3. President's Report
 - a. Big Sandy Lodge 5K Run/Walk – the event was very successful with 186 runners, 52 of them preregistered. This is the highest turnout ever. BSLA was given a record-high donation of \$1,130. Bruce Johnson reviewed our responsibilities as helping set up tables and pylons, working at the registration and T-shirt tables, and staffing the water station. Those who worked agreed that the registration process could be revised to move faster.
 - b. 2015 Annual Meeting June 6 – the event was a success. People liked the shorter meeting with more time to socialize. Issues included having too many prizes, confusion about whether the meat for lunch should be precooked, and the resulting slow food distribution process. The number attending based on the registration desk was 120 with the probability that a few more arrived late or did not pass the desk. The conflict with the fishing contest potentially kept the number down. The possibility of moving the meeting to the golf course club house was brought up but no decision made. The board agreed that the raffle worked well and should be continued if no one donates a large-value item at no cost.
 - c. Board Membership – in accordance with the BSLA By-Laws, John Sturner moved and Jim Carlson seconded that the three new and four reelected board members be approved. Motion carried.
 - d. Board Officers – in accordance with the BSLA By-Laws, Jack Johnson moved and Russ Thompson seconded that the current officers be approved for another year. Motion carried.
4. Old Business
 - a. Mining - John Pilney reported that he sent an email to Public Relations at Kennecott asking if they have any new or updated plans. Their response was that all plans are still the same. They want another phase of drilling and assessing and are not at their last phase of exploration. If they proceed, they don't know yet if processing will be in the same area or not. The mine could be open pit, shaft or a combination of both. Their position on sulfates is that they will meet all standards.

The Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District testing typically does not test for sulfates, but special testing indicated our current levels are very low.

Mark Johnson reported that there is an issue with mercury contamination in the St. Louis River. PolyMet is unwilling to address their potential negative impact on this condition.

Dick Beatty suggested that the best course of action for Big Sandy is to collect comprehensive data on current conditions so that we can monitor changes against that baseline. He also recommended that if Rio Tinto moves to an advanced stage that we obtain expert/academic documentation to identify potential impacts of mining activity.

Bruce Johnson moved and John Sturner seconded that we arrange with Janet Smude at Aitkin County Soil and Water to do the needed testing. Motion carried.

- b. Pipelines - Bruce Johnson read the email updates from Janet Hill:

Sandpiper Pipeline – the PUC has not yet issued its official order following its June 5th decision to grant the Sandpiper Certificate of Need. Once they do, any party or person will be able to file a petition for reconsideration within 20 days. The official order should be issued soon -- it normally comes within a month of a decision.

Line 3 - The PUC board met July 1st and talked for nearly 3 hours about how confusing it is to consider two pipeline permits simultaneously. They then voted to accept "the completeness" of Enbridge's Line 3 Certificate of Need application. This means that they will next assign an Administrative Law Judge who will set up the public hearings for the Line 3 process. Meanwhile, there will be a scoping process for the Line 3 route.

The board discussed BSLA affiliation with other organizations on these issues and agreed to continue those alliances.

There will be a house concert at the home of Micki and Kevin Berg July 14, 7pm. Singer/songwriter Annie Humphrey will be performing, along with a bluegrass duo. Winona LaDuke will talk about what people can do to join the opposition of the Line 3 "replacement" pipeline and new pipeline corridor through lakes country. Everyone is welcome. Bruce Johnson moved and Kathy Beatty seconded that BSLA donate \$200 to Honor the Earth for hosting the event and to help pay for the musicians. Motion carried.

5. New Business

- a. August BSLA Newsletter – an article on Rio Tinto (John P) will be added to the list provided by Janet Hill: President's Letter (Bruce), Sheriff's Report (Sherriff Turner), Robert Harder's article (Bob H), Conservation Officer's column (Amber P), Report on the Annual Meeting (Bruce or Ben), Facebook update (Janet), AIS article (Andy), Lakeshore Restoration (Bob G), and Long Lake Conservation Center (LLCC staff). Contributing individuals will be added to the mailing list.
- b. Membership Start Date – discussion about having a late-year start date resulted in no change to the current policy.

6. Directors' Reports

- a. Kathy Beatty - reported on 2015 membership numbers and PayPal usage.
- b. Jim Carlson – gave credit to DNR Conservation Officer Amber Peterson for organizing an excellent Water Institute program. Five other Conservation Officers assisted with water activities and safety.

7. Liaisons' Reports and Guest Speakers

- a. Bill Keen - expressed concern about spread of Emerald Ash Borers and will write an article on that topic for the next newsletter.

- b. Ron Smith – thanked board members for helping with Shamrock Township clean-up day; discussed work on Hillcrest Road (498th), improving appearance of the gravel pit on CR 40, a request for road abandonment that was resolved in court, status of tennis courts by Shamrock Town Hall, and interactions with CYC regarding merging of public accesses.
- c. Vern Awes – provided car window stickers for individual members and business partner members. These had been approved at the May meeting. Kathy Beatty will mail a sticker to each current business member. Current paid individual members will receive stickers with their membership renewal mailings for 2016.
- d. Sheriff Scott Turner – reported that the 4th of July weekend was very busy but there were very few problems. The main issue was concern with late night noise. He encourages all lake owners and visitors to respect their neighbors and keep noise down at night.
- e. Bob Greifzu – reported that the 42 inspectors in the county have inspected 4,000 boats so far this season. They are giving out free boat towels until supplies run out. The county has ordered 20 nets for testing for zebra mussels. These will be distributed to the test sites and returned for reuse at the same site.
508 attended the Rivers and Lakes Fair June 21.
The rain garden and lakeshore restoration project went well with over 1000 plants planted. The pontoon tour of other sites was cut short by a thunderstorm.

All board members are reminded to turn in their report of volunteer hours and miles to Mark Johnson. He is currently collecting data for April 1 through June 30. These will be used to meet requirements for contributions to grants.

The next meeting is August 14 and Ben will provide treats.

**Big Sandy Lake Association Meeting
Grace Lutheran Church – 08/14/015**

Called to Order at 8:35

Board Members Present-Bruce Johnson, Ben Gisselman, Jeff Backowski, Janet Hill, Jack Johnson, Mickey Utech, John Pilney, Andy Streeter, John Sturner, John Pilney, Mark Johnson, Jim Carlson, Russ Thompson

Others Present: Bob Greifzu, Jim Krezowski, Bill Reed, Curt Sparks

A. Review and Approve Prior Minutes-Date changed to July 10th

John S. moved, Dick seconded

B. Review and Approve Treasurer's Report (see attached)

Mark moved to approve Treasurer's report, John S. seconded

C. President's Report

a. Wild Rice Days:

• A sign-up sheet will go around regarding the day shifts (10am-4pm):

Jim Carlson-10am-12 noon

Jeff Backowski- 11am-12 noon

John Pilney-10am-12 noon

Janet Hill-12 noon-1pm

Mickey-12 noon -1 pm

Mark J.-1pm-3pm

Jack 1pm-3pm

Dick 2pm-3:30 pm

Janet will work on written materials for the booth, Bruce will take care of set up and tear down, Ben to provide Weather Guide calendars via Deirdre

John's article on mining should be a handout at the Wild Rice Days booth

Membership List needed for booth, along with sign-up materials (Dick will take care of obtaining the complete membership list)

D. Old Business

a. Janet's Article:

• Bruce initiated discussion regarding the article in the newsletter about internal marine engine water being part of the regular inspection/decontamination process, Bob mentioned that the decontamination stations like the one at Willey's, discussion ensued as to how many boats actually go through that process and whether one has to leave their boat or if it happens immediately

• Further discussion regarding our need for ongoing and perhaps extended plans for inspection sites next summer, two inspectors being on Big Sandy this summer has been

typically the norm, and Andy mentioned that he has seen an inspector at times at all four accesses (although not all accesses are being covered at the same time), Bob mentioned that collectively, 6,500 “Clean, Drain, and Dry” towels have been handed out this summer (this includes 8 other lakes in addition to Big Sandy), Jim Carlson suggested that we could have Steve Hughes come to our meeting to discuss the numbers, group discussed technology options for AIS ramp education

b. WCCO at the Lake:

- Group agreed that there did not need to be anything more to draw attraction to the Lake Association when WCCO was here

E. New Business.

Governor’s Fishing Opener:

- Ben to discuss with Lisa Kruse if and how the Association can be involved in that weekend by having a booth at the Lodge or other involvement in activities/education
- Ben mentioned the need for volunteers for fishing host guides on Saturday-article to be placed in next newsletter

F. Director’s Reports

a. John Sturner:

- Discussion regarding shore land vegetation buffers on lakefront property

b. Janet Hill:

- Future upcoming public hearing regarding a possible Line 3 in the Sandpiper corridor (wherever that is determined), August 25th at 11am and 6pm (posted in newsletter), at McGregor High School Gymnasium-the more attendance the better (Friends OF The Headwaters handout attached)
 - Honor the Earth event, we gave \$200 and that was appreciated
 - Friends of the Headwater would like to post a full page article in the Voyageur Press and they would like us to share the cost with them-John Sturner moved that we allocate half, Jim Carlson seconded
 - Sandpipers 1, 2, and now 3 continue to generate a lot of opposition and we should feel accomplished that efforts have delayed 1 and 2 by more than a year
- Keep up the good work Janet

c. Mark Johnson:

- Event at Tycoon’s in Duluth on Monday August 31st-Benefit for the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy-group’s mission is to protect wetlands, watersheds, and other ecosystem resources
- Thursday August 28th-Mine Shack in Tamarack: Matt Jeschke to talk about copper mine drainage if they make a mine here, and what they will do with this drainage
- John’s article on mining should be a handout at the Wild Rice Days booth

- Isaac Walton League-working on the St. Louis River project, standards set there are probably what we will be stuck with here

- Mark passed out time sheets and encouraged all to complete and submit for your time

d. Andy Streeter

- Andy will “do the rounds” this weekend and check in on the inspectors, as an aside, Russ mentioned that the lake now has Channel Catfish since the recent flood

G. Speakers

a. Sheriff Turner-Bruce hit a number of shots in the woods last night at golf. The end of the summer is coming and his office is usually pretty busy with end-of-summer festivities

b. Curt Sparks-Watershed Districts: When we need help in the way of effort or funds, we should be reminded that we can always consider forming a local watershed district. He used Forest Lake as an example of a place where a district was formed, for little individual expense, that is now providing a good “war chest” of funds given that three weeks ago Forest Lake was designated as a zebra mussel infested body of water-and now they are going to need that funding help. Group decided that we should set aside a time for Curt to address with us the specifics of possibly developing a watershed district. Developing such is not an easy task. It is an independent taxing district and was controversial when they developed one in recent years at Minnewawa.

c. Bill Reed-BSLWMP next meeting is Wednesday August 19th. They need 3 pontoons for a tour of Big Sandy on Monday September 28th-possible volunteers were Jack, John, and Dick. Bill has 210 shoreline ordinance booklets in his car that Bruce will ensure get to the booth at Wild Rice Days.

Next Regular Meeting: September 11th

Big Sandy Lake Association Board Meeting
Grace Lutheran Church – 09/11/2015

Called to Order at 8:30 am.

Board Members Present - Bruce Johnson, John Sturner, Mickey Utech, Jeff Backowski, Jim Carlson, Jack Johnson, Janet Hill, Andy Streeter, Kathy Beatty, Mark Johnson and Russ Thompson

Liaisons Present - Bob Greifzu, Bill Reed and Jim Krezowski

Guests Present – Brian Napstad, Ron Smith, Sheriff Scott Turner, Lynn Elling and Tom Watson

1. Minutes from August 2015 meeting - moved by John Sturner, seconded by Mark Johnson, to approve as written.
2. Treasurer's Report for August 2015 – moved by Janet Hill, seconded by Kathy Beatty, to approve as written.
3. President's Report
 - a. Bruce Johnson reported that Gus Winkle has decided not to serve on the board. Members are encouraged to identify a possible replacement.
 - b. Wild Rice Days Booth – the booth provides good public relations for the organization. One new member joined and two others reported address changes while visiting the booth. Next year, we should consider including a map of the lake and more give-aways such as bumper-style stickers, glasses, cups and tote bags. It was evident that many people who visited the booth are totally unaware of the Enbridge pipeline.
 - c. Rio Tinto Meeting – seven board members attended. Mark Johnson reported that his specific questions regarding sulfates, phosphorus and other contaminants were not answered.
4. Old Business
 - a. Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) Meeting in Duluth – Mark Johnson attended and reported that their attorney, Katherine Hoffman, wants us to keep her informed of the mining situation.
5. New Business
 - a. Shamrock Township Cleanup Day – will be Saturday Sept 12 from 9:00-2:00. Bill Reed, Bruce Johnson, Jim Carlson, Jack Johnson and Jeff Backowski will help. Ron Smith reported that the charge for disposal of mattresses will be \$5 and for TVs \$10.
 - b. BSLA Website – Kathy Beatty provided information on a proposed new website using Wix instead of GoDaddy. The site will be organized by topic and the cost is estimated to be slightly less. Both sites will be active during a transition period. Mark Johnson moved and Janet Hill seconded the plan to convert to the new site. Bruce Johnson requested that Kathy prepare a backup plan to enable other members to support if necessary.
6. Directors' Reports
 - a. Jim Carlson - reported that the Water Institute was highly successful with about 350 children involved, about half of them now girls. The program ran for four weeks, three days per week.

- b. Jim Carlson – reported that the Big Sandy Lake Foundation is taking a new direction. They are holding a campaign to grow an endowment account of \$200K to support community environmental education activities. Their annual social event will be at the home of Mark Krezowski on October 3, 2:00-4:30pm. The organization’s new name will be announced and visitors will be asked to become Sponsors of the campaign.
- c. Janet Hill reported on the two Enbridge Pipeline Line 3 hearing meetings held in McGregor. During discussion, County Commissioner Brian Napstad stated that all county commissioners are on record as supporting the current route because of what they view as the positive implications for the entire county. He further stated that the Kennecott’s estimate of the tax benefit to the county from the possible mine is \$400M over 20 years.

7. Liaisons’ Reports and Guest Speakers

- a. Ron Smith – reported on the washouts from recent rains, a Willow Prairie Watershed meeting with FEMA on Sept 22, using sign-up sheets to assess actual use of the tennis courts, purchase of a new front loader, and interactions with CYC regarding merging of public accesses.
- b. Brian Napstad – reported that Ben Gisselman has asked him about the option of raising funds through a Watershed District. His answer is that a Lake Improvement District is a better option. Watershed Districts typically deal with the quantity of water for agriculture while a LID deals with water quality. He also reported that concerns have been raised about County Ditch 5 from McGregor to the Sandy River for drainage.
- c. Sheriff Scott Turner – reported that the entire summer was quiet with very few behavior problems over Labor Day weekend. Burglaries, however, are up in the Hwy 65 corridor from McGregor to Jacobson. The county held a train derailment table-top exercise that was very well-attended. He has requested that another dispatcher be hired to deal with incoming calls.
- d. Bill Reed – reminded the board of the need for three pontoons for a BSALWMP event on Sept 28. Jim Krezowski offered his but Kathy Beatty said theirs will not be available.
- e. Guest Speaker Tom Watson, President of the Whitefish Area Property Owners Association - gave a presentation on the value of water to a community with detailed statistics on the economic impact of healthy lakes through tourism and higher property values. He offered to provide a copy of the presentation and said that BSLA could change his references to BSLA and Aitkin County for our use.
- f. Lynn Elling – described the Concordia Language Village’s International Day and their plans for a Global Summit to address issues of world peace.

The next meeting is October 9 and Kathy will provide treats. Steve Hughes will attend and speak on the AIS inspection program at 10:00am.

**Big Sandy Lake Association Meeting
Grace Lutheran Church – 10/9/015**

Called to Order at 8:30

Board Members Present-Bruce Johnson, Ben Gisselman, Jeff Backowski, Janet Hill, Jack Johnson, Mickey Utech, John Sturner, Mark Johnson, Jim Carlson, Russ Thompson, Kathy Beatty

Others Present: Bob Greifzu, Bill Reed, Curt Sparks, Sheriff Turner, Brian Napstad

A. Review and Approve Prior Minutes-
John S. moved, Ben seconded

B. Review and Approve Treasurer's Report (see attached)
Ben moved to approve Treasurer's report, Mark seconded

C. President's Report

a. Whitefish Property Owner Speaker from Last Meeting-Tom Watson:

- Impressive statistics regarding impacts of certain behavior
- Talked about shore land management and the value of water
- Jim Carlson asked about whether or not there are individuals doing secchi disk Readings

b. Pontoon Tour of Bell Horn Bay

- Russ and Bill took a boat out each with about 6 individuals on each boat
- Specifically looking at shore land restoration projects like the one at the mouth of the Prairie River
- Janet Smude from ACSWCD was involved and wrote a nice thank you letter expressing she was impressed by the various projects and she included a check for reimbursement for boat usage that will be deposited into the Association bank account

D. Old Business

a. Newsletter Articles-Deadline is October 30th:

- Ben regarding GFO and the tennis courts
- Janet regarding shore land restoration article
- Ben via Ron Smith regarding the tennis courts
- Jim Carlson regarding Operation Christmas-although he may not if it is determined that the event won't happen
- Janet regarding the pipeline
- Jim regarding the Foundation name change to McGregor Lakes Area Foundation
- John suggested an article by Amber Peterson regarding issues with ice fishing refuse left behind

b. Jim discussed the Foundation event which was attended by only 25, but which raised a good deal of money from even those who could not attend, a majority of which goes back to the McGregor schools for the Water Institute

c. BSLA Email

- Problem with accessing the email account

d. New Directors

- Bruce will make a call to determine if we need to address any specific concerns with the way we operate as an organization

E. New Business

a. Potential Meeting Date Change

- Group discussed other possible times and proposing the idea in a newsletter article; possible alternate times: Stay the same, Saturday at 9am, Friday at 2pm, or other

b. New Website-Kathy (See Attachment)

c. Facebook Postings

- Is advertising business specials by our business members a violation of our 501c3 rules? Ben to check into

D. Director's Reports

a. Janet Hill:

- Update regarding legal process in the pipeline process

F. Guest Speakers

a. County Commissioner Brian Napstad

- Spoke regarding Lessard Sams dollars available for what is referred to as the Mississippi Rivers Headwaters Program
- Association of Minnesota Counties legislative session held a couple of weeks ago and DNR notified that some shore land rules may be modified. This is always a concern for a County because enforcement, and the cost is left up to the Counties

b. Ron Smith

- Township cleanup had 97 signees, almost \$500 collected for fee-based items, but the dumpsters cost \$2,350.

Bill Reed, Jim Carlson, Jack Johnson, and Jeff Backowski assisted.

Jim mentioned it was the slowest day he had ever seen

- Fire Department New Substation Agreement signed yesterday meaning the station at its location will stay
- Blacktopping likely to be completed on 202 (Ponderosa Point Road) on Monday
- Broadband Meeting occurred recently and it sounds like SCI may be running some broadband in this area along 14, Bridge Road, and Ponderosa Point, and it may be sooner than Frontier

c. Brian discussed that high speed satellite Internet is available through Mille Lacs Satellite

- Leaf Site-Someone dumped trash, but they were identified and they cleaned it up
- Tennis Courts-Need feedback regarding who's actually using it-cost to rebuild is \$160,000 and so they want to make sure the project is worthy

c. Sheriff Turner

- Showed a picture of a boat that was near to be launched in Big Sandy before it was stopped, cited and sent for decontamination, Mississippi River down by Lake Pepin, DNR access across from Zorbaz.

Sheriff mentioned need for public awareness of this kind of episode to ensure continued funding by the Minnesota legislature

- Jim Carlson asked about Dan Guida who is deployed in Qatar-he is doing well despite the difficulties of being far away from home and separated from family and friends
- Mentioned that the airboat had to be deployed recently to rescue some hypothermic contractors in the water in the Salo Marsh

d. Curt Sparks-Presentation

- Discussed discovery of the Starry Stonewort invasive species recently here in Minnesota in Lake Coronas
- Addressed the TMDL Implementation Plan
- Addressed AIS Funding
- Discussed grants and using local resources and other innovative ways to match grants
- Discussed creating a Big Sandy Lake Watershed District which would be a taxing authority. This area would include a 414 square mile area
 - o Brian suggested contacting the 30 Lakes Watershed District because they, in his view, are undertaking a similar project to this discussion
 - o Curt emphasized though that failing to undertake our own action may put us in a position where we wish we would have done more later, once it's too late especially in a situation where we end up with AIS and there is not enough funding

e. Steve Hughes-Aitkin County Soli and Water Conservation District

- Here to discuss AIS Program in Aitkin County
- The program came about with legislative funding a year ago
- Last year's project was a success but the main issue was finding enough people to hire for inspections-there is funding remaining for 2016
- \$92,000 spent last year on inspectors/7,418 hours of inspection time put in
- 4,000 plus boats inspected
- Program was not about enforcement, it was about inspection and education, DNR and Sheriff's Department used for backup/enforcement purposes
- 22-year old inspector trained this year in this program was individual who identified the infested boat previously discussed
- Clean-drain-dry inspection towels being handed out, next year they will have sponges in hand as well for distribution to boat owners for getting that "last little bit" of water out of the boat
- Total of 121,514 spent last year on the entire project (278,000 beginning balance leaving 156,486 remaining)
- 30-40 boats in total sent to decontamination station
- One day of inspection in June on Spirit Lake showed 30% of boats showing hanging vegetative material on boat or trailer
- Inspectors will be receiving a raise for continuing next year in an effort to retain good help and they may raise the wage for new inspectors to assist in better hiring

Adjourned at 11:46.

Next Meeting is Friday November 13, 2015.

**Big Sandy Lake Association Meeting
Grace Lutheran Church – 11/13/2015**

Called to Order at 8:33

Board Members Present-Bruce Johnson, Ben Gisselman, Jeff Backowski, Janet Hill, Jack Johnson, Mickey Utech, Mark Johnson, Jim Carlson, Kathy Beatty

Others Present: Bob Greifzu, Ron Smith, John Gornick

A. Review and Approve Prior Minutes-Jim moved, Mark seconded

B. Review and Approve Treasurer's Report (see attached). Jack moved to approve Treasurer's report, Kathy seconded

C. President's Report

a. Shamrock Fire Tower:

- Bruce trying to determine who is responsible for
- He received a responsive email from an individual at the DNR in St. Paul that we don't have to worry about losing it
- Andy moved that as an Association we continue to pursue the ongoing preservation of it, Mark Johnson seconded

b. County Road 14 Cleanup

- Group agreed we can table the clean-up until April, but it needs to be done soon enough so that it is done well prior to the Governor's Fishing Opener

c. BSLA Email Account

- Bruce worked with Andy and we now have access again to the account and some cleanup of the website has occurred. Discussion had regarding storage of historical pictures on the website

d. Jim Carlson-Secchi Disc Readings

- Jim spoke with Shannon Martin at the MPCA and provided information about how we can volunteer to participate in taking weekly readings next summer

D. Old Business

a. Status of New Website

- Kathy continuing to progress forward in conjunction with others providing requested information
- Discussion had regarding cost and the group agreed that we are prepared to move forward at whatever cost Kathy proposes

b. Pipeline Update

- The project (line 3) is generally on hold right now based upon the Order by the Minnesota Court of Appeals

c. Minnesota Coalition of Lakes Association

- Janet attended the last two meetings of this group and she indicated that they are very active on water quality issues, they have their own lobbyists, and she believes that, at \$50/year, we should join
- Kathy moved that we join, Jim Carlson seconded
- Kathy, Jim, Janet to be placed on this email list

E. New Business

a. Volunteer from Superior

- A volunteer from Cromwell who works for the City of Superior emailed and wants to participate in lake quality matters-group agreed to invite her to attend a future meeting

b. Annual Meeting

- Saturday June 11th-Jim C. will talk to Don Proulx

c. Governor's Fishing Opener

- Group decided we should have a booth at the Friday afternoon picnic in McGregor
- Discussed things we can make to give away such as a lake map, key float-Jeff will check in the with the print shop about creating a poster give-away

d. Bruce discussed email from Curt Sparks regarding requests for proposals from groups like ours for labor for clean water projects. Further discussion ensued with Ron Smith regarding Township projects to reduce erosion around the lake. Discussion had regarding whether or not this kind of work (funding) can be used on private property projects

D. Director's Reports

a. Kathy Beatty on Membership:

- 19 Lifetime members
- 20 Business Memberships
- 491 Individual
- 530 Total
- Collected \$19,689 (4-5,000 more than last year)
- All businesses and individuals are receiving BSLA stickers, discussion regarding having different types of stickers made in the future (not design, but the way they adhere)

b. Jim Carlson

- Operation Christmas is Underway
- December 15th, 16th, 17th
- 218-768-2111 (Cheryl Meld) for volunteering
- Will occur at the 40 Club in Aitkin
- Provides \$40 worth of toys for each child
- Last year served 215 people
- 197 of those children were from the McGregor, Tamarack, Palisade areas
- Needs 2-hour block volunteers on those three days

c. Mark Johnson

- Poly Met EIS Report released and their projects do not protect the St. Louis River

- The work there has an impact on projects here by Kennecott • Mark also reminded us about timesheet completion

d. Janet Hill

- We have resolved that we need to remove all postings on the Facebook page involving local businesses advertising things like food and drink specials given our 501c(3) status

F. Guest Speakers

a. John Gornick

- Complimented the newsletter
- Encouraged the group to continue to oppose local mining via a grassroots Association effort

b. Ron Smith

- 202 (Ponderosa Point Road) is complete other than the seeding for planting on the edges of the road
- There were some issues where cement trucks had driven prior to the blacktop being put down
- Call if you have any issues with downed trees on the roads
- Blacktopping likely to be completed on 202 (Ponderosa Point Road) on Monday
- Requests for maintaining non-public roads-Township can maintain every public road in the township. A road must meet certain specs for maintenance by the Township
- Next Township Board Meeting is on December 10th at 1pm
- Tennis Courts-Township will look to getting feedback through the next full summer season to better assess use of tennis courts, we will run an Association newsletter to encourage the public to leave feedback
- Bruce questioned regarding the 4" log rule at leaf site and how it is not being enforced. Ron mentioned that it is hard to enforce

c. Bob Greifzu

- Next AIS meeting is next Thursday the 19th in Commissioner's Meeting Room in the courthouse in Aitkin at 1pm
- A truck has been purchased to move the decontamination unit around

Motion to adjourn made by Janet, Ben seconded. Adjourned at 10:35.

Next Meeting is Friday December 11, 2015.

Bruce (Virginia) to provide treats

**Big Sandy Lake Association Board Meeting
Grace Lutheran Church – 12/11/2015**

Called to Order at 8:30 am.

Board Members Present - Bruce Johnson, Andy Streeter, Jeff Backowski, Jack Johnson, Kathy Beatty, Mickey Utech, John Pilney, Mark Johnson, Dick Beatty, Russ Thompson

Liaisons Present - Bob Greifzu

Guests Present – Sheriff Scott Turner

1. Minutes from November 2015 meeting – John Pilney’s name needs to be added to those Present. Motion by Kathy Beatty and seconded by Dick Beatty to accept the minutes with that change. Motion carried.
2. Treasurer’s Report for November 2015 - Motion by Jack Johnson, seconded by Mark Johnson to approve as written. Motion carried.
3. President’s Report
 - a. Annual Meeting – Jim Carlson made arrangements with Big Sandy Lodge to hold the meeting June 11 with set-up at 10:00 and meeting from 11:00-2:30.
4. Old Business
 - a. New Website and Email – Kathy reported that the website BigSandyLakeMN.org and email address of BSLA@BigSandyLakeMN.org are active. She provided an invoice from Wix to cover 3 years of Domain, first year of Website, and first year of email service. The new information will be included in the January membership mailing, on the BSLA Facebook page, and in the next newsletter. Bruce, Janet and Kathy will have access to the email account and will copy the other two in all answers to ensure no requests are missed or duplicated.
 - b. Membership Mailing – All forms are printed and ready.
 - c. Member Window Decals – The quote for indoor/outdoor stickers was over \$1/each, so we will pursue other options with McGregor Printing. If a reasonable alternative is available, Bruce and Kathy are authorized to proceed with the order.
 - d. Aitkin County Taxpayer List – Bruce will obtain the contact information to request an updated list for the January mailing.
 - e. Thank You Cards – Bruce will send a thank you to an individual who made a recent donation in honor of a family member. Kathy will look into having 50 BSLA thank you cards printed for future use.
5. New Business
 - a. Winter Meeting Attendance – Members verified that a quorum will be available for the January and February meetings so those meetings will proceed as scheduled.
 - b. Newsletter Articles – Articles will be due by the end of January. There should be one on the Governor’s Fishing Opener either from Ben or Lisa Kruse.

- c. Watershed District – Bruce received an email from Curt Sparks requesting BSLA support of a Watershed District. Consensus was that we will support the effort but not take the lead. Bruce will prepare a response to Curt.
 - d. Governor’s Fishing Opener (GFO) – Ben is responsible for the Fishing volunteers and Sheriff Turner is coordinating Youth Fishing activities. Jeff had McGregor Printing quote a 12x18” copy of the detailed map of the lake to be distributed at the public event and future events. Bruce will look into ordering 500 copies.
6. Directors’ Reports
- a. Fundraiser for “Honor the Earth” – Mark reported that there will be a fundraiser with Winona LeDuc at the Shriner’s building in Duluth on Dec 20. See their website for details.
 - b. Volunteer Hour Reports – Mark urged everyone to report all time and travel spent on BSLA activities because this information is used to determine our in-kind support of the AIS Inspection program and other grants.
 - c. Articles on Enbridge – John Pilney reported that two articles about Enbridge were recently published in the Minneapolis paper.
7. Liaisons’ Reports and Guest Speakers
- a. Sheriff Scott Turner – Reported a relatively quiet month and deer hunting season. He warned of the dangers of thin ice from the unseasonably warm weather and requested that BSLA post warning information on the website and Facebook page. He stressed that tracks in the snow do not mean that the ice is safe.
 - b. Bob Greifzu - Will look into the status of BSLA’s in-kind support of the AIS Inspection program. The level of support may be changing next year from 20% to 10%. There will be a meeting on AIS December 18 at the Long Lake Conservation Center. Aitkin and surrounding counties are included. Call Steve Hughes at 218-927-6565 if interested in attending.

The next meeting is January 8.