

Big Sandy Lake Association Meeting
Grace Lutheran Church – 4/8/2016

Called to Order at 8:38

Board Members Present-Bruce Johnson, Ben Gisselman, Kathy Beatty, Jack Johnson, Mark Johnson, Andy Streeter, Mickey Utech, Jeff Backowski, Russ Thompson, John Pilney, Janet Hill

Others Present: Sue Westberg, Bob Greifzu, Brian Napstad, Larry Berg, Janet Smude

- A. Review and Approve Prior Minutes-
Mark moved, Jack seconded
- B. Review and Approve Treasurer's Report (see attached)
Jack moved to approve Treasurer's report, Kathy seconded
- C. President's Report
 - Continued Discussion of Suggested Meeting Times
 - Motion made to begin having meetings at 8:30 a.m. on Saturdays for July, August, and September, Kathy moved, Janet seconded. Will be announced at annual meeting
 - The Passing of Lynn Elling
 - Bruce did send a card to the family
 - Ranger Tower
 - DNR will make some improvements and leave it open to the public, but there have been issues with vandalism which, if the issues persist, the DNR would consider closing the tower to the public
- D. Old Business
 - a. GFO
 - Need a point person for the booth on Friday night from 4-7. Bruce will set up the booth, Jack will be there, Jeff will help as he can after his color guard duties
 - Motion made by Kathy to print 1,500 more copies of the map, Mark seconded
 - Ben suggested we have AIS info there, Bob G. will get that info for us and ensure it gets to the community picnic
 - b. Jim Carlson to arrange lead swap at our booth as well-Bruce to contact Jim Carlson regarding this
 - c. Sue Westberg asked about Minnewawa's participation at the community picnic and Ben indicated that he would have someone contact her
 - d. Discussion regarding 2016 budget and credits received
 - e. Discussion regarding AIS and our contribution towards last year's efforts and their request for 8,500-Ben to continue to work on this
 - f. Ben submitted AIS grant application for 2016
 - g. Ben spoke with Steve Hughes who indicated that the accesses will be monitored on the weekend of the Opener-Ben to confirm (this was subsequently confirmed)

- h. Discussion had regarding the whereabouts of the decontamination units
 - i. Highway Cleanup is April 30th at 10am at the Church, Lunch at Zorbaz after, Ben will organize and Jack will help
- E. New Business
- a. Logs of Daily Activities
- D. Director's Reports
- a. Janet spoke regarding Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations
 - Three bills:
 - Garafalo supports no cert of need for pipelines but Janet sensed not popular
 - Fabian wants PUC elected instead of appointed by Gov.
 - Muskie stocking bill-huge issue, many pros and cons
 - MN COLA really wants to address AIS and clean water
 - Labeling lakes "impaired" now means something different and more relevant to the water quality and habitat quality for animals/birds
 - Curly leaf pondweed undesignated as an AIS (BSL does not have)
 - McGregor scoping for environmental impact statement is on May 11th at the East Lake Community Center
 - b. John Pilney spoke regarding ongoing local mining efforts
 - c. Kathy on membership
 - Total membership is 503
 - Increased four business members this year
 - MNCOLA sent out Lessard-Sams grant-discussion ensued regarding what projects we would undertake
 - Janet Smude mentioned that they have a grant we could apply for (\$5,000 max) that we could apply for and then dole out to our own members
- F. Guest Speakers
- a. Sue Westberg-
 - LID discussed and the fact that it was created separate from the Association for transparency
 - Ownership of a weed harvester necessary on Minnewawa
 - The LMA owns their own building
 - Meeting times on Saturdays
 - b. Brian Napstad-
 - Plenty of water problems this spring
 - Particularly in town of McGregor and Clark and Sabo townships-this is south and east of Willey's
 - Beavers building dams in ditches
 - County does not have mechanism to raise revenues on ditch systems here to address these kinds of problems and assessing only the local owners is prohibitively expensive and not popular

- Discussed County ditch 5-landowner threatening to sue City of McGregor (located south on shortcut and about halfway between town and 65)
 - Floating bog has been removed for the most part from the mouth of the Prairie River. DNR coming on Tuesday to remove the remaining portion of the remaining bog
- c. Ron Smith
- Township is inspecting roads here in the near future so you'll see them around
 - Board of Taxation appeals is on April 25th
 - Cleanup is April 30th from 9am-2pm, Ron won't be present
 - Trouble this year with frost heaves and other low-lying road issues
 - Slow thaw on the frost during heavy mud times created additional issues
 - Tennis courts-on township property but the property is not square and so some of the property is leased from the County. County will not allow township to put the grant-funded 200k replacement cost on the County property, question exists regarding public interest
 - Bruce will be at cleanup, Jeff, and Jack
- d. Janet Smude (See Handout)
- Excess nutrient levels continue to render Big Sandy an "impaired" water
 - Water quality analysis happening this summer in multiple locations on BSL, John Pilney and Janet Hill suggested they may volunteer
 - Discussion had regarding counting hours for AIS grant purposes 17/hour equivalent value, .54/mile driven
 - Phosphorus reduction efforts underway this summer
 - Brian added some remarks regarding Janet's watershed map showing the size of our planning boundaries and being realistic of what our "sub-watershed district" would look like

Motion made by Kathy, Mickey seconded. Adjourned at 11:22.

Next Meeting is Friday May 13, 2016.

Mickey to provide treats for May