

Big Sandy Lake Association Meeting

Big Sandy Lodge - 5/4/2019

Called to Order at 8:30 a.m.

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

Others Present: Ron Smith, Bill Reed, Dan Guida

A. Review and Approve April Meeting Minutes, Kathy moved, Stu seconded

B. Review and Approve April Membership and Treasurer's Report, John moved, Ann seconded

Report from Sheriff's Department: Dan Guida (our new Aitkin County Sheriff) reported that there have been many visitors to his office, with lots of questions, especially about the BSL lake level. Currently the lake is higher than normal (1217.44 ft), but the expectation is that it will go down about 12 inches during the next weeks barring any heavy rainfalls. We discussed no-wake zones for the upcoming Fishing Opener, but the lake level at this time does not warrant that. Staffing of boat launches will begin on 5/23; there are 18 people on staff at this time and the department is looking to hire 2 more people.

C. Issues for the Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 1, 2019, with meeting at 11am and lunch at noon.

- Kathy will post the Treasurer's Report from 2018
- Margo will post the Minutes from last year's Annual Meeting
- Kathy will print election forms and post election information on Facebook
- Lake placemats will be used on all tables
- Lake map will be on display and attendees can add their names and locations; Kathy will bring the map and Bruce will bring the easel.
- There will be one raffle item only – Ann will bring the raffle tickets.
- Bruce will arrange two speakers: Tammy (from the dam) and Dan Asmus from Sheriff's office.

D. Old Business

-Run for the Lake will be held at the Lodge on Saturday, May 25th. Volunteers include Margo, Ann, Janet, Bruce, John Pilney, John Sturner, Jack Johnson and Russ Thompson. Amber Lehman from the Lodge will coordinate volunteers. Registration will run from 8:30 to 9:45 and the run will begin at 10am.

-Discussion about the BSLA's Annual Love Your Lake Breakfast, which was held at MN National on Saturday, May 4th indicated that the event was a success. Approximately 90 people attended; speakers from the U of MN were pleased with the turnout. Plans regarding next year's event will continue and the subject of the event will be determined after further discussion.

Guest Speakers: Dake Olson (mayor of McGregor and Larry Paukert (McGregor waste management engineer) were asked to respond to our questions regarding how waste management in McGregor is currently handled – how is it treated, where does it go and how does it ultimately affect Big Sandy. They explained that McGregor has a pond system for waste management, and sewage goes to two ponds in McGregor, where it is treated and then pumped to two other ponds. Sewage is treated in both pond systems and then released into a ditching system, treated an addition two times and then released into the Sandy River. Our concern is that water released into the Sandy River (where it ultimately ends up in the lake) is still, even after at least five chemical treatments is too high in phosphorus and that a better solution should be found. Both the mayor and Larry indicated that a consulting firm is currently conducting a study hoping to find better solutions, but next steps after the study is completed will need to not only outline a better system, and a cost for that system, but will also try to determine where the money to pay for the system will come from. John Pilney expressed his concern that it is imperative that treatment occurs at the source, not along the way to the Sandy River. We will continue to monitor the situation, will stay in touch with the McGregor officials and will report back to the membership as any plans are developed.

New Business

- Bruce will write a 'standard' to answer the question about lake levels and a no-wake zone.
- Ron Smith reported that there's a lot going on in Shamrock Township. Spring dump days were successful again, although more volunteers are needed. Discussion followed about how we can let people know that dump day is not for major cleanouts or for construction or remodeling loads. Other townships would like to join in, but it was decided that we are probably better off just allowing Shamrock Township folks to participate in the future.

Director's Reports

- Christopher reported that our AIS Grant was approved again to pay personnel for the 420 hours per launch for the summer season.
- Russ Thompson reminded us that the Veterans on the Water Event is on June 10th with fishing in the morning, followed by a BBQ at Libby dam at noon. Courtney at the dam is organizing it.
- Janet requested that we send comments to the DNR regarding pipeline process; she will send sample language.

- Bruce reminded us that there will be no June meeting of the Board of Directors; our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, July 13.

Other Business

Bill Reed reminded us that Jim Krezowski is retiring and they are selling their home and moving to Edina, and that BSLWMP;s monthly meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 2 – 4 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m., John moved, Jeff seconded