

**Big Sandy Lake Association Meeting**  
**Big Sandy Lodge – 8/10/19**

**Called to Order at 8:335 a.m.**

**Board Members Present:** Bruce Johnson, Christopher Krolak, Ben Gisselman, Ann Rorem, Jack Johnson, Russ Thompson, Dick Beatty, Laurie White, John Pilney, John Sturner, Janet Hill

**Others Present:** Louis Crombie (Field Rep. to Pete Stauber), Bob Greifzu, Bill Reed, Ron Smith, Pat and Jim Ober

**A. Review and Approve July Meeting Minutes, John Sturner moved, Janet seconded**

**B. Review July Membership Report**

**Review and Approve July Treasurer's Report, John Sturner moved, Dick seconded**

**C. President's Report**

a. Fish Ladder

Discussion regarding whether a fish ladder should be in place as part of the near-future dam redevelopment project. Some discussion sided on the idea that having a ladder could contribute to access for invasive species, other discussion was geared towards the idea that a fish ladder could contribute to a better fish population. John Sturner move to table this discussion, Ben seconded, while we invite someone from the Corps to come talk to our group perhaps this winter. Rep. for Pete Stauber mentioned that we can turn to their office for information, etc.

b. History Director

Bruce proposed the idea of the Association having a history director. Laurie indicated that she would be interested in fulfilling that role.

**D. Old Business**

a. Wake Boat Review

Laurie heading up a committee and working on getting more members to join the committee, making plans for long-term shoreline management, possible noise limit restrictions (question as to whether there is a decibel limit), perhaps some outreach at Wild Rice Days, interaction with DNR at the State Fair, group agreed to avoid taking a position right out of the gates, possibly a survey

b. Love Your Lake Event Update

Tabled for now, but discussion to ensure regarding the subject for next year, etc.

c. Wash Stations

Further discussion as part of last meeting's visit by Mark Apfelbacher regarding whether or not we would support a County effort to install a station here at Big Sandy, conditioned upon our committing to the ongoing maintenance, Ben to discuss with County how many of these stations have been supported here in Aitkin County, and to look into what other lake associations have experienced

**E. New Business**

a. Work Assignments for Wild Rice Days

Ben and Bruce 10-noon, Laurie and Jack noon-2, Christopher and Dick, 2-4pm

Bruce has ordered flyswatters, map will be on hand like last year, membership forms, etc

- b. Ad for Wild Rice Days-Janet to work on this
- c. Discussion regarding support for McGregor Welcome sign-some comments as to whether or not this is within our Mission, Motion made by John Sturner to donate \$200, Dick seconded, all in favor vote

#### **F. Guest/Other Speakers**

- a. Louis Crombie-Field Rep. for Pete Stauber  
The campaign has four field reps, and he is responsible for the region that covers Aitkin County/Big Sandy Lake. His goal in attending this meeting was to build the relationship between Stauber's office and BSLA and for support in regard to future issues.  
Discussion ensued regarding the pipeline planned route and ongoing expansion of broadband in the area.
- b. Township Supervisor Ron Smith-
  - Discussed expansion of SCI Internet on Ponderosa Point (202<sup>nd</sup>).
  - Township is due to clean out the culvert in North Bill Horn beneath the Trader's Post Road due to silt and sand build-up-considering this, Ron would be interested in knowing about any plans by the Corps to lower the lake level for any future dam project.
  - Township is working on a digital sign at the Township Hall to advertise community events.
  - Ron explained "Section 16" property which is school trust land, which is the property now where the Township property is, but some of the land is leased from the DNR, which the Township would like to buy. The ballfield and tennis courts for example are on this leased land. Section 16 land was not supposed to be sold, but it was. Now though, it seems as though because of this, the Township cannot buy this land and Rep. Lueck doubted the success of a bill to address this. So, the Township is looking for private Section 16 land to buy for a possible trade (many cabins near the fire tower for example are privately-held Section 16 land).
  - Township clean-up is September 14<sup>th</sup>, they have been working with Turner Township to have them participate financially and in-kind to allow for Turner residents to be able to take advantage of the Shamrock cleanup.
  - Discussion regarding the tennis court condition and possible improvements. Township is not taking any action until they have the funding, which they are hoping to get through possible grant funding.
  - 52 miles of township roads, a third are in blacktop-restriping will be happening in the near future. Folks out on Maple Road (on Bridge Road past bridge on right) want blacktopping done. They are looking at funding including a tax assessment.
  - Ron reported ongoing issues with what is being left at the site, including large logs and trash. Also, there is improper commercial use both incoming and outgoing of compost and wood chips. The DNR no longer is willing to roll the debris into a pile for burning, so now the Township is having to do it at Township expense even though many townships are using it. Ron reminded the group that the site/project was really first started by Larry Bunge/the BSLA/and the DNR. Group agreed to a Facebook posting reminding residents about proper use and risk of losing this asset.

#### **G. Director's Reports**

- a. Christopher-Discussion regarding the dam redevelopment proposal on Minnewawa to allow for Walleye entering Minnewawa creek to return back into the lake. BSLA plan is to

- continue to monitor their project to see if it helps us understand the effectiveness of a fish ladder / Weirs Dam enabling fish to return above the dam so that we can apply that learning to assessing our own dam situation on Big Sandy.
- b. John Pilney-Water testing results are in and they show the lowest numbers in total phosphorous John has ever seen. The measurement was 18 micrograms per liter, and the state standard is 35 micrograms per liter.
  - c. Dick Beatty-Discussion regarding efforts to remove Flowering Rush. It can be physically pulled out and placed in a dumpster.

#### **H. Other Items for Discussion**

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 (lack of quorum at that time)

**Next Board meeting is on Saturday September 14, 2019 a.m., at the Big Sandy Lodge.**