

**BIG SANDY LAKE
ASSOCIATION**

2008 Board Meeting Minutes

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BIG SANDY LAKE ASSOCIATION January 11, 2008

Meeting called to order by President Mark Johnson at 8:35.

Members Present: Bob Griefzu, Jim Carlson, John Sturner, Don Fuchs, Karen Trembley, John Merboth, Neil Sampson & Jack Johnson.

Guests Present: Ron Smith

Minutes & Treasurers approved.

President Report: The BSLA will continue grants with the Clean Water Partnership. The directors of the BSLA will provide an in-kind match of time or money for the following projects, speakers & workshops, send out newsletters, send directors to the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Association Conferences, hire DNR intern to educate and work with the people on BSL. Educate property owners on lakeshore & water quality, assist the McGregor 5th & 6th grades with their curriculum & the summer water institute. Mark will talk with Janet Smude on ways of spending Grant money.

Water Quality: John Pilney received an e-mail from the MPCA (Don Kriens) regarding pollutants coming into Big Sandy Lake. Don Kriens explained some of the sources and what they can and can not do in such areas as farming etc.

BSLAWMP: Neil Sampson discussed the possibilities of a small meander on Ditch 14. This is done as a demonstration not as a fix. There is a lot of resistance and there would have to be public meetings etc

ROPE: Nothing to report

TMDL: Nothing to report

WATER PLANNING TASK FORCE: The Water Planning Task Force is being proactive in regards to various water sources.

INVASIVE SPECIES: Neal Sampson reported that Don Jensen will speak at our Feb. 8th board meeting regarding invasive species.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS: The McGregor Chamber of Commerce was asking for sponsorship for the Big Sandy Snowmobile Race. Motion not to sponsor the snowmobile race this year pending the results of our survey that was sent out in Jan. Motion was voted and carried. Jim Carlson reported the Water Institute is in the planning stage for 2008. Jim Carlson will also get the details for the BSL board to serve a community meal and bring the information to the Feb 8th meeting. Motion was made and seconded to give \$300.00 towards the Rivers & Lakes Fair. Motion was made and seconded to give \$2500.00 to the Water Institute.

WATER SURFACE USE: nothing to report

FISHERIES: nothing to report

VEGATATION: Don Fuchs will try and get Wayne Mueller to speak at our March meeting. We will be asking Maggie Leach to come to our April meeting to discuss TMDL (water quality).

Guest Speaker: Ron Smith reported the progress of the Shamrock Township maintenance building. Right now they are waiting on steel beams for the roof.

LAND USE & ZONING: The BSL board is sending a letter to the Aitkin County Board of Adjustments regarding variances on the lake. Motion made and seconded to send letter to Aitkin County Board of Adjustment.

NEWSLETTER: Jim Carlson is collecting articles for the April Newsletter. Bring or send articles to Jim C. by March 19th. Newsletter will be put together at Karen's house on April 10, 2008. Jim C. & John Merboth will be working on the nominating committee. Potential board members will be in the April newsletter. Bios for potential board members and exiting board members that have agreed to run will go in the June newsletter.

CORRESPONDENCE: A letter from the Minnesota Waters is asking for any financial help for their WEB site, any help will be greatly appreciated. Motion was made and seconded to send \$200.00 for their WEB site and seconded. Motion amended to send \$100.00 for the year 2007 and \$100.00 for 2008, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Dan Branson will call the insurance man regarding an umbrella policy for BSL board.

By-Laws are still in process and will remain under old business.

The audit for our bank accounts is being scheduled.

NEW BUSINESS: John Sturner will represent BSLA for the Star Lake proposal.

A motion was made and seconded to pay 15 cents a mile to BSL board members who attend meetings or business. Motion amended to read 30 cents per mile to BSL board members who attend meetings or business. Motion carried.

Motion made and seconded to pay the log church \$600.00 for year 2007 & 2008 for the use of their community room for lake association meetings.

Meeting Adjourned.

Jim Carlson will bring treats for the Feb. 8th meeting.

Karen M. Trembley, secretary

BSLA MEETING MINUTES OF FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2008

Board Members Present: Mark Johnson, Bob Greifzu, Dan Branson, Jim Carlson, John Merboth, Jack Johnson, Don Fuchs, Neal Sampson, John Pilney

Meeting minutes of February 8th, 2008, approved as presented by Bob Greifzu, 2nd by Neal Sampson.

Treasurers reported given by Dan Branson – will be revising December 2007, January 2008 – now using new computer program – Quicken – approved by Jim Carlson, 2nd by Bob Greifzu.

MEMBERSHIP – 323 so far.

PRESIDENTS REPORT – Received 319 Grant monies for summer intern - River Lakes fair – Big Sandy report – Steve Hughes – water quality report – call for papers – more information next month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – OTHER

-BSALWMP – locals were apposed to Meandering of Ditch 14.

-Rope Study – Bob waiting for report-

-John Merboth – Rope study – more information on survey for lakeshore owners – use results of survey for members – members want current information

-TMDL – meeting with Aitkin, Carlton – revisions – end of next week – sediment samples for testing phosphorus – Barr Engineering to do testing – Barr Engineering meeting about sampling – who wants to do – do an article for Newsletter - wild rice permit? – business sold – new owner, Steve Morgan – concern, source of phosphorus

- 319 report – handout – grant

- Water Planning Task Force – update – development of lakes – ponds – what happens – Aitkin County – how we take care – quality – new committee – smaller lakes – quality of water – development

-Fishing Pier – met with Wayne Floe – Jim Carlson, Bob Greifzu

-Invasive species – grant approved – 1 intern, maybe 2 – workshop – identify species – \$500 fee grant pays for – need new signage – Neal Sampson in charge of – needs to be done by 1st of May– include members for help in installing signage

- Jim Carlson – Water Institute brochure to be done by early May (15th) - copy to all BSLA members - Letter – take a kid fishing – requesting help - \$100 donation – approved by Bob Greifzu, 2nd by Neal Sampson – Fleming Lake, June 7th – hats instead of shirts – 2 hats - Community Week – July 16th – Jim Carlson to update

-John Merboth – will continue mowing overlook – will need help the 1st mowing

-Community dates – May 12th County road 14 pick up

– BSLA annual meeting June 21st

– June 4th, River and Lakes fair, need all dates for Newsletter – will put in Newsletters twice. - Invasive species – aquatic plant management program – purpose – aquatic plant management permits – mailing will go out to property owners (BSLA members?) – who can get a permit –

types of control – what activities do not require a permit – floating leaf aquatic plants – when is permit required – emergent aquatic plants – when considering shoreline or lake vegetation control – have realistic expectations – limit control to what is necessary – think in long-range terms – consider cumulative effects – understand – penalties – DNR website – Wayne Muller

Aquatic plant management for DNR– packets to lake shore owners – restoration projects before/after

- Water surface use – no meeting yet

- Fisheries – no current information – need meeting – DNR – across the board – have meeting for information

- Government relations – John Sturner – not heard

- ACLARA – April start - Education – Janet Smoody – hire someone for planting – use Todd Streeters shoreline as example – Jim Krezowski to head this committee

Old Business – change bank signature cards for current signers

Guests – -Shamrock Township – building almost complete – spring clean up – April 26th

-Brian Napstad – Kennecott – exploration – map showing different areas – new leases for different mineral uses – 2 more years of exploration before there is going to be a mine – 6 leases for this area- 10 year – half a million dollars worth of payments – exploration/build within 10 years – who gets what – BSALWMP meeting on Friday – restoration of Sandy river – survey – regional plan – EPA mandated plan by 2064 to restore sites to its original look – 350 million to restore.

- Nominations for Board of Directors – will put in Newsletter

- Community meal – done

- Annual meeting agenda – Brian Napstad – Terry Neff – Scott Turner – Dan Guida – Brent Speldish

- Treats for April – Mark Johnson

- next meeting – April 11th, 2008, @ 8:30a.m. at Grace Lutheran Church

- Meeting adjournment – John Merboth, 2nd by Mark Johnson

Meeting Minutes subject to corrections, additions

Lee Johnson – for Karen Trembly

BSLA MEETING MINUTES OF FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008 (RE-SCHEDULED DUE TO WEATHER)

Meeting called to order by President Mark Johnson at 8:35.

Board Members Present: Bob Griefzu, Jim Krezowski, Bill Reed, Jack Johnson, John Merboth, Karen Trembley, Dan Branson, Neal Sampson, Don Fuchs and John Pilney.

Guest Speakers: Bonnie Finnerty (MPCA) and Jeff Steere (Corp on Engineers)

Guests: Brian Napstad, Todd Streeter, Dean Anderson, Richard Kush, John Daine, Vern Awes, Ron Johanson, Ron Smith, Dave Orttels, Ron F

Meeting minutes for March 14, 2008 was corrected to read BSLAWAMP – Locals were apposed to the meandering of Ditch 14. Minutes approved as read.

Membership is at 350 members.

Presidents Report: Karen has old material from BSLA, such as meeting minutes etc. We need to go through this and determine if there are things to keep or to get rid of. Mark asked if we should send someone to an invasive species conference.

Bonnie Finnerty (MPCA) reported that Bar Engineering will lead the entire study for Aitkin County water sampling. There are sampling points used for data collecting, modeling etc. We are hopeful this modeling and sampling will be helpful for our TMDL on BSL. Bonnie said a contract has to be signed before any of the studies can begin. Brian Napstad reported that there could grant money available for this project. We can send our questions to John Pilney who will in turn give to the appropriate folks regarding the TMDL.

Water Planning Task Force: Brian Napstad passed out a report of Aitkin County Water Planning concerns. There were 5 concerns developed by the Task Force: 1) Surface Water Management 2) Land Use and Development 3) Ground Water Quality 4) Fish & Wildlife Habitat 5) Education. This could affect future grants.

Invasive Species: Neal S. reported there will be 2 interns coming to cover our public accesses on high weekend traffic. We need to register for invasive species class that will be conducted on July 25-26. Neal will have a request ready for the board. Neal will check on signs at public access. Dan Branson is gathering information about a pressure washer for boat launches.

Our Community meal is still on schedule for July.

Water Surface Use – nothing to report at this time...hope the group will stay active when folks return for the summer.

Todd Streeter is still planning on having some of his yard goes back to its natural state.

Jim Krezowski is working with Janet Smude to set up a planting day where others can learn about a buffer strip.

Newsletter articles: Article from Bonnie (MPCA), Bill Reed will have an article on 911 signs. Mark Johnson will have a news article from Kennecott mining. Each person running for BSLA board position have a short

BIO. Survey results from John Merboth. Articles for the newsletter need to be given to Jim Carlson by May 21st. Mark your calendar to put newsletter together June 12th s at 1:00. ROPE:

Jeff Steere Headwaters Reservoir Operating Plan Evaluation (ROPE), a draft operating Plan for Big Sandy Lake. There is a possibility of draw down of water on BSL earlier than usual. This could happen in July opposed to the middle of Sept. Work is nearly complete on the refinement and analysis of the proposed plan. Environmental Impact Statement, or EIS, describing the effects of the plan in detail is currently being drafted and will be released for public review this spring. Following the release of the draft EIS, a final series of public meetings will be held to gather public comments. Public notices will be released at a later date announcing the dates and locations for the public meetings, which will likely be held in late May or early June. It is anticipated that operation under the new plan would begin this fall. Recommendation of our board is to send a letter to all lake shore owners with information on this subject. Motion was made and seconded to send an informational letter to every home owner on BSL regarding the Reservoir Operating proposed plan. The board will meet on the 24th of April to put this letter together and mail to home owners. Bob Griefzu will be the focal point for ROPE.

Thanks to Bonnie (MPCA) and Jeff (Corp of Engineers) for attending our BSLA meeting.

Ron Smith reminded folks that Tax Protest day is on the 25th of April, you must go to your township first and then to Aitkin County Board if you are unhappy with your property taxes. The County 14 Bridge is on hold at the present time.

Old Business: Annual meeting...on-going
Audit...on-going
Nominations for Board members...on-going
Survey...on-going

New Business: Dan Branson will pay the bill for BSLA coffee.

Meeting Adjourned.

Karen M. Trembley, secretary

A work session was held on April 24th, 2008 to compose a position paper that will be sent to all BSL owners regarding the proposed changes regarding the lowering of BSL starting in July opposed to Sept. This letter will go out to all lake owners with information regarding the draw down of BSL and contacts that folks can write letters/e-mail/call regarding the draw down the Corp are proposing. The position paper will also be sent out from the lake association board signed by Mark Johnson to Minnesota senators/representatives on the Federal level, state level, Governor and to Steve Clark, Corps of Engineers. This position paper that was written by Vern Awes and reviewed by guests at the special meeting and will be refined and prepared for printing by Vern White, Vern Awes, Bob Griefzu, Dan Branson and Mark Johnson. Board members present, Karen Trembley, Bob Griefzu, Mark Johnson, Jack Johnson, Dan Branson, Vern White, Bill Reed, John Merboth and 48 guests present.

BSLA MEETING MINUTES FRIDAY, May 9, 2008

Board members present: John Merboth, Don Fuchs, Bill Reed, Jim Carlson, Neal Sampson, John Sturner, Dan Branson, Bob Griefzu and Karen Trembley.

Guests present: Bruce Larson, Brian Napstad, Dean Anderson, Ron Smith, Betty Seidenh Franz, Shirley Scollard, Brent Speldrich, Scott Turner and David Leaf.

Meeting called to order by Vice President Jim Krezowski at 8:35.

Minutes and Treasurers report were approved as read.

Membership is at 426.

Vice President Report: Mark Johnson is asking the board to complete their time sheets. A letter from Leah Peterson from Minnesota Waters is hosting a workshop on Wednesday the 21st of May and the cost is \$10.00 per person. Motion was made and seconded to provide gas and event money for anyone attending on the 21st of May.

Proposed Agenda for annual meeting: Terry Neff could come to the annual meeting and field questions from the audience. We need to keep Kennecott in the loop, keep in touch with Brain Napstad regarding Kennecott issues.

ROPE: Letters went out to all property owners regarding ROPE. Letters were also sent to our Senators/Representatives, the Governor and Steve Clark.

TMDL: The work plan was finalized with BAR engineering and is expected to be finalized with Aitkin County next week. John Pilney will write up questions regarding TMDL and send to the MPCA. John will do a follow-up.

Water Planning: None

Invasive Species: Neal and Jim K. will work together to keep invasive species out of Big Sandy Lake. Motion was made to pay for signs at BSL public landings. Motion was amended to have enforcement language on the sign. Motion was seconded. Jim K. will talk to Connie and the DNR.

Water Surface Use: nothing to report

Community Projects: On August 23, 2008 Mark & Julie Krezowski will be hosts for the Big Sandy Lake Foundation. The Big Sandy Water Institute will be sending out their 2008 summer schedule. Jim Carlson will check with the Lions if they could help support our handicap dock.

Motion made and seconded to reimburse John Merboth for all mowing expenses.

Jim Carlson wanted articles for June newsletter by May 21st. He needs BIOS's from 4 board members.

Old Business: Are there any other nominations for the board. The community meal is still on going.

New Business: None

Guest Ron Smith thanked the board for helping with the clean-up. Shamrock Township will be writing a letter regarding ROPE to all concerned parties.

Guest Brent Speldrich covered areas of invasive species. Brent said it is OK to put up signs at public landings that will help educate folks on invasive species. Sheriff Scott Turner said the buoy's are out. He appealed to the public to use common sense while boating and to watch for no-wake zones.

Guest Brian Napstad commented on the no-wake ordinance, this has to be done in a lawful manner. There will be a ROPE headwaters meeting in Walker on May 16th.

Bill Reed has been working on the by-laws; this project needs to be accomplished very soon.

John Sturner is writing a letter to Aitkin County regarding a couple of garbage properties. We are hoping Aitkin County will take some action soon.

Meeting Adjourned....

Jim Krezowski will bring treats.

Karen M. Trembley, secretary

BSLA Board Meeting June 13, 2006

Meeting called to order by President Mark Johnson at 8:30 a.m.

Board Members present: Mark Johnson, Bob Greifzu, Jack Johnson, Neal Sampson, Dan Branson, Bill Reed, John Merboth, John Pilney, Jim Knoble, Don Fuchs, and John Sturner

Guests: Barb Greifzu, Bruce Larson

Reports:

Minutes of May 9th – accepted as presented by Bob Greifzu, 2nd Dan Branson

Treasurers Report– accepted as presented by John Sturner, 2nd Jim Knoble

Membership report – John Merboth 456 members to date – comment sheet – Bill Reed – More discussion on membership at annual meeting June 21st – survey – handout

President report – members need to hand in time sheets – April, May, June – Interns paid for by hours – important to get sheets in

Committee Reports

Water quality – Kennebec at meeting – County ditch discussion

BSALWMP – soil and water questions – Janet Smudy

Rope Study – Walker meeting – only 3 at meeting – 1st step – July Environmental Impact Statement – increase – Steve will have public meetings

TMDL – Still has not signed contract – readings – data from 2 weeks ago – Janet Smudy – samples – water quality – how has it progress through the years

Water Planning Task Force – Tour of septic systems

Invasive species – Neal gave report – public signs – what size – 2' x 4' – approval for 10 signs – motion made by John Sturner, 2nd by Jim Knoble – discussion – motion amended for signage costs up to \$1,500 (depending on size) – made by Don Fuchs, 2nd Jim Knoble all in favor.

Community Projects – Big Sandy Foundation Meeting August 23, 2008 – Foundation would like stronger association with BSLA – what is their purpose – discussion on table –

Other projects –

Water Surface Use – Meeting next week

Fisheries - Dan – 38 responses – some wanted no more restrictions – some were restrictions only to land owners – some more restrictions – some concerned about mortality rate in returning to water – will pass results on

Government Relations – John Sturner letter to Aitkin County Board of Commissioners regarding properties in question of public nuisances and how clean up should proceed – and that Board Members would like to be in attendance for any of these considerations. Many BSLA property owners have had a long standing issue with properties in violation – and what action can be taken.

Land Use and Zoning – no application for usage – older mailing

Correspondence – 2 township boards support BSLA on lake lowering

Old Business –

Annual meeting – Agenda done – will pass out at meeting

Audit – Completed

By Laws – working on – should be completed in July

Community Meal – July 16th – 10 people for working – plan for 110 people Thank you again to Barb and Bob Greifzu for purchasing of door prizes for annual meeting

Motion made to adjourned meeting at 10:20 a.m. by Jim Knoble, 2nd John Sturner –

Next meeting – July 11th – 8:30 a.m. – Grace Lutheran Church

Minutes reported by Lee Johnson in absence of Karen Trembly – subject to corrections/revisions

BIG SANDY LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETING JULY 11, 2008

Board Members Present: John Merboth, Jim Carlson, Jack Johnson, Jim Knoble, Vern White, Dan Branson, John Pilney, Bill Reed, Jim Krezowski, Mike Tait, Karen Trembley, Bob Griefzu.

Guests Present: Bruce Larson, Ron Smith, Sheriff Turner, Jim Mickelson & daughter, Brian Napstad, Kennecott mining folks.

President Mark Johnson opened the meeting at 8:35.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes and Treasurers report.

Election of Officers: Dan Branson, Treasurer – Karen Trembley, Secretary will remain on the board. Mark Johnson & Jim Krezowski will share the duties of Vice President and President.

Motion made and seconded to accept these positions.

John Merboth has everything in place for the community meal on the 17th of July. All workers need to be there by 4:30.

Jim Carlson needs all articles for the newsletter by the 22nd of July. Newsletter will be put together at Karen's house on the 7th of August at 1:00. John Pilney, Bill Reed, Dan Branson, Sheriff Turner will have articles to go in the newsletter.

ROPE: Dan Branson asked if the board could facilitate a meeting regarding ROPE. We will wait to hear from Dan regarding this meeting; he will be in touch with Steve Clark.

Mark passed out the organizational structure and asked the board to think about what you can do. This will be on our agenda August 8th meeting.

Water Planning Task Force: A request to have Steve Hughes set up a tour at Kennecott. Bob Griefzu will get back to board on the date.

Invasive Species: Neal S. is still working on appropriate verbiage for signs at boat landings. The workshop class will be July 25th & 26th-mail for further information.

Community Projects: The water institute is on going due to some cancelled rain days. Jack will get date for county 14 pick-ups. Wild Rice Days the end of August.

ACLARA – next meeting in Aitkin regarding ROPE. Jim Krezowski will have more information regarding Eagles Program, give details to Jim Carlson.

Bill Reed reported on the meeting he attended in Walker hosted by Minnesota Waters for a number of counties in our area. He emphasized the aggressive tactics regarding invasive species that two counties are taking, and the need to do so on Big Sandy to avoid the serious consequences if we fail to keep them out. A copy of the by- will be voted on at the Aug. BSLA meeting.

Three folks from Kennecott had a presentation on the mining operation with questions and answers to follow. They encouraged folks to take of tour of their operations.

Scott Turner reported a great summer so far. Slow no wake zone is still in question on the Prairie River. Bruce Larson asked what the rules are on the Prairie River...

Ron Smith..Shamrock Township: The mowing is done, there have been drainage issues and fallen trees have been an issue. Work is almost complete on the new maintenance building. The

tennis courts should be done in a week or so. The wash out on bridge road is in process of being fixed.

Brian Napstad County Commissioner: Brian passed out a copy of phosphorus testing since 1994, an aerial photo was taken and a map to depict phosphorus, Janet Smude provided this data. Brian also reported on the proposed Shoreland Ordinance...there are some areas in the document that need to be addressed. There will be a meeting regarding the Shoreland Ordinance in Aitkin, Aug. 9th at 10 AM. Brian encouraged everyone to attend.

Mike Tait will bring treats for Aug. meeting

Motion made and seconded to adjourn meeting.

Karen M. Trembley, secretary

Jim Mickalson said the board is doing a great job.

BSLA Board Meeting August 8th, 2008

Meeting called to order by President Jim Krezowski at 8:35.

Members Present: Dan Branson, John Pilney, Mark Johnson, Mike Tait, Bill Reed, Jim Knoble, Neal Sampson, John Merboth, Bob Griefzu, Karen Trembley, Jack Johnson, Jim Carlson and John Pilney.

Guests Present: Bruce Larson, Vern Awes, Brian Napstad, Sheriff Turner and Bruce Larson.

Motion made and seconded to accept July minutes and Treasurers report.

Presidents Report: Jim Krezowski thanked everyone who helped serve the community meal in McGregor. A couple of things were added to the agenda, there will be a Kennecott tour if we would like to go. A Shoreland Ordinance meeting will be held on Aug 9th, 2008 at the court house in Aitkin. Keep up your clean-water partnership time sheets as hours are accumulated and used for grant money.

New Business: Bill Reed has worked on the by-laws and the new by-laws have been reviewed by all board members. President Krezowski asked if there was any discussion, there was none. Jim Knoble made a motion to approve by-laws; this was seconded by Mike Tait. All those in favor signify by saying I, approved by all. By-Laws amended as of today 8-8-08.

Items on the agenda: Should various meeting's/jobs be combined to become more knowledgeable in a given area. Neal Sampson asked to be removed from BSLAWAMP meetings and asked to have vegetation and invasive species combined. Bill Reed would like to be taken off BSLAWAMP and put on ROPE and upper Mississippi meeting etc....Table these issues until the Sept. meeting.

Annual Meeting Evaluation.... All reports were the meeting went well along with good information. John Merboth reported the meeting was shorter and the pace was improved. Mike Tait asked if Sheriff Scott Turner comes next year that he has an educational agenda.

Jim Krezowski asked if the board wants to go ahead with the Kennecott mine tour and if we would want to piggy back along with the Water Planning Task Force, everyone was in favor. Bob Griefzu will contact Steve Hughes regarding the date and time.

Joni Torgeson from Kennecott contacted John Pilney and asked to go with John to do our BSL water samplings which will be on Monday; Jim Knoble will go when he can.

The Shoreland Ordinance meeting will be at the Aitkin court house on the 9th of August. Mike Tait, Bill Reed, Jack Johnson and Bob Griefzu will be attending. Mike Tait has a concern of the ordinance being to constrictive. Speak on your own behalf...this is a hearing and still goes back to commissioners.

Newsletter.....Karen Trembley recommended we go to quarterly newsletter. Motion was made by Bob Griefzu and seconded by Jim Knoble to have the newsletter quarterly. Vern White offered to help Jim Carlson, Vern also suggested putting it on the WEB page. Articles for the newsletter need to be to Jim Carlson by Sept. 19th. We will be putting the first newsletter together at Karen's on October 9th.

Bonnie FinetyThis will be the kick off collecting data for all the years of work to figure the internal process of phosphorous. Bar Engineering will be putting all data into models by next

June. John Pilney will be our contact person for the TMDL study. Neal will work on getting the TMDL study on the Big Sandy Web site. Work with John Pilney as a lead person on this project.

Vern Awes stated we are into a campaign season....Mr. Napstad is running for commissioner and Vern would be happy to bring any data to us, Vern is seeking our support for Mr. Napstad.

Commissioner Napstad.....The Shoreland Ordinance meeting will be August 9th at 10:00 at the county court house. The document will be screened at the public meeting, it is very important for the public's input before the decision is made. What the bill proposes is to manage watershed level in Minnesota.

Sheriff Turner reported this summer has been quiet on the lake.

The ROPE study hearing will be at McGregor School at 6:00 on Sept. 8th, 2008.

Neal Sampson did a workshop on Big Sandy for invasive Species....it was very interesting to identify an invasive species plant....a weed was found and reported to the DNR specialist.

Water Surface Use....Vern White will get e-mail out to all folks regarding their meeting. Amy Kloburchar and Norm Coleman responded to our letter regarding ROPE study and they have contacted the CORP of ENGINEERS.

The October meeting will be held at the Aitkin court house...Jim Knoble will bring treats.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn meeting.

Karen M. Trembley, secretary

BIG SANDY LAKE BOARD MEETING Sept. 12th, 2008

Board Members Present: John Pilney, Bill Reed Vern White, Jack Johnson, John Sturner, Jim Knoble, John Merboth, Neal Sampson, Mike Tait, Karen Trembley, Jim Carlson & Bob Griefzu.

Guests Present: Craig Anderson, Vern Awes, Dave Leaf, Dave Tjosvold, Brian Napstad & Sheriff Scott Turner.

Vice President Mark Johnson called the meeting to order at Aitkin, County court house at 9:05.

Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes and treasurers report.

Sept. is the end of the quarter for the water grant fund, Mark Johnson asked all board members to bring our time sheets in at the October meeting. We should have the report back from Heidi Wolf on the outcome of interns that were at our public landings this summer.

ROPE: There were 120 people at McGregor High School for the ROPE meeting. Bill Reed reported the board and BSL home owners have two major issues right now, the ROPE study and Shoreland Ordinances. We are looking at better options to communicate with BSL owners. Brian Napstad reported that the ROPE study has been out for some time and the county board will take a position regarding ROPE and will get back to the BSLA board on this issue. There is concern when there is high water, what does the CORP intend for that? Jim Carlson made a suggestion to open up Pine Knoll which would allow water to flow perfectly; Brian Napstad said this would not be an official s-up with Dan. It would be helpful to authorize George Tienen who would be in touch with Sandra as well. Motion was made and seconded to write a letter to all lake shore owners urging them to write a letter to the CORP, the board would put together a generic letter with bullet points, concerns etc. regarding ROPE, when the letter is completed it will be put together and sent out in a timely manner.

Motion was made and seconded to table BSLA Structure until the next meeting (How do we divide the work?)

Communication Web Page: A suggestion was made to set up a Task Force to set up our own Web Page. Neal Sampson encouraged everyone to take a field trip on the computer and see what other associations are doing before we start shooting in the dark. A guest made a comment that has a WEB site for his business, there is no start up costs and you can upgrade. John Pilney will check with his daughter on her WEB site. The next BSLA meeting we will discuss options. Craig said Wayne Floe has offered help; bulletin boards are a possibility, guest comment by Vern Awes to check with Wayne Floe. Brian Napstad suggested looking at the Mississippi Headwaters Web site. A motion was made by Vern White to allocate \$500.00 towards the WEB...this motion was seconded.

Shoreland Ordinance...Brian Napstad will be addressing this at the commissioners meeting. The draft will be talked about and there are various components that Brian supports.

Bill Reed suggested we update the membership form.

Motion was made and seconded to change our October BSLA meeting to October 17th .

Jim Carlson is resigning from the board as of today Sept. 12th, 2008. We can appoint someone to fill Jim. Also, Jim Knoble is potentially resigning as of June 2009.

TMDL...Jim Pilney said the lake is not improving, he has 2007 data, we are measuring sediment on the lake, any time you do anything to the lake this will create impacts.

Water Planning Task Force... There will be a Kennecott tour on Sept 24th at 1:00; hopefully the water planning task force will attend.

Invasive Species... The purple blue strife in BSL has been sprayed. Bill Reed will write an article for the October newsletter.

Water Surface Use... We will answer to the folks who quarried us regarding the sign on Prairie River Bridge. Vern will respond to property owners and will forward a copy to the Sheriff. Is there such a thing as a speed limit on Prairie River?

Fisheries... Jack Johnson will get the rules on fishing.

Vegetation... nothing to report.

Next Commissioner meeting Jim Knoble will plan to attend.

A resolution was made by John Sturner thanking Brian Napstad for all his support to the board, motion was made and seconded to accept John's resolution.

Newsletter: In the October newsletter Neal will upgrade with important dates and such. Mention should be made on ROPE. Sheriff will address no wake in the April newsletter. Brian Napstad will have an article in the newsletter regarding Shoreland Ordinances. John Sturner will have an article regarding the Star Lake project. January newsletter 2009 will be addressed by Vern White. Suggestions for the newsletter, the newsletter go out to all property owners, considering a different format, need to have a director of communication, newsletter for Jan. have two potential articles and be more attractive to more people. Motion was made and seconded to fund \$1000.00 for the increase of cost to the newsletter if needed

Treats for October meeting... Jack Johnson

Meeting Adjourned

Karen M. Trembley, secretary

BIG SANDY LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETING October 17, 2008

Meeting called to order by President Jim Krezowski at 8:30.

Board members: John Merboth, Dan Branson, Karen Trembley, Bob Griefzu, Jim Knoble, Jack Johnson, Bill Reed and John Pilney.

Guests: Bruce Larson, Dave Chisvold and Sheriff Turner

Minutes and Treasurers report approved as read.

President Report: A special thanks to Shamrock Township board for writing a letter to all interested party's regarding ROPE.

Old Business: A final letter to all property owners on Big Sandy Lake regarding ROPE will go out today asking property owners to send letters e-mail or make phone calls. Property owners must reply to the Corp of Engineers by Nov 3, 2008, there will be no correspondence after that date.

Big Sandy Lake Structure: The structure assignments was discussed and decided to contact more property owners.

WEB site: Neal and Dan checked into computer costs and what the benefits would be. The board will go ahead with Jason who will be starting our WEB site. The board will publish our new WEB site in January newsletter. Suggestions regarding the WEB site were discussed such as a person to disseminate messages, to get a form for folks to contact the board etc. Motion was made and seconded for Neal and Dan to continue with the WEB site process.

Jim Carlson has resigned from the board; motion was made and seconded to give Jim & Ann a gift certificate from a local restaurant for all their work and commitment.

Jim Krezowski will contact folks for potential board members.

Jim Krezowski will contact Vern White asking if he will be working on the January 2009 newsletter.

New Business: On the 26th of October there is an invasive species meeting in Duluth, this is an instruction program. If anyone is interested in going, motion was made and seconded to reimburse folks for attending invasive species meeting.

Committee Reports: John Pilney just received an update from Janet Smude on our water sampling. We have not received any data from Bar Engineering. The samplings of phosphorus is higher this year than last year, this could be the BSL is lower and the sediment in the lake has higher phosphorus and is being stirred up. Secchi disk readings were good in July and changed in Sept. to about 3 feet. With Kennebec samples and our samples there was a big difference in phosphorus, someone needs to check with them, why their samples were different than ours.

BSLWAMP: Mark J. had a conversation with Janet Smude regarding grant monies through BSLWAMP, this money could be used for teaching purposes. Ask Mark to get in touch with Janet and ask for the guidelines to get grant money.

Water Planning Task Force: Kennebec was to have a presentation at this meeting. Water Planning Task Force has their meetings the 3rd Wed. of the month from 2PM to 4PM. The next meeting will be on the 19th of Nov.; this date will be put on our WEB site.

Community Projects: One BSLA member needs to be on the foundation board and this is in their by-laws. There should be a person from the foundation giving us a report. Mark K. will call Jim and Ann Carlson regarding the foundation and the water institute. Bob Griefzu reported the buoys will be coming out.

Water Surface Use: Nothing to report.

Fisheries: Jack Johnson reported there will be slot limits on various lakes....when you get your license, check your book for lakes that will have slot limits.

Government Relations: Bill Reed will be checking with Aitkin County on variances and if we are still receiving them.

Sheriff Turner reported it has been very quiet on the lake. We have not heard back from the DNR regarding wake or no wake zones on the Prairie River. This is contingent upon this board going with wake or no wake on the Prairie River. John Pilney will check with Janet Smude on whether or not water quality data on the Prairie River was impacted by heavy weekend boat traffic. Sheriff Scott Turner will write an article for the Jan. newsletter.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn meeting.

Jim Krezowski will bring treats for Nov. meeting.

Karen M. Trembley, secretary

BIG SANDY LAKE ASSOCIATION, Nov. 14th, 2008

Meeting called to order by President Jim Krezowski at Fisherman's Bay.

Members: Jack Johnson, John Merboth, John Pilney, Mark Johnson, Dan Branson, John Sturner, Neal Sampson, Bill Reed, Karen Trembley.

Guest: Bruce Larson, Jim Carlson, Brian Napstad, Pat Boettcher.

Minutes: Last paragraph of October 17th, was changed to read John Pilney will check with Janet Smude on whether or not water quality data on the Prairie River was impacted by heavy weekend boat traffic. Minutes were then approved.

Treasurer's report approved as read.

Membership: John Merboth reported no change.

Newsletter: Put in the newsletter how to clarify if you are a member or non-member from your address label.

President Report: President Jim Krezowski thanked Sharon and Brian Napstad for letting the BSA use Fisherman's Bay for the November meeting. Jim reported he attended a 2 day session in Duluth regarding mining. Frank Angora from Hibbing is the PR person. The DNR has approved Kennecott to mine. Minnesota is very vigilant in approvals. There was discussion regarding emissions from Mining. The DNR has hired a number of folks to oversee the mining operations.....show facts not fear is being used as the mining motto. Comments were made by the board members to attend a Tribal Counsel meeting at Black Bear regarding mining. Dan Branson has agreed to attend if there is space available at the meeting. Motion was made and seconded to cover all expenses for this meeting. If there is another person that would like to attend their expenses would be covered as well. The President asked if we should be looking at a new directory for next spring, the best time would be July/August.

ROPE: John Pilney reported he has had several calls regarding ROPE...Feb 9th, 2009 the CORP will be making their final decision. John asked what legal ramifications we have regarding the CORP decision on the water drawdown. He suggested the board come up with a contingency plan, such as calling a meeting with the CORP in the Minneapolis area and send down a small delegation to the city. We are looking for folks that could possibly attend this meeting if the CORP would agree. The President has reported he has received many letters regarding ROPE. Aitkin County strongly opposes this study and implementation.

BSALWMP: Mark Johnson stated that \$2500.00 grant money will begin July 1st; some could be used for our newsletter. Janet Smude also got some money approved for Sandy Lake, Davis Lake and Sandy River. Steve Clark gave a BSALWMP update on the Kennecott mining. The Question to Kennecott was how much sulfide is there in their finds; Kennecott will not answer that question. Next meeting is Dec. 10th, 2008, an evening meeting in Tamarack at the Snow Flyers.

TMDL: John Pilney gave an update from Janet Smude, lake samples will continue until the freeze. A question asked; did the Prairie River show any changes when the water is high or low. According to the data as of now a no wake zone on the Prairie would not be feasible at this point.

INVASIVE SPECIES: Neal attended a meeting in Duluth which was very informative. If the patch of Purple Loose Strife on Big Sandy was sprayed and did not work a possibility of introducing beetles could be an option.

Big Sandy will continue to be monitored. Neal signed Big Sandy Lake with the Sea Grant Program....Neal said this was a very good presentation.

Jim Carlsonthe water institute has finished for 2008; it is a marvelous program and will continue in 2009. Hopefully BSLA will support the water institute for 2009, BSALWAMP & the Big Sandy Foundation will also support the Water Institute. Jim C. thanked everyone for the award and gift from BSLA.

FISHERIES: Jack Johnson had nothing to report.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS: John Sturner has been appointed to the Star Lake Program. Their first official meeting will be next Wed. in Sauck Rapids. The Star Lake Program is a non-profit organization; John Sturner will keep us informed on the Star Lake Program. Motion was made and seconded to pursue the Star Lake opportunity at this time. Mark Johnson & John Pilney will work with John Sturner.

ACLARA: John Sturner offered to help out attending these meetings.

LAND USE AND ZONING: Bill Reed's name is on the list to receive variance requests.

NEWSLETTER: We looked at the various costs for the newsletter. A motion was made and seconded to have Vern White do the January 2009 newsletter as planned.

Ron Smith....leaf sites hve been changing. The clean-up went well and Ron appreciated all the help. Rip rap on the bridge has gone well. Shamrock Township is back to one meeting a month, this will be the 2nd Thursday of the month. The Township is ready for snow but is at a low ratio of salt. The new maintenance building is done; there are a couple of warranty things yet to be done. The policy for Shamrock plowing is to do black tops first. Ron will get a short article for the newsletter regarding contractors dumping etc. in ditches and public accesses.

Brian Napstad...land use and zoning has resulted in folks getting variances that were not granted. They argued for and after the fact variance, the board of adjustment did not take into affect a hardship. If you see variance's coming through it could be a practical hardship...be aware of that. The Shoreland Ordinance is still on going. Brian will continue to attend state meetings...some of issues have been very problematic.

Mak Johnson....time sheets for Oct. Nov.& Dec. will be due. Mar also asked folks if they could attend Rivers & Lakes Conference the 7th through the 9th of May 2009.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn meeting, next meeting will be Jan. 9th, 2009.

Neal Sampson will bring treats for Jan. meeting.

Karen M. Trembley, secretary