

**BIG SANDY LAKE  
ASSOCIATION**  
2011 Board Meeting Minutes

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

January Meeting Minutes	Page 2
March Meeting Minutes	Page 4
April Meeting Minutes	Page 7
May Meeting Minutes	Page 9
July Meeting Minutes	Page 11
August Meeting Minutes	Page 13
September Meeting Minutes	Page 15
October Meeting Minutes	Page 17
November Meeting Minutes	Page 19
Annual Meeting Minutes	Page 21

**BIG SANDY LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETING**  
**January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

Big Sandy Lake Association meeting called to order by Vice President John Sturner at 8:35.

Board members present: Mark Anderson, Jack Johnson, Neal Sampson, Karen Trembley, Bruce Johnson, Brian Herbranson & Dean Anderson.

Board members absent: Vern Awes, Jim Krezowski, Dan Branson, John Pilney, John Merboth & Bill Reed.

Guests: Barb Anderson, Bob Griefzu, Jim Carlson, Scott Turner, Ron Smith & Brian Napstad.

Motion made by Mark Anderson and seconded by Neal Sampson to accept the treasurer's report. Brian Herbranson along with budget committee will be working on the 2011 budget. An audit needs to be accomplished ASAP.

Motion made and seconded to accept the November 12<sup>th</sup> 2010 minutes.

Old Business:

Barb Anderson gave the board a presentation regarding our new system of billing to all Big Sandy Lake members and non members for their annual fee. This will go into effect with the new business year 2011.

**By-Laws Approval on Agenda for March 11, 2011**  
**Agenda for March, annual meeting 6-11-11---Vern Awes**  
**Agenda for March, election of Treasurer.**

Jim Carlson thanked all those who donated to Operation Christmas on their own. Jim will write a short article for the upcoming newsletter regarding Operation Christmas.

Ron Smith, Shamrock Township gave an overview of the snow issues around Big Sandy Lake. Ron will write an article to put in the upcoming newsletter regarding the hazards etc. that snow plow drivers have to encounter during the winter months.

Brian Napstad elaborated on the Clean Water amendment and what Star Lake status means for Big Sandy Lake, this would bring clean water money and how this money could possibly be spent on our lake. The Water Quality folks and the BSLA board should do some brain storming reviewing recommendations to apply for Grant monies. The deadline will be the same as last year. **Put on agenda for the March meeting.**

Sheriff Scott Turner asked if we are still involved in the slow no wake zone on the Prairie River. We need to get this on the County Commissioner agenda meeting regarding the slow no wake. Motion was made by John Sturner and seconded by Brian Herbranson to have Bruce Johnson authorize/write letter to the County Commissioners and Scott Turner regarding the slow/no wake on the Prairie River.

Scott Turner also discussed the possible flooding that could take place this spring. This is being addressed at this time with various folks.

Neal Sampson asked if there was any news to go on the WEB site to contact him.

Fisheries: Slot limit on fish is still on the agenda and should be happening this spring. Invasive Species will be a big topic this summer, hopefully more interns can be at our boat landings etc. Jim Carlson will be a contact person regarding the invasive species.

A motion was made and seconded to give \$300.00 to the Rivers & Lakes Fair.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn meeting.

John Sturner will bring treats for March 11, 2011.

Karen M. Trembley, secretary

[www.BSLAssociation.org](http://www.BSLAssociation.org)

BIG SANDY LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETING – March 11, 2011

Meeting called to order by Vice President John Sturner at 8:30.

GUESTS: Dan Guida, Mark Blayeric, Trudy Bunge, Tom Besch, Mark Fulton, Gary Helstrom, Jim Ryan, Rick Bruesewitz, Gary Drotts, Bonnie Finnerty, Bob Griefzu, Brian Napstad, Stott Turner, Richard Beatty, Jim Kurtz, Ron Smith, Jim Carlson, Gary Drotts.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Bruce Johnson, John Merboth, Mark Anderson, Jack Johnson, Vern Awes, Brian Herbranson, Dean Anderson, Karen Trembley.

January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011 minutes were approved by the board.

Treasurers report was reviewed by Brian Herbranson, Discussion regarding our annual budget was to adjust the budget to \$2800.00 by Brian Herbranson for the newsletter. Motion made by Bruce Johnson and seconded by Vern Awes to appoint Brian Herbranson as Treasurer.

MEMBERSHIP: Dean Anderson reported invoices were sent out as of March 1<sup>st</sup> for membership dues. There are 148 folks who have paid their dues and in the last 10 days there are 65 folks who have paid. Barb Anderson will continue to pursue folks who have not paid. Karen Tero has resigned from the board.

Vern Awes approved the by-laws and seconded by John Merboth. The mission statement is being worked on and will be done soon. **Put mission statement on April agenda.** Vern Awes confirmed the Annual meeting will be held on June 11<sup>th</sup> at the Sand Bar.

Jim Carlson sent two letters, thanking the board for \$2500.00 for the Water Institute and \$300.00 to Aitkin County Environmental Services.

Invasive Species have sent in a letter for grant monies...we are looking for half from grant monies and BSLA pay the other half. John Merboth attended the invasive species meeting...recommendations will be made regarding invasive species.

Bruce Johnson and Vern Awes will be doing the audit on our BSL accounts. Brian Herbranson will assist.

Brian Herbranson will be taking over the BSL WEB site.

Dean Anderson will check out proposals for potential business memberships. It was unanimous with the board to have Dean bring ideas to the April meeting. **Put on agenda for the April meeting.** Also, how can we approach raising the BSL dues for 2012.

GUESTS:

Dan Guida reported ice fish houses are out, there was some debris which was cleaned up.

Tom Besch gave his appreciation for the folks who live on the Prairie River regarding the slow no wake zone. Scott Turner has made a request for to the county commissioners to have this on their March agenda regarding the Prairie River slow no wake. John Merboth will query folks on the Sandy River regarding slow no wake on the Sandy River if they would like the slow no wake as well. **Put this on the April Agenda.**

Brian Napstad reported that spring flooding is a great concern for many residents in Aitkin County. At this time the county is preparing ahead of time for this possible event. Clean water grants are available; bundle up various areas that could use grant money, BSLA should apply for grant money for wash stations at boat landings on Big Sandy. The DNR web site has this information. The MN-DOT light on Big Sandy is being worked on eventually will be hooked into a satellite. Janet Smude would be a good contact for Grant monies.

Jeff Steere who works for the Corp of Engineers gave an update on the possible flooding this spring. We are where we want to be as far as water levels. The Corp is sitting well with sand bags, these sand bags cannot be given out to private folks. Bruce Johnson asked Jeff to write an article for the upcoming newsletter.

Bonnie Finnety – Minnesota Pollution Agency - Bonnie discussed the TMDL, at this point a letter was written to various agencies, there have been some changes made to the TMDL – working on language and re-working the model a bit. They are hoping to implement soon as soon as June 30<sup>th</sup>, as their deadline...Motion was made and seconded to send a letter to the governor and commissioner of the PCA with a copy to Senator Metson. Bonnie can contact Bruce Johnson and John Merboth as a point of contact. Vern Awes will work with Brian Napstad on this letter and bring to the April meeting. **Put on April agenda.**

Rick Brusewitz – reported on the latest fish regulations. At this point there are no signs up; they will be up by fishing opener. Rick will have a short article for Bruce Johnson to put in the upcoming newsletter. Rick also reported the possibility of re-structuring Fish & Wildlife this spring.

Ron Smith reported that a sign will go up on the Prairie River when the frost goes out. Clean up day for Shamrock Township will be April 30<sup>th</sup>, volunteers are needed and fees will be the same.

BSLAWMP – It has not been determined what lakes will have water sampling done.

**Put on April agenda regarding water sampling on Big Sandy.**

If anyone is interested or has an interest in providing loon watch on Big Sandy, Pam Perry will be our contact. Dean Anderson will check on this.

John Sturner will be working on signage for Star Lake signage on Big Sandy Lake.

Meeting adjourned at 11:59 AM.

April meeting will be the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Treats for April – Dean Anderson.

Karen M. Trembley, secretary

Big Sandy Lake Association meeting  
4-15-2011

Meeting called to order by President Jim Krezowski at 8:40.

Board members present: John Merboth, John Sturner, John Pilney, Mark Anderson, Bruce Johnson, Dean Anderson, Karen Trembley, and Dean Anderson.

Board members absent: Brian Herbranson, Vern Awes, Bill Reed, Jack Johnson, Dan Branson.

Guests: Ron Smith, Shamrock Township and Sheriff Scott Turner.

Minutes of March 11, 2011 approved as read.

Treasurer's report was approved. Jim Krezowski will call Brian Herbranson on some of the new entries.

Membership: Dean Anderson reported that 400 members have paid their yearly dues. There are 42 reminders being sent out and another 100 are being sent by e-mail. There were 45 new members this year.

It was clarified that our membership year will go from Jan 1 to Dec. 31. There will be discussion at our annual meeting in regards to raising our membership dues. Brian Herbranson, treasurer, will go over our accounts, our emergency fund money, etc. The annual treasurer's report will be posted at our annual meeting.

Jim Krezowski reviewed the board members who term is expiring and board members who are resigning from the board. They are John Sturner, Jack Johnson, Jim Krezowski and John Merboth. There will be 6 board member positions open.

The Vision Statement for Big Sandy Lake Association was approved by John Sturner and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dean Anderson.

Dean Anderson will be checking into our insurance policy for the Big Sandy Lake Association.  
**Put on May agenda.**

The logo for the Big Sandy Lake Association was discussed. Bruce Johnson, Mark Anderson and Dean Anderson will be working on a new logo for the association. **Put on May agenda.**

Ron Smith, asked for help on the for the Shamrock Township clean-up day which is April 30<sup>th</sup>. Ron Smith discussed various Public Accesses on Big Sandy Lake. Scott Turner also gave some in sight on public Accesses.

Scott Turner also reviewed the process for the slow no wake on the Prairie River. A public notice will be sent out and a hearing will take place on the area that will be a slow no wake. There needs to be a legal description where the slow no wake will began and end.

Scott Turner also will have an article for our newsletter.



TMDL – A letter has been written to Mr. Paul Aasen, MPCA with copies going to out to various parties.

BSLAWMP – John Merboth reported there is no money to continue. Questions to the board are: Do we want to continue water sampling; the cost for this would have to be taken over by the Big Sandy Lake Association... What benefit does do we have, there really is no benefit. What is the cost of water sampling? John Merboth will find out what it would cost to do water sampling. **Put on May agenda.**

Time sheets are due from the board members from Jan 2011 until present.

Mark Anderson reported our grant money didn't come through as we didn't have enough points. There could be other options available; Steve Hughes has submitted paper work for 2 inspectors for our boat landings. Steve Hughes will be putting in for grant monies; if this funding does not come through we should follow-up on this. There is a liability component involved; our insurance should cover this component. Mark will let us know what happens with the grant money and we'll go from there. **Put on May agenda.**

Membership ads: **Table until May meeting.**

Annual meeting: speaker...Keri Hull, She's the Watercraft Inspection Program Assistant (DNR) from Brainerd.

**Will review the annual meeting agenda at the May meeting.**

Would someone speak with the Sand Bar regarding the food they served, one of the issues was not enough food.

What signage do we need for Star Lake?

Meeting Adjourned.

Karen M. Trembley, secretary

Bruce Johnson will bring treats.

BIG SANDY LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETING  
Grace Lutheran Church - MAY 13, 2011

Meeting called to order by Vice President John Sturner at 8:35.

Minutes approved as read.

Treasurer Brian Herbranson reviewed our budget and will have this posted at the annual meeting. We are also looking for the safety deposit box key. Dean Anderson will contact Ron Johanson, Brian Herbranson will contact Bob Griefzu, and Karen Trembley will contact Joy Majors. **Put on July agenda.**

Vice President John Sturner gave president report...he gave an overview on Jim Krezowski.

Dean Anderson reported on membership which is 460 members. Membership letters will be going out to folks on the lake that has not joined the association.

It was decided that membership dues will remain the same at this time. **Put on July agenda.** There was no interest at this time on business membership for \$50.00.

Invasive Species: Mark Anderson reported grant money was not approved for invasive species. The DNR would give training on June 13 regarding invasive species on boats etc. We are looking for volunteers as well. John Sturner will contact Mark Anderson regarding this issue.

John Sturner is looking at Star Lake signage for Big Sandy Lake.

John Pilney discussed the sampling for phosphorus on Big Sandy Lake. Collection would be done on the weekend with Janet Smude picking up the samples. Jim Knoble and John Pilney will be working on this project. Motion made by Dean Anderson and seconded by Bruce Johnson to pay for our sampling which is \$93.00 would be done 4 times a year.

Annual meeting agenda:

Membership Table...Dean Anderson & Barb Anderson

Election: Vern Awes..

Food: Karen Trembley will contact Nancy at the Sand Bar...it was pointed out there was not enough food last year. It was decided to have Brats/hot dogs at the annual meeting along with chips and beans, with coffee and rolls prior to meeting.

Karen Trembley will spend \$250.00 to buy gifts for the annual meeting; of this money Bruce Johnson will have a \$50.00 certificate to purchase Big Sandy clothes etc.

Dan Guida will have an on hand boat inspection ...which will include cleaning of your boat etc.

Treasurers report will be posted as well as the minutes of the annual meeting 2010.

There will be one speaker Keri Hull. She will host questions from the audience.

John Sturner will host question and answer from the audience, he will cover the annual meeting if Jim Krezowski is not present.

GUESTS: Brian Napstad reported on the slow no wake on the Prairie River. Brian will review with Sheriff Scott Turner on specific coordinates on the Prairie River. It will then be posted and a public hearing will take place. Sheriff Turner will be in touch with the surveyor regarding the

Prairie River no wake zone. Sheriff Turner reported after the public hearing it could be the end of July when the slow no wake will go in effect on the Prairie River.

Ron Smith reported on Shamrock clean-up day.

Bonnie Finney, MPCA reported the letter from the Lake Association to Mr. Paul Aasen, Commissioner, MPCA. Subject of the letter: TMDL Study, Minnesota cultivated Rice Council, Letter dated 1-17-2011 will not be sent out to all parties. Bonnie gave an overview why the letter did not go out. Discussion by board members followed.

Vern Awes will write letter to the DNR. Motion made by Vern seconded by John Sturner.

**Next Board meeting will be July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011.**

Meeting Adjourned at 10:45.

Karen M. Trembley, secretary

Bill Reed will bring treats.

Big Sandy Lake Association board meeting  
Log Church - July 8, 2011

Meeting called to order by Vice President John Sturner at 8:30 AM

Board members present: John Sturner, John Pilney, Mark Anderson, Dean Anderson, Vern Awes, Dan Branson, Janet Hill, Mikey Utech, Karen Trembley, Bruce Johnson, John Gornick, Bill Reed, Brian Herbranson and Andy Streeter.

Guests: Ron Smith, Jim Carlson, Mark Johnson, Sheriff Turner & Tom Besch.

John Sturner welcomed our new board members. John asked each board member to give a short scenario of their life. John Sturner also gave a brief overview to the new board members that Big Sandy Lake is now a Star Lake. John also told the board the annual meeting went very well with many positive thoughts.

The annual meeting for 2012 was discussed, the annual meeting will be held on June 9<sup>th</sup> 2012. Discussion took place to have our annual meeting at Big Sandy Lodge. Motion made by Karen Trembley and seconded by Bruce Johnson to have our annual meeting at Big Sandy Lodge. Dean Anderson, Brian Herbranson and Bruce Johnson will be on the committee to get in touch with the folks at Big Sandy Lodge regarding food, cost etc. **Put on agenda for August.**

Brian Herbranson gave an overview of the Treasurers report. Motion made and seconded to approve treasurers report.

Annual meeting minutes and May board meeting minutes, motion made and seconded to approve minutes.

Dean Anderson reported we have 537 members.

There was discussion on various jobs for the new board members and existing board members. The new board members offered to take on various responsibilities; some of the existing board members responsibilities were changed per their request. Check the new board structure. Janet Hill offered to attend BSALWMP meetings.

Mark Anderson reported the DNR will not be able to attend invasive species meeting due to the state shutdown, a new date will hopefully be scheduled. Bill Reed attended a meeting in Garrison regarding invasive species.

John Pilney discussed the issue of sampling on Big Sandy Lake. Rumor has it that there is no fertilizing on the rice paddies.

Membership dues were discussed, at this time dues will remain the same. Mark Anderson will write an article to survey membership dues increase. Worksheets need to be filled out for time/mileage accumulated on projects, meetings, etc. Janet Hill will be working with this project. Time sheets will be due in 3 month increments for the months of March, June, Sept, and December.

Vern Awes made a motion to approve mailing for the Water Institute, seconded by Bruce Johnson.

TMDL – John Pilney gave an overview to our new board members, what TMDL entails

Water Surface Use – Vern Awes reported the fire works went well and there was less boats on the lake, there were no issues.

Tom Besch gave a thank-you to the board and folks involved in getting the slow no wake zone on the Prairie River. Buoys will not be put out until the state approves the slow no wake.

Wild Rice Days – Bruce Johnson will take over Jim Krezowski's place if he is unable to attend.

A thank-you note will be sent to the Sand Bar for hosting June 1011 annual meeting.  
Vern Awes will write an article in the newsletter in regarding neighbor courtesy.  
Scott Turner responded to a noise issue on Big Sandy Lake, Scott Turner asked that folks be respectful to your neighbors.

Ron Smith reported on Beaver problems on some low lying areas.

Janet Hill will bring treats for the August meeting.

Bruce Johnson asked articles for the newsletter be in on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mailing labels will be needed at the August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn meeting at 10:30.

Big Sandy Lake Association board meeting  
Log Church - August 12, 2011

Meeting was called to order by President, Jim Krezowski at 8:30 a.m.

Board members present: John Pilney, Mark Anderson, Dean Anderson, Vern Awes, Janet Hill, Mickey Utech, Bruce Johnson, John Gornick, Bill Reed, Brian Herbranson and Andy Streeter.

Guests: Ron Smith, Sheriff Turner, Janet Smude

Minutes of the July 8, 2011 meeting, motion made and seconded to approve minutes. Andy Streeter will contact the church office to say we need space for our meeting.

Treasurer Report: Brian Herbranson stated he has paid \$15. for missing key. There is a bill for \$36.56 for printing labels and postage. It was agreed to pay the \$36.56. There was some discussion on the foundation using our bulk mail permit. Dean Anderson said if our name is going to be on it we need to have a chance to review it first since they are using our permit for bulk mailing. Motion was made and seconded to approve treasurers report.

Membership report: We have 536 members. Invoices will be sent out in January to 1200. Dean suggested we do big newsletter in May when everyone is around. Based on a grant we get \$4,000 annually and we've been offered \$7500 for three years. The purpose is to educate people, and we need to get them to look on the web site for more information, besides having our newsletter at the realtors offices, chamber of commerce, licensing places, etc. We will talk about this more at the next meeting.

Presidents Report: Minnesota Waters - Jim Krezowski got a call from Chris at Minnesota Waters asking for \$300 or \$400 more money. We already paid \$300. We will not be paying additional 300 or 400, as we already have Star Lake. However, they do some lobbying for us in St. Paul.

Johnson Development - This is proposed across the road from Zorbaz, where they want to put in a campground on 290 lots. There is a lot of things they have to go through before this will be going anywhere.

Kennecot: A representative will be here the week of August 22, and will meet with Jim Krezowski's son, Mark regarding mining in northeast Minnesota and Tamarack area, etc.

The Kids Program: We give them \$2,500, and Shamrock Twp. gives them \$3,000 and the Sno-Flyers give them \$2500 or \$3000. and we think it seems like a lot of money for just 300 kids. They have kids that don't show up, and a recommendation was made they charge the kids \$5.00 for signing up, and then they will be more likely to be there. The Food has been made and the buses are lined up, and then lot of them don't show up.

- Janet Smude from Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Districts says she will help us write a grant and we may get an automatic grant. We need to be sure and keep track of our time and our mileage on our time sheets. Dean Anderson is to give bills for newsletters to Janet as she has money to pay them. Janet briefly discussed the access off the lake up by Fisherman's. She had TSA 3 Engineers evaluate the site and they came up with cost figures, of which she handed out a copy to the board members. This is in Workman Township. We won't be able to help fund this project.
- The Invasive Species Training will be at the log church on Monday, September 15, 2011 at 6 P.M. and we should all try to attend. Keri Hull from Brainerd will be coming over to do the training. Mark Anderson would like to line up Steve McComas (Blue Water

Science) or Dick Osgood (Lake Minnetonka Assn, Osgood Consulting) appear at our next Annual Meeting. (**There seems to be some confusion if we have a meeting room or not at Big Sandy Lodge and for how long, this needs to be nailed down before I follow-up.**)

- TMDL - John Pilney reported. He took samples and no improvement. There is more weed growth this year, and the rains we've had have been hard, Lily pad growth is up.
- Ron Smith reported they are looking at all township roads, checking blacktop, culverts, etc. Sometimes buses can't drive on roads that have frost heaving and he reported they are mowing 4 days a week, since we've had so much rain the brush is growing like crazy. They mow and take care of 53 miles in Shamrock Township. Because of the added traffic on Fridays, they do not mow that day.
- Labor Day weekend, the speed radar is going to be put up on Bridge Road, in front of Vern Awes place.
- For Wild Rice Days - Bruce Johnson will contact Jack Johnson about getting up the booth. Mickey Utech volunteered to help for a few hours.
- TMDL – John Pilney reported he took samples and no improvement, more weed growth this year and the rains we've had have been hard. The high waters flush out from the peat bogs, also some comes from the rice patties and the farm fields.
- Jim Krezowski passed around some thank you notes he received, including several from the Kids Program.
- We finished putting together the newsletters and got them ready to go in the mail.
- The next meeting will be September 9, at the Log Church and Mickey Utech will bring the treats.
- Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

**Big Sandy Lake Association Meeting  
September 9, 2011**

Meeting called to order by Vice President John Sturner at 8:35.

Board members present: Bruce Johnson, Bill Reed, Dean Anderson, Brian Herbranson, Andy Streeter, Karen Trembley, Mark Anderson, Dan Branson, John Pilney, Mickey Utech, and Janet Hill.

Board members absent: John Gornick, Vern Awes and Jim Krezowski.

Guests present: Curt Sparks, Brian Napstad, Jim Carlson, Scott Turner, Pat McGowan, the new conservation officer was introduced.

The August 8<sup>th</sup> 2011 minutes were approved and seconded.

Motion made and seconded to approve Treasurers report.

Dean Anderson reported there is 541 lake association members, put a note in every newsletter how many members we have.

John Sturner reported there are two variance requests on Big Sandy Lake. It was decided to leave that up to Aitkin County.

Old Business: Bruce Anderson reported on our booth at Wild Rice Days. Next year we need to have an application, Dean now has the application for next year. Next year we will have application available at the booth. If you sign up at Wild Rice Days that will be for 2012. (Dean would the sign up be for the upcoming year) Some folks from Minnewawa Lake Association asked if we would like to attend their lake association meeting and Vice Versa. Jim Carlson and Curt Sparks will attend a Minnewawa and Horseshoe lake association meeting. Bruce Johnson will make a schedule to work for 2012. Put a sign on our booth that Big Sandy is a Star Lake.

Dean Anderson and Brian Herbranson reported our Annual Lake Association meeting will be held at the Big Sandy Lodge, June 9<sup>th</sup> 2012, starting at 9:00 to 12:00. (Bruce please put in the upcoming newsletter) Make a suggestion to have a variety of hors d'oeuvres' for the meeting.

Welcome Curt Sparks who spoke on Big Sandy Watershed Management. One of the items that need to be addressed is TMDL task list, with going after monies that could be available to use. Brian Napstad will be put on our agenda for October – with discussion regarding TMDL etc. Put on the agenda for October, Janet Hill and John Pilney will be working on grant money etc. regarding TMDL. Curt Sparks and John Pilney will check with Janet Smude for any available monies.

John Sturner will check with Jack Johnson on the items he may have for clean-up on County 14 which is the second Friday in October, the same day as our board meeting. Clean-up will follow the board meeting. Board members if you can help please bring gloves etc.



Scott Turner will be working with Mark Anderson on old buoys that the board can put in sensitive areas on Big Sandy Lake.

New Business: We have reached a watershed moment. Our Mission and emphasis will be on invasive species. How do we make an impact? Mark Anderson has worked very hard on this project. The point Mark has made is that the state has made a seismic shift in how they intend to fight invasive species. That shift involves placing inspectors on lakes with infestations and trying to keep boats from transporting them to other lakes. Mark will still apply for a grant from the state this year, but funding could be slim. Rather than wait for a disappointing answer and little time for alternative plans, Mark suggested we move forward with our own program, hire our own inspector/coordinator which would be a paid person (trained by the DNR) and recruit volunteers to cover our main access points. More discussion to follow at the October meeting. This would be a great article for the January newsletter....looking for volunteer's and a paid inspector/coordinator.

Put on October agenda....

Inspector/coordinator (paid position) and volunteers

Vote on member dues increase, discussion.

Firm up the budget.

Speakers for the annual meeting.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn meeting at 11:20.

Karen M. Trembley, secretary.

Dan Branson will bring treats.

BIG SANDY LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETING  
October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011 – at the Log Church

Meeting opened by President Jim Krezowski at 8:35.

Board members present: Andy Streeter, Brian Herbranson, Bruce Johnson, Dan Branson, John Sturner, Karen Trembley, Jim Krezowski, Bill Reed, Mickey Uteck, John Gornick, Janet Hill, Mark Anderson and Vern Awes.

Board members absent: Dean Anderson & John Pilney.

Guest present: Jim Knoble, Brian Napstad, Bob Griefzu, Jim Carlson, Bruce Larson, Ron Smith, Jack Johnson and Sheriff Turner.

Motion made by John Sturner to accept Treasurers report, seconded by Dan Branson.

Motion made by John Sturner to accept the minutes for 9-9-11, seconded by Dan Branson.

Membership moved to November meeting. Dues increase will be voted on at the 11-11-11 meeting. **Put on agenda.**

Bob Griefzu attended the BSALWAMP meeting; Rick Brusewitz gave a report on the fish in Big Sandy. The information from this meeting will go in our upcoming newsletter. Mark Anderson reported this is on the fisheries WEB page and also on BSLA Web site.

Jim Krezowski reported that Kennecott has a long way to go before actual mining could begin.

Brian Napstad reported on watershed districts. There are three types of water management systems, set up mainly to address drainage. WMO's (Water Management Organizations) are exclusive to the metro area. Watershed districts exist mostly in the Red River Valley and various river valleys around the state, along hydrologic boundaries. Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWDCs) – what we have here in Aitkin County – are based on hydrologic and political boundaries. Our SWCD is run by 5 elected supervisors who have no levy authority to raise taxes, and receives funding of \$140,000 annually, from natural resource block grants and from the county, to be used for wetland conservation, shoreland management, and subsurface treatment. The BSALWMP (Big Sandy Area Lakes Watershed Management Project) group functions under the Aitkin County SWCD, and was set up to address water quality issues around Big Sandy Lake. Curt Sparks spoke at our last meeting of some fund raising ideas. There are various projects that can be explored.

Mark Anderson reported on invasive species, two of the latest lakes are in western, MN. This was transferred by a boat lift. Mark had a conversation with the DNR; they said that 80% of the DNR's budget to combat invasive species is dedicated to lakes that are currently infested. This is done hoping to prevent spreading them to non-infested lakes. We did not get a DNR Inspection grant last year, in part, because we're more than 20 miles from infested lakes. There are other criteria too, but if those criteria do not change 2012 I'm not encouraged that we'll get a grant this coming year. The DNR expects to hire an additional 100 inspectors for 2012 and purchase an additional 20 – 30 “decontamination units.” These will probably go to infested lakes too. We will apply for grant monies this year, but the DNR recommends we “rally our troops” and consider any monies received as “over and above” what we can fund ourselves. This is why Mark has

been pushing to fund and operate our own program; I don't think we can count on support from the state.

Motion was made by John Sturner and seconded by Brian Herbranson to follow the plan that is outlined on Marks AIS program budget.

Mark also put a volunteer guide book together. The focus will be on boats coming into our lake. There will a card for our inspectors to give to boaters coming to Big Sandy. We need to get our inspector hired and recruit volunteers for the upcoming year.

Our annual meeting will be at Big Sandy Lodge on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The cost for food will be the same as 2011.

Ron Smith reported on clean-up day. Due to foreclosures, there has been a lot of garbage left behind. A letter was sent to the board for their support at clean-up. Lake Country power came to Township meeting to explain various aspects of power. Kennecott will be coming to Township meeting in Dec. Another fire member is needed in Shamrock Township.

Scott Turner reported a great summer and fall, there have been small complaints regarding public landings. Buoys on the Prairie are great; Bruce Larson also said the buoys are working well on the Prairie. There is a Sheriff's boat that is permanent on Milacs Lake.

ACLARA: Bill Reed reported that Clear Lake is using trees on the lake in the winter which melts in the spring; this is good for fish habitat. All lakes seem to have about 50% membership. Jim Hausauer from Farm Island Lake has info on AIS access monitoring.

BSLAWMP: Jim Krezowski will put a meeting together with Janet Smude. Big Sandy is about the same as it was in 2007. Jim Carlson said they approved newsletter money. To get monies for the newsletter we must have articles regarding various subjects that pertain to Big Sandy Lake. We will meet with Janet Smude to find out exactly what we need for our newsletter articles. Jim Carlson stated the article from Rick Bruesewitz will be good.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:40

Karen M. Trembley, secretary

Road clean-up will commence directly after meeting.

Vern Awes will bring treats for November meeting.

**Big Sandy Lake Association Meeting**  
**11-11-11**

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

Board members present: Bill Reed, Bruce Johnson, Brian Herbranson, Andy Streeter, Dean Anderson, John Gornick, Mark Anderson, Janet Hill, Vern Awes, John Pilney, John Sturner & Karen Trembley.

Board members absent: Mickey Uteck, Dan Branson.

Guests: Jim Carlson, Ron Smith, Mark Krezowski.

Motion was made by John Sturner and seconded by Dean Anderson to accept meeting minutes from October 14, 2011.

Motion was made by John Sturner and seconded by Dean Anderson to accept the Treasurers report.

Motion was made by Vern Awes to raise Big Sandy Lake Association dues to \$30.00, discussion followed. The increase would go to prevention of invasive species. The motion was seconded by John Sturner.

Janet Hill reported that time sheets are due for the last quarter of the year.

Presidents Report: There is older stationery; it was decided to use what we have, with some stamps made that would be Star Lake. John Sturner will e-mail everyone with particulars. We will have a sign and it should be coming shortly.

Jim Krezowski will be in touch with Janet Smude and letting her know BSLA will have a dues increase. There needs to be an article in the newsletter regarding invasive species plants. Bill Reed discussed this with Janet Smude.

We have been receiving variance requests, it was decided by the board to leave that up to Aitkin County, but reserve our ability and right to an opinion if one were to have a material impact on water quality in Big Sandy.

Old Business: Mark Anderson made a motion to have a guest speaker seconded by John Sturner at our annual meeting. The guest speaker will be Steve McComas, owner of Blue Water Science. Steve is also known as the "Lake Detective" and has advised Lake Associations, local governments and others on lake and pond management issues.

Bruce Johnson discussed the BSLA booth at Wild Rice Days. There will be a committee working at the booth. More discussion will follow at the January meeting. Give Janet Smude the receipts from the newsletter.

Mark Anderson asked everyone to review the guide book that he sent out. We hope to have folks delegated to be at boat landings by opening fishing. Mark sent Keri Hull a note and asked to have another training session this spring.

New Business: Nothing to report.

ACLARA: no meetings during the winter.

BSALWMP: John Pilney and Janet Hill reported on monies that could be available for us to use. The samples of phosphorus on our lake were very consistent through out the year. Shoreland buffers on Big Sandy were also discussed.

Water Surface Use: A boat lift is parked on part of a designated snowmobile trail; it is illegal to park lifts and such on public land. The DNR would have to take charge of issue's with public land.

Ron Smith reported the township is cutting trees and grinding stumps. Trucks and equipment are ready for winter.

Lisa Kruse thanked everyone for our support for the Water Institute. Lisa also discussed a potential Governors opener in 2013. This is still in process and this potential occasion will be determined in April 2012. Mark raised some concerns regarding this event. With the additional boating traffic this could bring in, we should ask the state to commit additional resources to protect our access points from invasives. Another concern of Mark's is such an event sends a mixed message to our membership regarding slot limit. We are asking people to limit their catch with a slot limit, yet we're promoting an event that could stress the fishery further.

Our donation to Grace Lutheran church was made.

January 6, 2012 will be our next board meeting. We will also be having a board meeting on Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> 2012.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn meeting.

Brian Herbranson will bring treats for the January meeting..

Karen M. Trembley, secretary

JBIG SANDY LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING  
Big Sand Bar---June 11, 2011

Meet & Greet at 8:30, coffee & rolls were provided

Big Sandy Lake Annual meeting called to order by Vice President John Sturner at 9:00. Board members were introduced, Karen Trembley, Bill Reed, John Pilney, Vern Awes, Dean Anderson, Mark Anderson, Bruce Johnson, Brian Herbranson, and Jim Krezowski who is recovering from major spine surgery. Liaisons Jim Carlson & Jim Knoble.

Brian Herbranson reviewed the annual treasurer's report; the minutes of 2010 annual meeting were posted.

Guest, Scott Turner stressed stewardship in the neighborhood...get to know your neighbors, be considerate of your neighbors regarding loud parties, fireworks, barking dogs etc., also, how can we all be better neighbors.

John Sturner highlighted some of the lake associations accomplishments in the past year, a Lake Management Plan was accomplished, John Sturner worked very hard in the past year with Big Sandy Lake becoming a Star Lake, by-laws and Mission Statement was updated by Vern Awes, along with our work regarding invasive species, direct invoicing was introduced this year, the Prairie River will now have a small portion that will be dedicated, slow no wake zone along with many other projects and meetings that board members attend.

Election: Vern Awes will handle the election of officers. Each year there are 5 board member positions open. Brian Herbranson, John Sturner and Jim Krezowski are up for re-election. John Gornick, Janet Hill, Mickey Utech, Dick Valley will be running for a board position. The folks running for a board position gave a brief overview what they would like to do on the board and Big Sandy Lake.

The floor was opened for nominations: Bob Griefzu nominated Any Streeter seconded by Dean Anderson.

Saying none...no other nominations...motion made to close nominations and seconded.

Motion made and seconded to accept 8 nominations.

Jim Carlson encouraged everyone to come to the Rivers & Lakes Fair next Sat. The Water Institute has been ongoing for 10 years. Jim thanked the association for their support of \$2500.00. Jim asked if anyone was interested in volunteering at the water institute so see Jim...

Brian Napstad reported on various road and bridges that have undergone repair. The Army Corp of Engineers will be leaving the Big Sandy Lake water level as it is.

Brian Napstad reported the amendment for the slow no wake on the Prairie River should be in effect in early July; buoys will be put out where it begins and ends.

The suspense is over...Brian Herbranson, Jim Krezowski, John Sturner, were re-elected. Janet Hill, Andy Streeter, John Gornick and Mickey Utech were elected to the board.

Gayleen Touhey spoke on shoreland restoration at her home. Gayleen invited folks to come to her home on July 23<sup>rd</sup> for a workshop and planting. Lunch and refreshments will be served.

Dan Guida gave an overview on lake habitat...The Walleye population is up, northern pike was a bit lower, perch may be down and the crappie population is looking good.

Mark Anderson reported we are working on the invasive species concerns. Mark will be working on getting volunteers at busy accesses on Big Sandy Lake.

Keri Hull who works for the DNR in Brainerd is part of their watercraft inspection program. Keri has offered to conduct a DNR approved training program for volunteers to help monitor our access points.

A gentleman from the audience reiterated that invasive species has become an epidemic and needs to be dealt with.

**Clean water is our goal!!!**

Motion made and seconded to adjourn.

Karen M. Trembley, secretary

Lunch was served. **Put on July agenda, place for 2012 annual meeting and date.**