

Big Sandy Lake Association Meeting
Grace Lutheran Church – 1/8/2016

Called to Order at 8:34

Board Members Present-Bruce Johnson, Ben Gisselman, John Sturner, Janet Hill, Mickey Utech, Mark Johnson, Jim Carlson, Kathy Beatty, John Pilney, Andy Streeter

Others Present: Bob Greifzu, Ron Smith, Vern Awes, Brian Napstad, Mike (pest control)

- A. Review and Approve Prior Minutes-
Ben moved, John P. seconded
- B. Review and Approve Treasurer's Report (see attached)
Kathy moved to approve Treasurer's report, Dick seconded
- C. President's Report
 - a. Annual Meeting:
 - Lead person to be Jim Carlson
 - Ben to assist along with others
 - Time is from 11-2:30
 - b. Lake Map Printing for GFO Give-away
 - Bruce ordered a total of 500 maps at a cost of about .25
 - c. 2016 Membership Billing
 - Decals to be included as part of membership billing this year
- D. Old Business
 - a. Board member hours
 - Distributed to Mark Johnson
 - b. Upcoming Newsletter-Janet
 - Articles for Next Newsletter:
Highway Clean Up-Ben
Secchi Disc-Jim
Governor's Fishing Opener-Ben
Annual Meeting Blurb-Janet
Website-Kathy
AIS including inspector recruitment-Andy via Steve Hughes
Pipeline Update-Janet
Membership Drive-Kathy
Mining Update-John Pilney
 - DEADLINE is January 23rd, 2016
 - c. Watershed Improvement District Status
 - Bruce recapped that he had sent his email to Curt Sparks regarding our hesitance to take the lead on this large task, too large of a project for Curt to

want to take on by himself, some effort being made to recruit others to look into this task

- Brian pointed out that a watershed district and a lake improvement district are two different things and so we should take care to distinguish the two in our discussions because they are different
- Further discussion by Brian regarding the difference between the two and the process for establishing a watershed district. Brian pointed out that before we decide on a watershed district, we should narrow down what water quality issues we can identify so we know why we would pursue such a district. Discussion ensued regarding various possible drainage/septic issues around the BSL area and again, if these kinds of projects are such that we would see the need to pursue and support a watershed district. Based upon the potential opposition to being taxed for water quality for different stakeholders, Brian believes that Doug Thomas, assistant director at BSWR, would encourage us to look at a different approach like grant funding or a LID.
- Further discussion regarding the continued notion that Big Sandy may have high exposure to AIS, but perhaps not necessarily a high susceptibility to zebra mussels in particular due to calcium levels
- Kathy moved that we set up an official program for calcium testing, Jim Carlson seconded, supported unanimously
- On the subject of a LID, Ben will contact Sue Westberg, president of the Minnewawa Lake Association, about joining us for conversation at a future meeting
- Doug Thomas phone number if we want to reach out to him: (651) 215-6638

E. New Business

a. Update on Governor's Fishing Opener (GFO)

- Discussed the BSLA having a presence at the community picnic on Friday, at the Lodge Saturday and perhaps throughout the weekend, and at the shore lunch on Saturday at the Big Sandy Camp
- Jim Carlson suggested having a tackle exchange at that time? Jim to explore this further the idea of the BSLA actually expending funds for this purpose

b. New Community Coordinator at Kennecott

- Amanda Miller, recent grad in environmental science
- Matt Jeschke is still aboard

D. Director's Reports

a. Janet on Pipeline:

- EIS going to happen-Enbridge appeal denied
- MPCA employee sent prejudicial emails to an outside group that showed bias against the pipeline-situation not resolved at this time
- Janet to draft letter

b. Jim Carlson

- Operation Christmas had a very good year
- Saw a decline-last year 212 families, 529 kids County-wide, this year they had 183 families,494 kids
- About 1/3 of the families are in the McGregor school district
- Held at the 40 Club Convention Center-they were great to work with and they will hold it there in the future

c. John Pilney

- Mentioned some articles suggesting that sulfate standards should be lessened or the threshold should be raised, and an interesting counter-point written by McAbee

F. Guest Speakers

a. Amber Ladd- amber.ladd@state.mn.us

- Reminded group that ice safety issues have been a problem
- Fishing has not been great
- Sick swans recently due to lead poisoning, sees it in ducks, eagles and swans, but most calls come in for swans perhaps because they are so large or notable birds
- John S asked about violations-Aitkin Lake Forest Road has been an area of high violations due to the fact that this trail is marked as “no motorized vehicles” yet the signs are being removed and people continue to access Aitkin Lake for fishing on this road
- Vern mentioned that there will be issues tomorrow with old sleds stuck in slush and going through the ice particularly in the area in and around Zorbaz
- As it pertains to the Vintage Run (Poker Run), Amber indicated they are trying to keep a hands-off approach to enforcement, or over-enforcement, many sleds won’t be licensed and they won’t necessarily enforce that rigidly, there are permit options available however as a middle ground between full registration and temporary “ten-ride” permits
- Questions regarding shelters overnight-anything occupied does not need a shelter tag, and shelter can be left overnight if it is licensed

b. Ron Smith

- Tree trimming underway due to it being an issue with the plows, plow mirrors
- Issues occurring this year with plows throwing dirt and leaves on people’s properties due to ground still being so soft (Township has the right of way in these situations)
- Much sanding has been occurring so far this year due to icy conditions

- Plowing policy is 4" but that has not happened more than once or twice this year
 - Ben asked about the road behind the leaf site and Ron pointed out that it is independent logging activity in that direction in and around state-owned land around Anderson Lake
 - "Doc Marshall Road"
 - Ponderosa Point road project is complete, shoulders were seeded right before the freeze this fall
- c. Brian Napstad
- Reminded us about the 3.5 million dollar grant from Lessard Sams for the headwaters water quality initiative to improve fishing, recreational opportunities
 - Discussed problem ditches and abandonment
 - "One Watershed, One Plan" being implemented here regardless of any other watershed improvement efforts
 - County in process of implementing Governor's controversial buffer plan
 - Kathy asked about the clearing of trees on 232 on the way to Palisade- the County is in the process of implementing the Highway 3 (what it's called now) take-back and rebuild from Palisade to Sathers
 - Regarding Sandpiper Pipeline EIS-it has been decided that the Department of Commerce will be the Responsible Government Unit for this project (RGU)
 - Controversy presently occurring regarding some contact by public employees with the MPCA and outside groups
- d. Mike Tetrault from Tamarack Pest Control
- He and his wife recently moved up here a year ago
 - Son is a conversation officer in Isle
 - Offered to write an article for the newsletter
 - Getting to know the area better
- e. Bob Greifzu
- Will look into raising hourly rate for inspectors
 - 10% in-kind contribution is what is expected from BSLA
 - Bruce to review budget between now and next month's meeting
 - Bob will check into whether or not we will be receiving a bill for our in-kind portion of the AIS grant from 2015
- f. Vern Awes
- Registration at 10am for Vintage Run at Big Sand Bar tomorrow

Motion made by Janet, Mickey seconded. Adjourned at 11:02. Next Meeting is Friday February 12, 2016.

John Sturner to provide treats for February