

Big Sandy Lake Association Meeting
Grace Lutheran Church – 8/13/2016

Called to Order at 8:33

Board Members Present-Bruce Johnson, Ben Gisselman, Kathy Beatty, Mickey Utech, Jeff Backowski, John Pilney, Janet Hill, Micki Berg, John Sturner, Christopher Krolak, Russ Thompson, Dick Beatty, Jack Johnson

Others Present: Ron Smith, Bill Reed, Brian Napstad, Sheriff Turner, Bob Greifzu

- A. Review and Approve July Minutes-
Kathy moved, John S. seconded
- B. Review and Approve Treasurer's Report (see attached)
Ben moved to approve Treasurer's report, Dick seconded
- C. President's Report
 - a. Newsletter
 - Janet did the layout design this cycle instead of McGregor Printing, Janet will look into whether or not it is cheaper when we design as opposed to when they do the layout, group agreed however that regardless, the layout looks better with Janet's design work
- D. Old Business
 - a. Dick Beatty regarding the Herbranson memorial contribution towards Dollars for Scholars scholarship
 - Choice regarding our funding of this cause-do we cut the check now for \$1,000 and they will hold it for next year's class, or wait to send the check for when they will actually next award it which will be December of 2017
 - Group agreed that the check will be cut now for them to hang onto for next year's recipient and in future years we'll ensure the check is cut every year
 - b. Micki regarding hours being submitted to Janet Smude
 - Micki understood from her conversation with Janet that there is a disconnect with hours being applied from our group
 - Agreed that we'll begin to turn in hours every month instead of quarterly, and that we need to be particular about our AIS-related efforts in an individual column
 - Ben to look into our current cost versus historical costs of us supplying the volunteers or paid employees for each access
- E. New Business
 - a. The Facebook Page
 - Christopher pointed out that we need a voice of authority from the Board to respond to some comments

AIS Time= 13 members times 30 min

- Create a member called “BSLA Board” etc. for the purpose of posting representative responses to various issues
 - Kathy mentioned that we have some comments that we need to remove or disallow for example, promoting a particular contractor, etc.-some ground rules need to be established
 - Christopher is going to manage this task for now
- b. Christopher addressed with the group the notion of assessing how we are doing as an organization
- Group discussion had regarding our current membership total and what that means in the way of our goals for membership-in other words what is that goal and why. Currently our membership is at about 50% of lakeshore property owners.
 - Membership is healthy, business membership is up dramatically from year’s past, so the question is should we be doing more outreach?
 - Kathy mentioned that our outreach efforts are focused only on lake property owners and not the river properties and other areas like Eagle Point campground
 - Ben to look into our welcome materials that would be given to a realtor for example
- c. Christopher addressed the issue of our finances and whether or not we have guidelines on how much we raise, how much we spend
- Presently our membership deposits exceed our spending and allow us the ability to continue to build a cash balance for future imminent needs like an AIS infestation
- d. Christopher addressed the issue of membership engagement
- Group agreed these are good things for us to be thinking about and to discuss
- e. Wild Rice Days
- Booth on Saturday:
Giveaways include towels, maps, pens, Ben to look into AIS show and tell
Schedule: Bruce, Ben and John S. to set up at 9, stay until 11, John Pilney and Jack Johnson 11-1, Christopher and Bruce 1-3
 - Side discussion ensued regarding new memberships including Bann’s, discussion regarding who the stickers are sent to. New stickers go to all new members. Last year they were mailed to the whole membership list from last year. Group voted that we’ll send stickers to everyone in our mailing each year that our already members

F. Director’s Reports

- a. Janet regarding pipeline update
- Enbridge has invested in an alternate pipeline and route that may not kill Sandpiper, but it likely will be on the back-burner for the foreseeable future

- Motion made by Jim Carlson to donate \$1,000 to Friends of the Headwaters, Kathy seconded
- b. Ben
- Passed around placemat from Bann's as an idea for membership outreach
- c. Bob Greifzu
- Mentioned fact that Foundation event on August 27th is approaching and folks need to RSVP. John S. pointed out that many may not RSVP at all but still plan to attend

G. Guest Speakers

a. Ron Smith, Township Supervisor-

- 120 foot tower being proposed by "Mobility Lite" in the Bridge Road area for Wi-Fi, cell phone service, although the whole purpose is somewhat mysterious presently
- Brian N. explained that state law requires a five-acre area for such a tower
- Further discussion will be had at the township meeting on September 8th at 1pm
- The township crew worked long hours getting power restored and then with storm debris clean-up resulting in some road improvement projects being postponed
- A "Carryway" is a 33-foot wide gravel township road
- McGregor Chamber of Commerce has proposed a 3% lodging tax, 95% of funding would go back to Chamber, 5% to township. Lodge apparently supports it
- Township clean-up is Saturday September 24th, 9am-2pm
- Township has received complaints about vegetation in the channel on Minnewawa-but this is a County or DNR issue
- Beaver problems continue to leave a lot of low lands and ditches flooded
- Illegally ducting water is an issue on some properties and is subject to zooming so our members should be aware

b. Sheriff Turner

- Not a lot of issues being reported on the Lake this year which is great and perhaps a testament to our great Lake Association
- The power outages here were bad but not as bad as other areas in the County and we were also spared the flooding that many others had. No Federal Disaster Declaration has been made on the basis that the threshold amount of damage did not occur, but there will be FEMA funds received for the flooding and wind events
- Deputies have been doing some more extensive AIS efforts this summer in conjunction with the access inspectors

- Some of the group had questions regarding excessive noise on the lake
- c. Brian Napstad
- All no-wake emergency restrictions in Aitkin County have expired. As always, they are very unpopular. They are for emergency situations like in the flooding circumstances we saw this summer.
 - Patio ordinance revised to define a patio as an in-ground surface that does not exceed 6 inches in height, defines things like a fire pit as an “accessory”. The rule would be 2 square feet of patio per lineal foot of frontage can be built within 10 feet of normal high water mark. No more than 25% of impervious surface allowed on any lot. Water accessory structures (a boathouse for example or a gazebo) limited to 10 feet in width as viewed from lake, 10 feet in height excluding guard rails, not more than 200 square feet in size. Previously a patio was being treated under the rule for water accessory structures which this new rule is designed to differentiate the two.
 - “Granny Shack”: Allowed by State on any property in MN but a County can opt out and Aitkin did opt out to ensure that such structures can’t be openly dropped on any lake lot right up to the property line for example. So Aitkin County will allow them but subject to case-by-case rules. Individual living in such a structure must be under the care of those living in the primary structure
 - John S. asked a question about lots with junk cars and loose animals. Brian explained the ordinance regarding junk cars and also that regarding the animals, considering we live in a rural area they are allowed
 - Ongoing beaver issues are a problem throughout the County and beyond which is creating a need for a policy of coordinating with hired trappers and county funds to pay the trapping costs. Possible legislation in this regard is on the horizon.
- d. Bill Reed
- Reported on his recent attendance at BSALWMP Meetings. Distributed buffer zone materials (attached)
 - Brian N. Explained buffer rules in and around lake properties
 - Tour to be conducted September 14th for the BSALWMP group and they may need up to three volunteer pontoons. The purpose is to view and discuss the projects that have been funded by their group over the past year
 - Regarding ACLARA meeting-time conflict. Gordon Prickett thought we should have folks to rotate away from our meeting occasionally and attend their meetings during the 9 months out of the year that they

have meetings. Group agreed that we would review their minutes and participate as needed

e. Bob Greifzu

- Attended seminar on lake Mille Lacs health. Big Sandy remains on a “watched list” due to the high frequency of boats in and out of the lake. 29 inspectors here in Aitkin County
- 3 pressure washers here in the County-1 at Willey’s, one at FIRM, and one mobile unit. These units have the ability to heat the water to 140 degrees which is sufficient to kill the veliger’s

AIS Time=
13
members
times 15
min

Motion made by Kathy to adjourn, Ben seconded. Adjourned at 11:05.

Next Meeting is Saturday September 10, 2016