

Big Sandy Lake Association Meeting  
Big Sandy Lodge – 8/12/2017

Called to Order at 8:31 a.m.

Board Members Present: Bruce Johnson, Kathy Beatty, Christopher Krolak, Jack Johnson, John Sturner, John Pilney, Dick Beatty, Margo Gisselman, Stu Mortrude, Jim Carlson, Jeff Backowski, Janet Hill

Others Present: Bob Greifzu, Bill Pratt (County Commissioner), Bill Reed, Ron Smith, Amanda Miller from Kennecott Exploration, Conservation Officer Amber Ladd, Nicholas Rorem

- A. Review and Approve July Minutes-  
John moved, Dick seconded
- B. Review and Approve Treasurer's Report and membership Report  
John moved to approve Treasurer's report, Bruce seconded
- C. Membership Report  
556 members total paid (includes 32 business memberships)  
Side discussion about annual fee due to post office for bulk mailing-it came due before the post office would mail
- D. President's Report
  - a. Wild Rice Days  
Booth and permit are set up,  
Ben and Jeff: at 9-11, 11-1: John, John, and Ann, 1-tear down: Margo, Christopher and Stu  
Stu mentioned having newsletters there, Ben will contact Janet regarding, discussion as to having maps and keychains available, and perhaps clothing, wear association clothes if you have them
  - b. Future Guest Speakers-group agreed that having Kari Horbacz, new head of McGregor Chamber, to come talk with us
- E. Old Business
  - a. Kathy discussed ongoing issues with PayPal, it is still associated with Dean Anderson's email, Christopher and Ben will consider other options for accepting payment between now and next meeting, the old account will be closed
  - b. Kathy mentioned a commercial solicitation letter that we received indicating we have lost our tax-exempt status, or will, for failing to file the proper form for 3 years in a row. Bruce indicated that he was part of the process and he does not believe that it is late and further, it appears it was in fact nothing other than a solicitation
  - c. Christopher discussed his prior email regarding the pilot program happening in Wright County for centralizing boat inspections, involves a centralized facility where your boat is inspected, then you get a tag on your trailer, then you can launch on one of four lakes designated. This is something for us to think about in our lake community
- F. New Business
  - a. Director Assignments:

AIS Time: 12  
members times  
10 minutes = 120  
minutes

Education and Events-Margo, Margo  
Shoreline Management-Ann  
Water Quality-Stu  
AIS-Christopher  
Assessor/Property Characteristics-Stu

G. Director's Reports

a. John Pilney

- John mentioned that recent total phosphorous measurements were 31ppb in West Bill Horn Bay and in Webster Bay, and 36ppb in the main basin. These numbers are positive improvements as the standard for Big Sandy is 30 ppb. Past results were as high as 100 ppb

H. Guest Speakers

- a. County Commissioner Bill Pratt discussed broadband expansion in the County/BSLA area, grant applications were opened and accepted, the one selected was SCI for expansion of existing plans on Shamrock Township mainly on Bridge Road, they applied for 129k and were ultimately awarded 100k which they accepted. Late summer/fall high speed Internet will be coming up 65 and onto Bridge Road to the Township Line. MLEC was also in the bidding but dropped out when they did not receive the amount they requested. Discussion had regarding support from the Township, County, and BSLA. Ron Smith added that the Township supports it and SCI has relied on that support in moving forward with expansion in the area. Bruce explained to group that he wanted the Board to know and understand that we are planning to write a letter of support on the Association's behalf.
- Bill also mentioned that a proposed ordinance is underway regarding the expansion of legal use of Class 1 ATV's (non side-by-side single passenger) to all County gravel roads, would add Highway \_\_\_ from tamarack to Lawler as well. Bill is proposing that a public meeting happen here in the evening in the McGregor area for the purpose of taking support and opposition feedback. Class 2 side-by-sides are already allowed on all County Roads on the far right side of the road. Use on state highways is not allowed generally.
- b. Ron Smith. Township Cleanup is September 16<sup>th</sup> from 9-2. Also, at the intersection of Bridge Road and 65 there has been some stuff being dumped for "free" that the Township is addressing. Township has been doing more mowing on the roadsides this year than in the past. Jim asked about tree trimming on Ponderosa and John Sturner mentioned some of the road on Ponderosa needs to be swept. Ron mentioned that there is a present request for a road vacating near Hillcrest that they are fighting. Ron mentioned that they are having problems with property owners leaving things too close to the roadway, realtor signs, etc., and also water runoff problems with large lake homes being built and replacing small places. Further discussion regarding vacating accesses in general, Ron mentioned there are 54 approximately on the lake.
- c. Amber Ladd. John Sturner mentioned that he had a conversation with Sherriff Turner yesterday and a significant topic of discussion was increasing issues with wakeboard

boats creating very large waves creating erosion issues and safety issues for boaters. Amber mentioned that there is not a lot of definition as to what kind of wake can or cannot be allowed, but if a safety issue is being created for other boaters that can be an enforceable offense. Her biggest problem is that if she doesn't see it, then there is not a lot that can be done about it. Amber added that wakeboard boat or not, she is seeing a lot of recreational boating activity and the times that she has been on the water looking for related issues on Big Sandy, she has not given out a single ticket. Amber also mentioned the increase in use of hydro jets which are water jets used under docks to remove sediment. These are not legal and you can't get a permit for them. Weed removal in general is common but for that you need a permit and they see plenty of violations in this regard. The rice crop this year is very good- "a bumper crop". Ricing opens on Tuesday August 15<sup>th</sup>, unless it's not ripe yet. There have been some private dock complaints but there is not a lot of regulation and enforcement tools. As far as someone else using your dock, that is private property and is not legal. The DNR did an AIS checkpoint at the overlook on 65 and they had about a 40% violation rate (predominantly plugs in boats and live wells). In St. Louis County, they observed a boat with zebra mussels on it in a checkpoint situation.

- d. Amanda Miller-here to answer some of our prior questions from the January meeting. Phosphorus detection limit that they are using is 50ppm. They have found that there is a possible resource here of copper and \_\_\_\_\_. Bruce asked about a timeline on the project and Amanda indicated that Tamarack is out of the ordinary. They have drilled 263 holes to date yet they still don't have a handle on the geology of what they are considering. Right now, they are not drilling at all. They hope to have a winter program for drilling holes but right now they don't have the budget for it. They have been here for 17 years exploring but they are still not at a stage where they can say for any certainty whether they'll be bringing in any drill rigs for actual mining of any deposits. The next stage is called "pre-feasibility". That stage would last typically 2-3 years and it is during that time that they would further study the effects of acid production in this area and then also the economics. Next step would be the "feasibility" stage and that is when actual permitting would come into play. There is a tour of the Flambeau pit in Wisconsin around the second week in October. She discussed that their Ladysmith open pit mine today is an example of what a "reclaimed" open pit mine looks like after reclamation. She qualified however that they are not considering any open-pit mining here in Tamarack as part of their current project. Amanda has replaced Matt Jeschke here in this area. Discussion regarding ownership of the rice paddies, "The Alden Property", and fact that Kennecott has no intentions of development there or growth of rice paddies.
- e. Bill Reed gave the Board an update on what's been happening as of late at ACLARA meetings

Motion made by John S. to adjourn, Dick seconded. Adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Next Meeting will be on Saturday September 9, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. at the Lodge.