

**BIG SANDY LAKE  
ASSOCIATION**  
2014 Board Meeting Minutes

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Big Sandy Lake Association Meeting held on 1-10-14

At the Log Church.

President Bruce Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:35.

Members Present: Ben Gisselman, Mark Johnson, Andy Streeter, Brian Herbranson, John Sturner, Karen Trembley and John Pilney.

Members Absent: Jack Johnson, Janet Hill & Mickey Utech.

Guests: Sheriff Scott Turner & Jim Carlson.

The treasurer's report was reviewed. Motion was made and seconded to approve treasurer's report.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of 11-08-13.

President Bruce Johnson reviewed the upcoming membership dues and mailing, which will be coming out in March.

The annual meeting will be held at the Minnesota Golf course on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014. Steve McComas will be our guest speaker. We reviewed status of food and other suggestions for the meeting. More info will be discussed at our February meeting.

Old Business:

Mark Johnson reported on the Enbridge pipeline that is proposed to come through the McGregor area. Mark discussed some of the issues regarding the pipeline. Mark, Janet and Ben will work on writing an information letters regarding the Enbridge pipeline. There will be two position papers, one regarding the Enbridge pipeline and the other regarding Kennebecott.

Guest Sheriff Turner reported on various issues throughout the year of 2013.

Ben Gisselman had discussion on our monies that we have on hand in the BSLA account. The money we have must be in a safe place and would be used for interests regarding Big Sandy Lake.

Labels are printed and ready to bill members for 2014 membership fee. They will be mailed separately from the February newsletter and will request payment by March 1<sup>st</sup>. There is 1100 invoices going out to current members and Big Sandy Lakeshore owners.

Vern Awes reported on concerns regarding plans to raise certain flood prone roads. The portion of Bridge Road will not be affected. Jim Carlson will report on the raising of 202<sup>nd</sup> road due to flooding.

It was reported that soil and water has monies that we could use for various projects.

Jim Carlson reported on operation Christmas and how toys are selected.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn meeting.

Karen M. Trembley, secretary

Big Sandy Lake Association Meeting 3-14-14  
Grace Lutheran Church

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

Guests: Brian Napstad, Ron Smith, Bob Griefzu & Marv Kettala.

Members Present: Vern Awes, Janet Hill, Mark Johnson, Brian Herbranson, Andy Streeter, John Gornick, Ben Gisselman & Karen Trembley.

Members Absent: Mickey Utech, John Sturner & Jim Krezowski.

Motion made by Vern Awes and seconded by Mark Johnson to approve minutes from 2-14-14.

Bruce Johnson gave an overview of expenditures of money that was spent in last month. Motion was made by Brian Herbranson and seconded by Andy Streeter to approve monies spent in the past month including the bill from the DNR.

The board discussed the Enbridge pipe line meeting at the McGregor Community Center on 3-13-14. The board members present felt the discussions which included Mark Johnson and various folks on the floor were very informative regarding the Enbridge pipe line.

Guest Brian Napstad commented on the Enbridge pipe line. Brian Napstad discussed how our taxes are spent in Aitkin, County. Bruce Johnson asked if the Enbridge pipeline does come through our area lakes and watershed if there is leaking from the pipeline and what can be done. Brian Napstad said to write are own responses.

Ben Gisselman discussed the flooding on Big Sandy Lake with the Corp of Engineers. At this point it appears we should be OK for now.

Guest Ron Smith reported on the ball field in Shamrock Township which should be done by the summer. They are still looking at the road on Ponderosa Point being lifted up somewhat. The assessments for Shamrock Township will remain the same. The historical marker is already up and it was decided to put up a sign along the narrows on Bridge Road, alerting folks that there is a historical marker ahead. May 3<sup>rd</sup> will be the Shamrock Township clean-up day.

Rio Tinto mining will be put on the agenda in April.

Vern Awes reported there has been no progress on the fireworks. Vern said this should be taken care of at the next meeting.

Director's Report: Mark Johnson reported on the March 12th BSLAWMP meeting. There are monies available and Janet Smude can get money for us to have projects done. We need to set up a plans for coming year. Some suggestions were; an issue with snails, lakeshore erosion etc., water monitoring needs to continue on the bays on Big Sandy Lake, money for our newsletters and the speaker for our annual meeting.

Andy Streeter reported he will more info regarding our invasive species project this summer.  
Andy will have more info at our next meeting.

Jim Carlson sent a letter for the \$300.00 to the Rivers and Lakes Fair.

Motion made to adjourn meeting.

Karen M. Trembley, secretary

Ben Gisselman will bring treats in April.

**BIG SANDY LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETING HELD ON 4-11-14**  
At the Log Church

President Bruce Johnson call the meeting to order at 8:35.

Members Present: Vern Awes, John Gornick, John Pilney, Karen Trembley, Ben Gisselman, Brian Herbranson, Mickey Utech, Jack Johnson, Janet Hill.

Members Absent: John Sturner, Andy Streeter & Jim Krezowski.

Guests: Bruce Larson, Ron Smith, Bob Griefzu.

Motion was made by Jack Johnson and seconded by Brian Herbranson to accept minutes of 3-14-14.

President Bruce Johnson reported we have approximately 400 members that have joined the lake association.

The lake association has sent a comment to the Minnesota Public Utilities commission (MN PUC) opposing the Sandpiper pipeline. The BSLA was well-represented at the MN PUC public meeting in McGregor on March 13<sup>th</sup> and Bruce Johnson and Mark Johnson both commented orally at the meeting about the threat to our watershed and lake. The question was raised about what the next step will be regarding the Enbridge pipeline. Mark Johnson reported on the various hearings and decisions coming up regarding the Sandpiper corridor. We will publish this information in our newsletter and in the local newspaper as needed. The current comment period to the PUC is now over. Ben Gisselman will look into questions of law and into the group Honor the Earth, which has asked for support from the lake association.

Rio Tinto is now filing legal documents with the MN PUC, as the Sandpiper pipeline is proposed to cross mining land.

Ron Smith reported on the snow plowing throughout the winter. There will be some road work done possibly this fall. The ball field project is still ongoing.

Motion was made by Mark Johnson and seconded by Jack Johnson to pay \$171.00 for the sign that will be posted on bridge road.

Ben Gisselman will check on the possibility of having a golf tournament after our annual meeting. (Ben there is a wedding at the golf course as well, don't know if there would be enough parking?). Also, the Angels golf fundraiser is June 22, just a FYI).

Bob Griefzu reminded us of the Rivers and Lakes Fair on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June.

Janet Hill is putting together our upcoming Newsletter. Vern Awes has written 4 articles for the newsletter, election of officers, fireworks on Big Sandy, good summer behavior on Big Sandy Lake and an update on Sandpiper/Endbridge pipeline. We have asked Sheriff Turner to be at our annual meeting as well.

Directors Report: Mark Johnson gave an over view on the BSLAWMP meeting. Brian Herbranson will put together a checklist to have at our high end boat landings on Big Sandy Lake during the summer. Brian

will also have brochures to pass out regarding invasive species and the need for chairs at the landings. Motion was made and seconded to pay for chairs and the brochures.

New Business: Ben Gisselman will be attending a conference in Brainerd regarding the quality of lakes. Motion was made by Mark Johnson and seconded by John Pilney to give Ben \$150.00 to attend the conference in Brainerd.

Brian Herbranson reported we have a new conservation officer for our area. Brian will invite the new officer to attend a board meeting.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn board meeting.

Karen M. Trembley, secretary

TREATS MAY MEETING??



**Big Sandy Lake Association Meeting  
Grace Lutheran Church - May 9, 2014**

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

Board Members Present: Vern Awes, Andrew Streeter, John Gornick, John Sturner, Bruce Johnson, Mark Johnson, Brian Herbranson, Mickey Utech, John Pilney, Jack Johnson

Board Members Absent: Jim Krezowski, Karen Trembley, Ben Gisselman

Others Present: Sheriff Scott Turner, Ron Smith, Brian Napstad

Two guests were also in attendance, and liaison Jim Carlson. (**oops -- who were the two guests?**)

Minutes from April 11, 2014 BSLA Board Meeting: John Sturner made a motion and Brian Herbranson seconded to approve the meeting minutes from the April meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Mickey Utech reported that she found a banking error, and has revised the Treasurer's report accordingly. **A motion was made by \_\_\_\_\_** and seconded by Janet Hill to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report -- Sandpiper Project: Bruce Johnson requested input from directors about a letter received from the group *Honor the Earth*, requesting the support of the BSLA. Discussion ensued about the work of this group to oppose the route of the Sandpiper pipeline through the Big Sandy Watershed. *Honor the Earth* opposes the pipeline route due to treaty rights protecting wild rice beds. They recently succeeded in extending the current comment period in the permitting process run by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. Board member Ben Gisselman has researched the work of *Honor the Earth* and advised the board to support their work. We acknowledge that treaty rights may be the saving grace in keeping an oil pipeline out of our watershed, thereby protecting Big Sandy Lake from future oil spills and fulfilling the BSLA mission. Mark Johnson moved, and Vern Awes seconded, a motion to contribute \$1000 to *Honor the Earth* to help fund their legal team. Motion passed unanimously. We will request that *Honor the Earth* keep us informed about their work on this issue, and that our contribution be targeted to the Sandpiper project.

## Old Business:

**Annual BSLA Meeting:** The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, June 28th at the Minnesota National Golf Course from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. (coffee hour 8:00 to 9:00). Elections will be held for five openings on the board of directors. A motion was made by John Sturner and seconded by Jack Johnson for Karen Trembley be budgeted \$250 to buy gifts for meeting attendees. Motion passed unanimously. Brian Herbranson and Andy Streeter will order food and ensure that there is a speaker system.

**Newsletter Status:** Janet Hill reported that the May issue of our quarterly newsletter has been printed and is currently being mailed to BSLA members.

**Highway Cleanup:** Due to water-filled ditches, the Highway 14 cleanup of the BSLA's Adopt-A-Highway segment has been postponed until drier conditions exist.

## New Business:

**BSLA Budget:** The board undertook a line-by-line assessment of the annual BSLA budget. The 2014 budget will again be discussed again at the June meeting, and posted at the annual meeting.

**BSLA Summer Meeting Schedule:** Vern Awes moved, and Andrew Streeter seconded, that the BSLA board have a June 13th meeting in addition to the June 28th annual meeting, and have no meeting in July 2014. Motion passed unanimously.

**Volunteering for the BSLA:** The BSLA will resume requesting help from volunteers for various lake association tasks in future correspondence to members, and will be posting photographs of volunteers in the newsletter and finding additional ways to express our appreciation.

**BSLA Golf Tournament:** A BSLA golf tournament for the purpose of fun (not fundraising) will take place after the BSLA annual meeting on June 28. Cost to participate will be \$24 per golfer, which will include a cart and 9 holes on the "33" course. More discussion about this event will take place at the June 13th board meeting. Ben Gisselman, Jack Johnson, and John Sturner are on the golf tournament committee.

**New Conservation Officer at Big Sandy:** We have a new CO named Amber Peterson.

**Annual Run for the Lake 5K:** The annual Run for the Lake 5K will take place on Saturday, May 24th. Volunteers are needed at Big Sandy Lodge at 8:00 that morning. Several board members volunteered; more volunteers are needed.

## Guest Speakers:

Sheriff Turner spoke about water levels and no-wake zones. The high level of 1217.76 so far this spring peaked and had been down to 1217.07, but is going back up due to recent rains. In 2012, at the level of 1218.07 a no-wake zone was implemented to protect the lakeshore; we are now just below that. The Aitkin County Board will decide whether to implement no-wake zones, and on which lakes and at what point, but the BSLA has a say in its decision. Sheriff Turner recommended that, during this slow start to the boating season, signs be installed at accesses to remind boaters to be mindful of the high water and the damage it can cause. To avoid confusion and avoid negative impact on area businesses, the Sheriff Turner doesn't want to implement no-wake zones unless absolutely necessary. He will send suggested wording for signs to Brian Herbranson, and we will install signs at accesses. We will continue keep an eye on the lake water level.

Jim Carlson thanked the board for its past support of the Big Sandy Water Institute. The mission of the Big Sandy Water Institute (not to be confused with the Big Sandy Lake Association) is to make sure the kids know what the lake is all about, and to plant the seeds of dedication to its future well being. The support of the BSLA helps in this effort.

Aitkin County Commissioner Brian Napstad discussed Senate File 2342 -- Bill for Enact, regarding aquatic invasive species (AIS) -- currently in the legislature. This bill has been promoted solely by lake associations. Napstad explained that the bill would appropriate \$10 million from the General Fund to be given to County Program Aid and used only for AIS, according to prescribed guidelines. Funds would be distributed to counties as follows: 50% based on a county's share of watercraft trailer launches, and 50% based on its share of trailer parking spaces. Napstad reports that the bill is getting a lot of support. He went on to explain that County Program Aid is designed to equalize each county's expenses for essentials such as law enforcement. Aitkin County receives about \$600,000 annually. Of the \$10 million proposed to be appropriated in the current bill, an additional \$280,000 would be Aitkin County's share. There are still questions about how money would be distributed: possibly partially divided among the twenty lake associations of Aitkin County, and partially for administration of the program.

Township President Ron Smith reported that the re-blacktopping/road lifting project on Ponderosa Point will begin around September 1st. The project will involve about 1700 yards of roadway, approximately from Mark Olson's to Jack Johnson's properties. There will be ground-up blacktop on this section of road throughout next winter, as the project requires a freeze/thaw period. The township baseball field dugouts are nearly ready. Jeremy Paquette will be the coach of the Sandy Lake Little League team (4-6 grade, boys and girls) this summer. Cleanup Day was successful: 86 vehicles came through, bringing in nearly \$500 for discarded tires, TVs, and freon, and helping ensure that these items aren't dumped elsewhere. 1.5 dumpsters were building materials although they requested

that no building materials be brought in. Free composted black dirt is now available at the township compost site.

#### Directors' Reports:

Andrew Streeter reported that Andy Tillman & Adam Peterson will start this weekend to man boat landings at Pier 65 and the Trader Post, and then will start concentrating on the access at the dam. The dam and Pier 65 are the two biggest accesses on Big Sandy; the dam has more out-of-state people launching boats. The more volunteers we get, the more accesses we can cover.

Brian Herbranson talked to Shamrock Township about the possibility of installing counters at the public boat ramps, so we can find out more about the amount and timing of traffic that uses them, but the boat ramps are state land. It's possible that a counter can be installed at Hillcrest.

John Pilney reported on calcium composition in the lake. From his research, he found that no organization has measured and reported calcium levels in state lakes. It is believed that if a lake's calcium level is low enough, it won't support zebra mussels. Calcium chloride is put down by township and county on roads in winter, and runoff from this might affect calcium levels in Big Sandy. It's possible the township can use a different product for the roads, but it may be more expensive. Shamrock Township puts down a minimal amount of calcium chloride compared to the county. Mark Johnson will request that the Aitkin County Soil and Water District add calcium levels to its monitoring.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:52. The next meeting will be Friday, June 13th, at the church.

Big Sandy Lake Association meeting – 6-13-14

BSLA meeting called to order at 8:00 AM by President Bruce Johnson at Big Sandy Lodge.

Members Present: Vern Awes, John Gornick, Ben Gisselman, Mark Johnson, Janet Hill, Jack Johnson, John Sturner, Karen Trembley, Liaisons – Bill Reed, Jim Carlson & Bob Griefzu.

Members Absent: Mickey Utech, John Pilney & Jim Krezowski. Excused board member: Andy Streeter.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report. The annual budget will be reported at the annual meeting. This report will be posted at the annual meeting.

Motion was made by John Sturner and seconded by Mark Johnson to accept minutes of 5-9-14.

The BSLA mission statement will be posted at the annual meeting.

The Enbridge pipeline was discussed. John Sturner discussed various issues regarding the pipeline. The Native Americans are still involved with the pipeline. At the annual meeting there will be a moment of silence for those passed in the past year.

Bruce Johnson asked for a moment of silence for Brian Herbranson who was a current board member and Jim Knoble who passed this past year and was retired from the board.

Vern Awes will be taking care of election of officers. There are 3 current board members up for re-election and 3 open positions for the board.

John McComas will be our guest speaker at the annual meeting. Rick Bruesewitz will be asked to report on our fish population on Big Sandy Lake.

There is flowering rush in Wabon Bay. Rick Bruesewitz will be asked to report on the flowering rush.

Bruce Johnson asked for a moment of silence

Next meeting will be July 11, 2014.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn meeting.

Who wants to bring treats to the July meeting?

Karen M. Trembley, secretary

BIG SANDY LAKE ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING  
Held at Grace Lutheran Church on 7-11-14

President Bruce Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:35.

Members Present: Karen Trembley, Mickey Utech, Janet Hill, John Sturner, John Pilney, John Gornick, Jack Johnson, Mark Johnson & Andy Streeter.

Liaison's Present: Jim Carlson, Jim Krezowski & Bill Reed.

Board Member Absent: Ben Gisselman.

Guests Present: Kathy Beatty & Ron Smith

Motion was made by John Sturner to accept minutes of 6-13-14 and seconded by Bruce Johnson.

Motion was made by John Sturner to accept treasurer's report and seconded by Janet Hill.

Our new board members were introduced Jeff Backowski and Richard Beatty.

Motion was made by Andy Streeter and seconded by Mark Johnson to accept our new board members to the Big Sandy Lake Association board.

The Annual meeting was discussed:

There were 83 folks in attendance.

Our annual meeting for 2015 was discussed, where to hold the annual meeting. The Sand Bar or the Big Sandy Lodge was discussed. Also, discussion who would be our guest speaker. Mark Johnson will be in touch with a potential guest speaker. Another thought would be larger prizes, games for children etc. More discussion will follow.

Andy Streeter will get information out regarding Zebra mussels. Andy will also set up a plan that will go out to BSLA members. Regarding Zebra mussels calling the DNR is an option. Also, the flowering rush can be controlled by pulling the roots out of the lake. Some flowering rush is in a small patch in Big Sandy. Andy Streeter will be in touch with Brian Napstad regarding the potential for Aitkin, county monies that would be available for more inspectors at additional boat landings and we can move ahead.

Discussion regarding no wake on Big Sandy Lake. It is a challenge to get to a high water level as the Corp of Engineers is in charge of water levels. There was discussion regarding a protective shoreline. It was suggested that folk's plant shrubs, tree's, rocks etc. to protect their shoreline.

Kennecott/Rio Tinto will be holding a meeting between the dates of July 22<sup>nd</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup>. Ron Smith discussed dates that Kennecott would meet and it should be open to the public. Per Shamrock Township.

Ron Smith also discussed the Calcium Chloride that is put on our roads may have the potential of going into our lakes. Most of the time there are barriers, such as grass, trees, shrubs etc., between the lake and the road.

Jim Carlson who is with the Big Sandy Foundation along with Jim Mickelson and others. The goal of the foundation is to protect Big Sandy Lake. The Foundation granted \$3000.00 to the Water Institute and \$1000.00 to the Big Sandy Lake Association. Andy Streeter will speak with Brian Herbranson's family if they would have any ideas or wishes the \$1000.00 could be used.

Wild Rice days are coming, there was discussion regarding various objects for sale at the Wild Rice days. Suggestions were hats, bags, flashlight's etc. More discussion to follow.

Director's report: There will be a BSLAWMP annual meeting at the Snow Flyers building in Tamarack. Janet Smude will be present and Jack Johnson will represent the BSLA.

Director's report: Janet Hill reported Honor the Earth and various subjects will be discussed. The meeting will be held at the Fireside on July 23rd/24<sup>th</sup> in McGregor. In August there will be another meeting, date unknown as of now.

Vern Awes will check on a billboard for the Big Sandy Lake Association. Mark Johnson made a motion to fund up to \$3000.00 for the billboard, seconded by Jack Johnson.

Mark Johnson discussed the authority for Bill Reed to vote for ACLARA. Bill Reed will attend ACLARA meetings. Mark Johnson has agreed to be an alternate.

Lake Minewawa is setting up an invasive species meeting on Sat. the 26<sup>th</sup> of July, someone from the board should be in attendance.

Jim Krezowski was congratulated on his terms on the BSLA board. Great job Jim.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn meeting.

Karen M. Trembley, secretary

Mark Johnson will bring treats for the August board meeting. Thanks Mark.



Big Sandy Lake Association Meeting  
Grace Lutheran Church - August 8, 2014

Meeting called to order at 8:32 a.m. by President Bruce Johnson.

Board Members Present: Ben Gisselman, Andy Streeter, John Pilney, Jeff Backowski, John Gornick, Dick Beatty, Mark Johnson, Janet Hill, Bruce Johnson, Jack Johnson

Board Members Absent: Karen Trembley, John Sturner

Others Present: Bill Reed (Liaison), Brian Napstad, Curt and Julie Sparks, Bob Greifzu, Bruce Nelson, Nate Burkette (the new Aitkin County Administrator), Scott Turner, and Willis Mattison (Friends of the Headwaters), and two others (\*\*ANYONE KNOW WHO THEY WERE?)

Minutes from July 2014 BSLA Board Meeting: Ben Gisselman made a motion and Mark Johnson seconded to approve the meeting minutes from the July meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Mark Johnson made a motion Dick Beatty seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed unanimously.

Vern Awes made a motion to accept Jim Carlson back to the board and seconded by Mark Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

John Sturner and Bruce Johnson met with Enbridge. They will come to the next meeting to talk to us.

The August issue of the BSLA newsletter will be mailed out the week of August 11th.

Jeff Backowski, Jim Carlson, Bruce Johnson, and Mark Johnson had a lunch meeting in July with Representative Matt Jeschki and a geologist from Kennecott-Rio Tinto. There is conflicting information about Talon buying into the mine; Kennecott claims it's not true. Kennecott plans to do more drilling starting in September, and plans to drill about 220 more holes, each up to 2000 feet deep. They fill them with concrete when they're done and leave 10' of pipe out of the ground. They will give us water samples; Mark Johnson is in charge of this.

Vern Awes reported on the possibility of renting a billboard stating the BSLA's opposition to the preferred Enbridge Sandpiper route through our watershed. Billboard space is extremely limited in McGregor, and suitable billboard space is not currently available.

John Gornick reported on the meeting at the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MNPUC) in St. Paul on August 7th about the Enbridge Sandpiper pipeline, in which the MNPUC heard arguments and decided whether to consider alternative pipeline routes. BSLA board members in attendance were John Gornick, Mark Johnson, Janet Hill, John Pilney, Mickey Utech, and Ben Gisselman. Mark Johnson and Janet Hill presented comments on behalf of the BSLA. At the end of the proceedings, the PUC opened the door to considering an alternative route (route SA-03, which runs from Clearbrook, south around Mille Lacs, and up to Superior, skipping Aitkin County among others), as well as Enbridge's "preferred" route. The MNPUC has left all alternative routes on the table for the Certificate of Need deliberations. We are learning as a lake association that the only arguments that work with the PUC are scientific and legal arguments -- that this is not a democratic process. Further discussion was tabled until after our speaker, Willis Mattison, spoke about this issue.

Nate Burkette spoke about the money (\$125,000) that Aitkin County is receiving this year from the state to address Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). The county is in the process of setting up a board to solicit input about how to spend the money (i.e., to fund lake association efforts against AIS, media campaigns, and so on). Next year the grant will be \$277,000. The funds do not roll over from year to year. Aitkin County has sent us a letter asking for our input as a lake association on how to spend these funds.

Brian Napstad said that the County Board currently approves of the Enbridge Sandpiper route and outlined his reasons why. The county will get about \$4 million annually. (Current tax levies in Aitkin County come to about \$11 million annually.) Napstad also cautioned the BSLA board about being "too public" about our stance against the Sandpiper pipeline.

Scott Turner said there be a DNR checkpoint this afternoon (Friday, August 8) near the overlook on Highway 65, pulling over boats for an AIS check. He said that there are 175 infested bodies of water in MN. Burglaries are down in our area.

BSLA board member Mark Johnson introduced guest speaker Willis Mattison, currently affiliated with Friends of the Headwaters (FOH). Willis began his talk by telling us Minnesota is in the unfortunate position of lying between the Bakken oil fields of North Dakota and the east coast, where much of the oil needs to go. Enbridge is currently using railroads to ship about 70% of Bakken oil, and this is causing problems in the towns along the rail lines, who are seeing a huge increase in oil train traffic. Willis said that after a pipeline is built, Enbridge and other oil transport companies will continue shipping oil by rail, because rail enables them to more easily ship the oil to where the prices are high. Mattison said that Bakken oil is different from other crude oil: it's put in the pipeline before it is stripped of natural gas. Methane, ethane, propane, and

butane are left in the oil as it enters the pipeline or rail car, so the oil is extremely volatile.

He then showed a series of maps showing groundwater sensitivity, wetlands, wild rice beds, showing that Enbridge has put its “preferred” route through the heart of the most sensitive areas of Minnesota. Friends of the Headwaters are suggesting that Enbridge connect to their existing distribution system to our south, rather than install a new pipeline corridor through northern Minnesota.

Mattison went on to say that there are a number of oil transport companies in the world, and Enbridge is the largest and the worst. They have the worst record on spills, on cleanup, on cooperating with government agencies. They are the worst with dealing with landowners. It would be better to find a different company to do the job of moving oil from North Dakota to refineries.

Mattison said that 80-90% of landowners have already signed onto an easement with Enbridge. According to the agreement, they can keep their money regardless of whether a pipeline is built.

The MNPUC is currently scheduled to make decision on the Sandpiper in the spring of 2015. It will be an up or down decision. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has spoken against the Enbridge preferred route, and demonstrated that there are feasible alternatives. Mattison mentioned that as many as possible need to thank Rick Nolan for his support opposing the Sandpiper preferred route, and that all of our politicians need to hear our views.

Mattison was asked by board member Jim Carlson if there are any statistics on how often Enbridge pipes have leaked. While Mattison didn't have the number handy, he did say that there was an Environmental Impact Statement done in Alaska recently, which looked at the history of every pipeline in the country. They found that the frequency of ruptures and leaks over the 30-year life of a 30-mile pipeline would be 99.5%.

Brian Napstad asked about the scoping document in this project. Mattison answered that a scoping document is only germane and utilized when it follows a full environmental impact statement process. In this case, this work was done entirely by the company (Enbridge) and the Minnesota Department of Commerce, so there is no scoping document for the Sandpiper project.

Mattison concluded by advising the BSLA board on steps we can take going forward. He urged us to join with other entities to become what's known as a “Party,” much like Friends of the Headwaters and others have done. When we are a Party, we become part of a larger group that will meet and strategize. More Parties are needed to file that will

support the reasoned and logical argument and way forward through the Certificate of Need deliberations. He said that one does not need an attorney to be a Party, but we need someone technically aware of the law, and who understands governmental procedures, to be our speaker. Paul Blackburn is the speaker for the Friends of the Headwaters, doing pro bono work. He is nationally known, has worked on Keystone XL. Carlton County Land Stewards are represented by Jerry Van Korf, a good environmental attorney. Pro bono attorneys Peter Erlander of William Mitchell Law School and Frank Bibeau, former attorney for the Ojibwa band, are working for Honor the Earth. Friends of the Headwaters also have Eileen Shore (a retired attorney who used to work in Montana for their PUC), a retired hydrologist, an ecologist, a former PCA (Mattison), several biologists, a nuclear power plant plumbing engineer (all about pipeline safety), and they are working on more technical experts. This is the kind of team we need to build. Other lake associations, the Mille Lacs Band and the Fon Du Lac Band are team possibilities. ACLARA is taking no position.

Mattison said that to become a Party, you must fill out two forms with the MNPUC. The deadline to be on file as a Party is soon, and Mattison suggested we get in touch with Richard Smith to walk us through it after we have contacted possible team partners.

Mattison also said that the Army Corps of Engineers needs to issue two permits to allow pipeline through navigable waters, and they will be addressing this issue soon.

Fallback position: We may lose the battle on the state level. If all else fails, we will go to Corps of Engineers. Enbridge has put in a permit application with the Corps, and the Corps has requested more information. The public and agencies have a chance to comment on the proposed permit and ask if the Corps should do a federal environmental impact statement. Enbridge does not want this. The bad news is that the Corps of Engineers is divided between two districts: Omaha and St. Paul. Red River of North is the dividing line. The two would need to agree, and that might not be possible. The Corps of Engineers will have public meetings after the environmental assessment.

After Mattison was finished, the meeting resumed:

Board member Vern Awes suggested we get on the agenda of the Aitkin County Board and have Willis Mattison come and talk to them.

Bruce Johnson said that the Review of Director assignments has been moved to September.

The BSLA website transition is coming along thanks to Andy Streeter. Kathy Beatty will take over as the webmaster soon. We realize the importance of getting the website

back up and running as soon as possible, following the passing of webmaster Brian Herbranson.

Bruce suggested that the BSLA make an annual donation to the Fireworks Fund. It was decided that we will add a line on the membership form so that members can more easily make donations to the Fireworks Fund.

A discussion ensued about how to use memorial funds to honor recently deceased board member Brian Herbranson. It was suggested that funds be used to add solar lights (LEDs) to some of the buoys, especially on Davis Bay, as this was one of Brian's concerns. We would need to do research to make sure they're not bothersome to residents on shore, and find ones that are sturdy. We would give the lights to the Sheriff's Department to have them enhance the buoys. No decision was made on this issue. Vern Awes will also talk to Ron Smith about naming the baseball field Brian Herbranson Field, as Brian used to coach Little League.

John Pilney, Janet Hill, and Mark Johnson were tasked with putting a poster together for Wild Rice Days, outlining what the BSLA is doing.

Andy Streeter reported that boat inspector Adam Peterson has moved away from the area, and Tom Peterson is taking over at the Trader's Post for the boat inspections. Andy said that Adam did a great job. Andy went to a DNR training course for AIS, and said that the biggest transporter of AIS is the water in live wells.

John Pilney said that Minnetonka calcium is 33-50 ppm, and ours is 11 ppm. We need to look at the calcium levels of other lakes as well. No state agency yet is looking at this, but Steve McComas (the speaker at the annual meeting) is compiling data.

Adjourned at 11:55. Next meeting will be at the Log Church on Friday, September 12 at 8:30.

Big Sandy Lake Association Meeting  
Grace Lutheran Church – 10/10/2014

Called to Order at 8:35

Board Members Present-Bruce Johnson, Vern Awes, John Pilney, John Gornick, John Sturner, Ben Gisselman, Andy Streeter, Mickey Utech, Janet Hill, Dick Beatty, Mark Johnson, Jack Johnson, Jim Carlson, Jeff Backowski

Others Present: Lisa Kruse (speaker regarding fishing opener), Sheriff Turner, Bill Reed (liaison)

- A. September Minutes Approved (moved by John S and seconded by Dick Beatty)-With the addition that Vern added in that we learned there will be two initial pipelines instead of just one
- B. Treasurer's Report
- C. Brian's Memorial-Discussed notion of Adopt-A-Highway being named in Brian's honor, Ben talked to his brother Jon and he received the idea well, Ben to continue talks with Jon regarding how this would work, further discussion regarding the idea of also having a bench made in Brian's honor to be placed at the township hall
- D. Annual Meeting Planning Group-Ben is in talks with Don and we'll keep that plan moving, as a reminder, that group is Ben, John Sturner, Jack, and Jeff
- E. Annual Membership Dues-Bruce brought up the notion that we're getting to that time of year. This initiated the discussion of fireworks donations and whether or not we want to be affiliated with the fireworks or not, group agreed that it will not be a part of our membership billing but instead something we will just continue to advertise through our newsletters and the website. Looking at a shared document via Google docs, etc., for our membership billing list that can be accessed by multiple users
- F. Grant Writing for AIS-The form is ready online and Andy Streeter will look into that actual application to be discussed further at the November meeting. As part of that discussion, Mark Johnson mentioned an invitation to the aquatic invasive species event at the U of M via bus from multiple local locations, the date is November 19<sup>th</sup> and registration deadline is October 15<sup>th</sup>. Ben will consider attending, as will John Pilney. Further discussion regarding the use of the money if we were to get it: more signage, closing accesses, wash down equipment were all discussed as potential options. Most agreed that best use of our resources is paying staff to inspect launches during the season. We also all agreed that we need to continue our best efforts and keep forging ahead to ensure we don't get invasive species like zebra mussels and if we do, that we would know we did the most we could to have prevented it from happening.
- G. Newsletter-Janet discussed the articles she already has, deadline is October 31, 2014
- H. Pipeline Discussion-Janet reiterated a recent article from Canada regarding Enbridge that pointed out many of failures by Enbridge to follow through on promises regarding the design and construction of existing pipelines. Janet mentioned that Enbridge's recent appeal regarding alternative routes was denied. Mark discussed the aspect of the Certificate of Need and Enbridge having a harder time getting that "need" established for the proposed Sandpiper route. We received a thank you note from Friends of the Headwaters for our support. Richard Smith with Friends of the Headwaters is open to speaking to us and we are inviting him to speak for an hour at a future meeting. Janet and Mark attended a Headwaters meeting yesterday

where they learned that a major obstacle is expert witness fundraising for the future evidentiary hearing. The idea was proposed that if every lakeshore owner contributed \$100 that would really help. It was proposed by Janet that maybe we approach our members with this idea. Enbridge support is faltering in the way of investing support and public support. The financial need is imminent and cannot wait until the next newsletter or the next meeting. The idea was proposed to have a Facebook page for members only to convey information more quickly. Group agreed that Facebook page is a good idea.

- I. The Governor's Fishing Opener-Some in the group don't agree with the idea of attracting more fishing pressure, more boats potentially carrying invasive species, etc.
- J. Lisa Kruse spoke to the group, she mentioned that approximately 110 local BSL boats and owners would be needed to volunteer to take people out. Because of this, foreign boats are very limited (she mention 4-7 outside boats coming in as a figure). 200,000-400,000 to run the event, sponsors are key, for the 2015 event for example, Tracker has donated significant funds. The projected expense for our area would be \$275,000. This is not an out-of-pocket expense for the area but, businesses like the Lodge or the golf course will not receive revenue for things like lodging or the golf tournament (or minimal revenue), but will instead media attention. Decision will be made spring 2015, and the event would occur in May of 2016. Lisa mentioned that the event occurring here then is highly likely. Attendance would be approximately 400 people. It is not a highly attended event. Wants to highlight the idea that we have done a very good job of presenting a protected and preserved lake recreation area and a bright community-the goal is not to necessary attract a flood of people. Bruce signed a letter of support.
- K. Sheriff Turner discussed issue of discharging firearms at Town Board meeting last night. Sheriff indicated that this may be an issue to some people depending on the use and if there is an issue, feel free call the Sheriff's department. There still are rules like no discharge within 500 feet of occupied buildings, etc., however, that does not apply on private property. "Reckless" discharge, if it exists, is a misdemeanor. Mark Johnson asked about high wakes on Bill Horn and responsibility for wake/wave damage issues. Sheriff mentioned a rule that indicates a boat operator cannot create a wake that may endanger another. Enforcement is an issue and perhaps the laws are behind pace. Sheriff suggested being more protective with your own shore situation and also calling the Sheriff if necessary. Sheriff up for reelection this fall, has a write-in opponent. Bob had a question regarding budgetary concerns from the Sheriff's Department/Aitkin County pertaining to invasive species. Sheriff mentioned that it is and will continue to be a priority but the effort cannot be perfect unless access is denied which isn't likely and is not a platform he supports. "Freedoms and protections are not mutually exclusive", so if we begin to restrict access, the local user will also experience restrictions on their own freedom of use. Question was asked regarding cost responsibility for potential oil spill cleanups. Sheriff Turner indicated the cost goes back to the oil supplier. Training for response will be put into place and is paid for locally.

Ben moved to adjourn. Seconded by Ben at 10:52.

Big Sandy Lake Association Meeting  
Grace Lutheran Church – 11/14/14

Called to Order at 8:35

Board Members Present-Bruce Johnson, Vern Awes, John Gornick, John Sturner, Ben Gisselman, Mickey Utech, Dick Beatty, Mark Johnson, Jack Johnson, Jim Carlson, Jeff Backowski, Karen Trembley

Others Present: Sheriff Turner, Deputy Dan Asmus, Ron Smith, Bob Greifzu, Brian Napstad, Dale Lueck, Richard Smith

L. Review and Approve Prior Minutes

M. Review and Approve Treasurer's Report (Attached)

N. President's Report

- Secretary Position-Karen is ready to resign from the treasurer position, motion made by Vern to accept her resignation and Ben's appointment, seconded by Jim
- Mark Anderson-Invasive Species-Bruce has had some difficulty getting in touch with Mark, Vern related that he can be found at the meat raffle tonight at Fisherman's
- AIS Grant Request-Mark Johnson-Grant applications due January 12<sup>th</sup>, application forms have been finalized, further discussion regarding efforts to educate locally and have the resources to do so, Ben and Bob attending AIS Institute at the U of M on November 19<sup>th</sup>

O. Old Business

- Rio/Tinto-Jim Carlson mentioned he read that there likely won't be an operational mine for 10-14 years, Mark Johnson discussed sulfate testing results, and that mining being an issue in that it allows mercury and phosphorous to get into the watershed, drinking water, wild rice, lake water quality issues, etc. Mark Johnson thinks it is good to have a good working relationship with Kennecott so that we are up to speed with their operations so we can stay involved in how they monitor and how any tailings will be released, Vern expressed that it is frustrating because we don't seem to get any accurate or honest information regarding their intentions of moving forward. We agreed that continued efforts to maintain in good communication is the best we can do and is what we should do
- Brian's Memorial-Ben sent an email to Jon Herbranson confirming that we will rename our highway clean-up section and move forward with a collaborative effort with the Herbansons in spring and fall clean-up efforts, Karen suggested possibly placing a bench at the highway outlook, Jim Carlson will talk to a contact with MNDOT regarding the process for that if it is a possibility. As an aside, Vern brought up whether or not anything new is occurring regarding the ranger/fire tower. Bruce will follow up on past efforts

P. New Business-

- Minnewawa/Chamber Fishing Contest-Bruce brought up the idea of having an ongoing discussion regarding whether or not there should be weigh-ins at each lake in multiple lake contests, transporting species and fish, fish waste, Vern will discuss with Chamber representative and Scott Turner



- December Meeting-Will be held normally

Q. Director's Reports-

- Jim Carlson informed the group that Janet worked hard along with Jim to influence the McGregor Chamber of Commerce to withdraw their formal support for the proposed Sandpiper route
- Jim also proposed the idea of placing an ad in the Lion's Midwinter Convention, at the request of Mike Kruse, for a cost of \$30. Karen moved, Mark Johnson seconded

R. Speakers

- State Representative Dale Lueck, succeeding Representative Radinovich, came to introduce himself and say hello
- Sheriff Tuner introduced Dan Asmus, who has been with Aitkin County since 2005. He is taking over water patrol duties for Dan Guida
- Question by Jack Johnson regarding no-wake efforts on Minnetonka, notion discussed that it probably won't ever make it into actual policy on Minnetonka. Sheriff expressed that he thought wake-related issues on BSL were at a minimum
- Discussion regarding buoy placement-they are now left at the lake near where they are removed for winter storage to avoid any argument about invasive species transfer
- Ron Smith explained that the Ponderosa Point project is done and they are looking at working on the dirt road heading down the hill towards Hillcrest and perhaps making a modification to allow better water drainage, other similar projects being looked at where drainage was not appropriately designed initially. Vern asked a question regarding township regulations as to billboards, specifically the Kangas billboard at Snell and Bridge Road, Napstad indicated that there is a county ordinance but perhaps no control if it is on private property. Smith mentioned that re-tarring on Ponderosa will begin likely after road-restrictions ease in the spring
- Brian Napstad discussed projects or efforts underway to better manage excess water in drainage ditches, wetland areas, and private property matters. Brian was asked why he supports the proposed Sandpiper pipeline route and he responded that the primary reasons are based upon: safety, revenue to support various levies, responsibility for spills would be the pipeline company themselves, some ongoing discussion ensued and included some frustration over the County's support for a project that is bad for Big Sandy and surrounding waters
- Richard Smith presented on the Sandpiper Pipeline and his work with Friends of the Headwaters (see attachments)

Vern moved to adjourn. Seconded by Dick at 11:08.

Big Sandy Lake Association Meeting  
Grace Lutheran Church - 12/12/14

Called to Order at 8:30

Board Members present-Bruce Johnson, Vern Awes, John Gornick, Ben Gisselman, Mickey Utech, Dick Beatty, Mark Johnson, Jim Carlson, Jeff Backowski, Karen Trembley, John Pilney, Andy Streeter, Janet Hill

Others Present: Ron Smith, Bob Greifzu

A. Review and Approve Prior Minutes

B. Review and Approve Treasurer's Report Mickey explained we had an \$8 penalty on our checking account for having a balance under \$600. Vern moved to approve Treasurer's report, Janet seconded

C. President's Report

- The website - Bruce is in the process of learning from Andy Streeter how to update and add to the website and he will coordinate with Dick's wife, Kathy, to work on website improvement moving forward
- Mark Anderson - Bruce continuing to work on getting him either on the Board again or becoming our liaison for invasive species management

D. Old Business

- Rio Tinto/Kennecott - Mark Johnson explained that it remains unclear the extent to which potential mining will be but we are continuing to maintain contact/communication despite the fact that Kennecott is not very responsive, primary issue is whether or not any mining will be open pit or individual boring only, discussion ensued regarding control of excess water runoff from mining operations, Karen mentioned that she knew they were drilling on a particular person's property as recently as last weekend being explained as "exploration" but it seems to be much more than that, consensus was that we need a support team in place for when the mining operation really gets underway, further discussion ensued regarding the Sandpiper line and whether or not Gordon Prickett, the president of ACLARA, supports our position which it sounds as though he may be interested in (perhaps not for or against - or maybe just does not want to be in the middle), two issues continue to be the pipeline and the mining, Mark Johnson is meeting with someone from Friends of the Boundary waters, Mark also attending a fundraiser event with Winona LaDuke in Duluth on December 21-st
- Brian's Memorial - Bruce distributed a picture of a memorial from the library depicting an example of what could be a good marble/limestone memorial that

could be a good option for Brian's memorial, Mickey suggested that perhaps a product from "By the Yard" may be good option

- Aitkin county Grant Request - continuing efforts ongoing regarding our specific grant request, Andy and Ben working on this, group decided that primary issues are personnel for boat accesses #1, and education/materials #2, volunteers also can be considered for hourly grant money, our current hourly rate for access managers is \$18/hour for Trader's Post, the Sandy River, and the Dam, grant request to be submitted by January 12<sup>th</sup>, but reviewed by this group first.

#### E. New Business

- Minnewawa/Chamber Fishing contest - Vern explained that he had a conversation with Barbie Martz, and she will come speak to our group, issues continue to be transportation of fish and water between lakes, movement of fish and notion of catch and release with fish that will not survive
- Website - group agrees to work on getting some material off of the website and ensuring the most relevant material like minutes and newsletter are easily accessible there, leaving past newsletters out there
- Bob suggested rolls at every meeting, Vern volunteered for January 2015 meeting
- Vern asked if we have a membership specifically for businesses, Bob responded that it has been addressed but no specific membership has been put in place, Vern wondered if we should have one, Bruce agreed, John PiIney indicated that Minnewawa does it, discussion regarding incentive being mentioning businesses who are members in the newsletter, Ben moved \$50 Business membership category with new business listing in every newsletter instead of advertising, Vern seconded
- Mark Johnson brought up issue of no-wake resolution and the fact that it was already voted on, Bob will convey this issue to the county Board again to see where things are
- Andy mentioned that ice ridges are forming particularly an issue in some areas like end of bridge road and heading north, also Bill Horn, including open water areas, perhaps this should be mentioned in email or Facebook
- Pipeline News - Janet discussed upcoming meeting schedule regarding the "Certificate of Need," alternative route decision to be forthcoming in June 2015, comment period open and comments are helpful and necessary from all, stopping the Certificate of Need is really the end all and we can influence that now with our comment, despite wealth of propaganda out there, we still have the backing of the DNR and the PCA and we can continue to get out legislators to put on the pressure against the pipeline
- Vern mentioned that word is not in yet regarding the Governor's Fishing opener

#### F. Director's Reports

- Mark Johnson asked if anyone else can attend BSLWMP at times, issue of course is that it is on Wednesdays, Carlson Reed and Hill also participate, but it would be nice to have others

- Bob Greifzu discussed attending AIS Institute event at U of M, Ben was there as well, Bob found it to be informative regarding the detection of young state zebra mussels, discussion ensued regarding success of various treatments including potassium chloride and effect of calcium content

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#### G. Speakers

- Ron Smith explained that the Ponderosa Point project is complete and the controversial "lift" on the road is in place but hardly a lift at all, public access land trade in process with Gustafson's regarding piece where snowmobiles cross, crossing moving forward will be marked and the road cemented for snowmobile crossing in the spring, this will allow for the current snowmobile crossing to become an actual public access crossing instead of the private property use that it is today, discussion regarding icy roads being an issue despite sanding and salt, also some heaving of ice already happening on the lakes affecting lakefront property including accesses, water drawdown continues on lake and this causes issues with spawning areas to be less productive due to shoreline/rock algae disturbance, plus drawdown happening too late causes ice-thinning current this time of year, Ron suggested that perhaps we take a position about drawdown not occurring early enough and fast enough, Dick mentioned that based upon his work experience with the Corps, it is a difficult matter because there are biological issues with drawing down too quickly, it was agreed that there is not a specific written plan in place, and maybe there could be a better one reached between all groups involved that will be better.

Vern moved to adjourn. Seconded by Dick at 10:40.

**BIG SANDY LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING 6-28-14**  
**Held at the Minnesota National Golf Course**

Meeting called to order by President Bruce Johnson at 9:00.

Board Members Present: Karen Trembley, Vern Awes, John Sturner, Jim Krezowski, Mark Johnson, John Gornick, Janet Hill, John Pilney, Mickey Utech & Andy Streeter.

Liaisons Present: Bob Griefzu, Jim Carlson & Bill Reed.

Guest Speakers: Brian Napstad, Rick Bruesewitz, Scott Turner, Dan Guida, Tammy Johnson Army (Corp of Engineers Park Ranger), Amber Peterson (Conservation Officer, McGregor Station).

President Bruce Johnson thanked Don & Elisa Proulx for hosting a room at the golf course for our annual meeting.

President Bruce Johnson said the minutes and treasurers report are posted on the back wall.

Motion was made by Bob Griefzu to accept the minutes of June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and seconded by Ben Gisselman. Motion made by John Sturner and seconded by Ben Gisselman to accept the treasurers' report.

Don Proulx introduced himself and thanked the BSLA for having their annual meeting at the golf course. Don also presented the Big Sandy Lake Association with a check for \$500.00, from the annual Run for the Lake 5K Walk/Run.

President Bruce Johnson asked for a moment of silence for board member Brian Herbranson, and also for former board members Jim Knoble & John Dane, all of whom passed away this past year.

President Bruce Johnson introduced current board members and liaisons.

Brian Napstad spoke on facts regarding invasive species in Aitkin, County. Brian also spoke of various expenditures for issues in Aitkin County. Brian answered questions from the audience.

Rick Bruesewitz from the Minnesota DNR spoke about the fishery in Big Sandy Lake. He said that the DNR completed a population assessment last summer and the highlights are as follows: Decent walleye numbers (bigger fish); good growth for walleye in 2012 in spite of (or maybe because of) the flood. Good perch and crappie numbers and sizes. Muskie observed in Big Sandy for the first time. Bluegill abundance up, but still good sizes. Oxygen and temperature profiles looked good for tulibee in Bell Horn Bay in August. The water clarity was still very brown at the time of the survey, which was good for walleye. Rick reiterated the importance of leaving deadfall trees in the water along shorelines; these trees can provide up to 300 years of habitat for fish. Channel catfish have appeared in the Mississippi River and in the Sandy River below the dam and are also now in the lake. There is no closed season for catfish, the creel limit is 5 and

none can be over 24". The next planned fish survey will be in 2016. There will be a public meeting in 2018 regarding walleye regulations.

Tammy Johnson, Army Corp of Engineers, spoke on the highs and lows of water on Big Sandy Lake. She also took questions from the audience.

Amber Peterson, Conservation Officer, spoke on various subjects regarding ideas and plans for the McGregor area.

Aitkin County Sheriff Scott Turner and Dan Guida spoke on water levels in the area. At this point everything is looking good.

Vern Awes started the nominations of board positions. There are 3 current board members up for re-election, John Sturner, John Gornick, and Janet Hill. Motion was made for Dick Beatty to run for BSLA board and seconded. Motion was made for Jeff Backowski to run for BSLA board and seconded. All members running for the BSLA board were elected, and we also have two new board members: Dick Beatty and Jeff Backowski

Steve McComas, "The Lake Detective" was the featured speaker and spoke of various threats to our lake. He said that Bi Sandy lake has 32 species of submerged plants, one of them is flowering rush, an invasive species. Fortunately, this plant spreads slowly and is somewhat easily controlled. The BSLA board knows the location of the flowering rush on Big Sandy Lake, volunteers from the board cut it annually to keep it under control. Curly leaf pond weed is not known to exist in Big Sandy (if it is, it is scarce) and there is currently no Eurasian milfoil. Our region, the Northern Lakes and Forest region, has the best water quality in the state of Minnesota. However, Big Sandy Lake has a higher amount of phosphorus than it should: it should have less than 30 parts per billion (ppb), and Big Sandy has 41 ppb. There is good news, though: the normal amount of algae is 9 ppb of algae. As for fish, Big Sandy is too cold for carp to spawn, so we will likely be spared that particular invasive species, as well as flying carp, which are river fish. The snakehead could survive here, but is not headed this way at this time, as is the case for the rusty crayfish. The Chinese Mystery Snail, as we all know, has arrived in our lake, but it is considered a neutral species from an environmental standpoint. Snails feed by scraping algae off rocks and substrate, and therefore have no adverse effect on the fish population. When they run out of food, they die back and wash up on shore, which causes a smell for a time, and they carry parasites that can cause swimmer's itch.

President Bruce Johnson adjourned the meeting at 11:30.

Karen M. Trembley, secretary

There was a wonderful lunch following the annual meeting.