

Big Sandy Lake Association Meeting  
Big Sandy Lodge – 9/9/2017

Called to Order at 8:35 a.m.

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

Others Present: Bob Greifzu, Bill Reed, Ron Smith (Township Supervisor)

- A. Review and Approve May Minutes-  
Kathy moved, Russ seconded
- B. Review and Approve Treasurer's Report and membership Report  
Jim moved to approve Treasurer's report, John seconded
- C. Membership Report  
557 members total paid (includes 32 business memberships)
- D. President's Report
  - a. Wild Rice Days Booth  
Everything at the booth worked well. Some of those who manned the booth reported a lot of interest in the lake association and thought that some new memberships (maybe a dozen or so) could be expected as a result of our presence at the event. Suggestions for materials for next year's booth include a general information packet for people new to the area that also includes info describing BSLA and how membership benefits new residents. Also add more giveaways to the booth including maps, mugs, bags, golf towels and possibly simple clothing (perhaps hats and shirts). A follow-up discussion on what items we wish to include will take place at a meeting after the first of the year so that materials can be ordered.
  - b. Guest speaker for October meeting.  
Today's guest speaker cancelled, so two speakers will be scheduled for the October meeting. Ann and Margo will connect with the appropriate people.
- E. Old Business
  - a. Paypal  
Regarding our ability to use PayPal as a means to accept membership payments, Christopher talked to Grand Timber Bank and has been told that they have no internal system that will serve our potential members in this way. Kathy, however, has reconnected with our previous PayPal representative and solved some of our past problems, and it now looks as though the PayPal system can function satisfactorily for us. Kathy's goal is for the system to be up and running by January 1<sup>st</sup>. In addition, it is her recommendation that a 2<sup>nd</sup> name (Christopher) should be added to the account so that any future transition of the account will be easier.

b. Tax-exempt status

Regarding our tax-exempt status: Bruce reported that he has been in contact with the Attorney General's office and has been told that our status has expired, but that new paperwork and payment of \$400 would bring us up to date. He and Kathy will follow-up.

c. Directors and their assignments:

Elections – John Sturner

AIS – Christopher Krolak and Stu Mortrude

Water Quality – John Pilney and Stu Mortrude

Mining – John Sturner and Dick Beatty

Pipeline – Janet Hill

Fisheries and Wildlife – Jack Johnson & Russ Thompson

Shoreline Management -- Ann Rorem, Margo Gisselman and Jack Johnson

Water Surface – John Sturner and Jack Johnson

Education/Events – Ann Rorem and Margo Gisselman

Membership – Kathy Beatty

Newsletter – Janet Hill and Margo Gisselman and Christopher Krolak

Website – Kathy Beatty and Christopher Krolak

Facebook – Kathy Beatty, Janet Hill, Christopher Krolak

Grants – Janet Hill

Parliamentarian – John Sturner

By-laws – Ben Gisselman

Audit – Bruce Johnson

Government Relations – John Sturner, Stu Mortrude

BSLAWMP, MNCOLA – Janet Hill

F. New Business

Plan for next Learning Event: "Shoreline Management" was discussed as a possible topic for the next Learning Event, potentially planned at this time to take place in February. Ann and Margo will plan the event with appropriate speakers/presenters. The November newsletter will include information on this event and social media will also be used to get the word out.

G. Director's Reports

-John Pilney reported that Big Sandy's water quality continues to improve. Phosphorus levels as measured on 8/26/17 were as follows:

.21 ppb

.29 web

.30 total

These levels are much lower than previous readings and meet the State of Minnesota's requirements. In addition, Secchi Disk readers are reporting readings of 3.5 feet in many locations – also much improved since previous readings.

AIS Time =  
10 min x 10  
members =  
100 min

-Christopher reported that launch inspections are ending on Labor Day. He reported excellent compliance (98%) throughout the year; Christopher will submit a letter for the newsletter once results of inspections during this year are in. The new "Water bag" program, where zip-loc bags are distributed with all bait sales is scheduled to begin next Spring. Starry stonewort has been noted at some boat launches.

-Kathy brought up two items for consideration by the Board:

1) a request for funding from ACES/Long Lake Conservation Center for funding to send local high school students to the Center next year. The Board decided to decline the request. Kathy will follow-up.

2) a request from a photographer asking permission from the Assn. to photograph boat houses around the lake. After discussion, it was decided that the association could not approve this action in the name of property holders. Kathy will follow-up.

#### H. Other Business

-Ron Smith reported that their website is down, but should be back up again soon. Brush trimming is in progress along Hwy 65 near Bridge Road. He stated that rental property is a concern and that the township feels that they are in competition with regular business and property owners and should be subject to the same rules and regulations.

-Next weekend (September 19) is clean-up day from 9am to 2pm. BSLA will help again.

-Questions have come up regarding how property assessments are made. It is recommended that property owners with questions should go to the assessor's office where information regarding land value and building value are on file as well as information regarding sewer, well and lake frontage are noted so that owners can compare properties. The current rate of taxation is 85 – 92% of market value.

Motion made by Jim to adjourn, John seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11 am.

Next meeting will be on Saturday, October 14, 2017 at 8:30 am at the Lodge.