

Big Sand Lake Association Board Meeting

Jun 22, 2024

Location: Loot's cabin

Board Members Attending: Dennis Loots, Chip Applegath, Jane Jensen, Paul Hassing, Steve Farnham, Don Button, Karen Pavlicek

BSLA President, Dennis Loots, called the meeting to order at 10:00 am

1. Approval of 13Apr2024 BSLA Meeting Minutes – Chip Applegath

- Approval via board email vote. Vote unanimous by board members that attended the meeting
- Minutes were published on the BLSA website & emailed to members via Mailchimp on Apr 27th

2. Financial Report – Steve Farnham (Treasurer)

- Steve paid a couple of small bills and deposited \$600 in dues. See a board member for detailed specifics on financials

3. Minor Change to BSLA Bylaws – Chip Applegath

- Chip explained the small change we need to make to our bylaws, (Article III – Membership) to enable DNR Grant applications. This change returns this section back to how it was originally defined before the 2022 change was made.

Current Bylaw Wording:

Section I - ELIGIBILITY: Membership in the Association shall be open to any individual or family, who subscribes to the purposes of the Association and owns or leases property within 1000 feet of Big Sand Lake; and resides on or within 1000 feet of the lake at least 30 days each year.

Proposed Bylaw Wording: (red words are changed)

*Section I - ELIGIBILITY: Membership in the Association shall be open to any individual or family, who subscribes to the purposes of the Association and owns or leases **real estate on or within (1) mile of Big Sand Lake in Burnett County; or resides on or within (1) mile of Big Sand Lake for at least one month** each year.*

- Paul made a motion to approve the change, Jane 2nded. Discussion on process was that we would vote as a board, then if approved, take this to the July all members meeting for final vote. Board vote was taken; Motion passed unanimously.

4. \$100 Donation to fund Burnett County Lakes & Rivers Association "LakeLines" Publication –

The lakeLines publication is printed and mailed directly to 6700 Burnett County lakeshore property owners by BCLR & BC Land Services. It is also published online. In their Spring 2024 Volume 29, Issue One they stated that UW Extension will no longer be able to contribute to the publication of this newsletter. The BCLRA requested Lake Associations to donate to keep the publication going.

Dennis made a motion to contribute a one-time \$100 donation from BSLA to help fund publication. Steve 2nded. The discussion was that this would be one time donation for this year. It was noted BSLA already pays \$50 in dues to BCLRA each year. All lake associations pay small dues to BCLRA. Board vote was taken; Motion passed unanimously.

Chip mailed the check and a letter into BCLRA on July 1st.

5. Electronic payment of BSLA dues

We have had a few members express the desire to pay BSLA dues electronically. We discussed two options to enable this (1) Ad-hoc, where a member could electronically transfer money to a board member and the board member would then get the money to BSLA treasurer. (2) Setting up BSLA with its own electronic transfer mechanism tied to our BSLA checking account. After discussion we decided option (2) was preferred. We discussed the many different electronic payment platforms: Venmo, PayPal, Zella, etc. The board was most familiar with Venmo. Chip made a motion to have Steve investigate getting a Venmo account set up that's connected to BSLA bank account. Dennis 2nded the motion. The discussion was to ensure people knew we still accept checks or cash. Karen clarified that our fiscal year is the calendar year so any dues paid in 2024 are for the calendar year of 2024. Chip said when we had something set up, he would communicate via email to the members it was available and clarify we still accept checks/cash. Board vote was taken; Motion passed unanimously.

Steve set up Venmo account. Venmo info is: https://account.venmo.com/u/Big_Sand_Lake_WI_Association

6. Well Water testing

As a follow-up from our last meeting, Chip investigated the process and picked up a test kit. The county was not interested in giving us a dozen or so kits to hand out at the July meeting. Chip explained the end-to-end process is non-trivial. The samples must be mailed in and arrive at the testing office in a very short period of time and the draw of the water needs to be from a sterilized tap. There is a cost to mail in the sample (~\$10) plus costs for each test done (~\$35 each). The decision was made to briefly discuss this at the July meeting but not have BSLA facilitate.

7. Education on DNR Grant process

Chip gave the board a quick education on the process to apply for DNR grants. Basically, it's a two-step process (1) Send in info so DNR can decide if organization and lake would qualify for a grant (2) If yes, then apply for a grant. BSLA is 501(3)c and Chapter 181 which are two of the key requirements. The exact definition of "membership" is another factor, as are things like organization size, and purpose of the organization.

8. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Point Intercept Survey Grant

Chip and Jane updated the board on a meeting held with Emily Moore on 07May2024. Emily is the Burnett County Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator. She would be willing to write a DNR grant request for BSLA. The cycle would be to apply for the grant this summer and if approved the survey would be done next summer. The DNR grant would cover ½ the cost. BSLA would pay the other 1/2 (\$4,621). AIS Point Intercept Surveys are a standard detailed scientific sampling of the lake bottom and shore. They recommend a survey be done every 2-3 years. BSL was last surveyed in 2019 and (thankfully) the only finding then being Chinese Myster Snails. Paul made a motion to proceed with DNR Grant for an AIS Point Intercept Survey. Dennis 2nd motion. The discussion on funding was that we have the money to cover, but we will ask members for additional donations for this specific cause. The AIS Intercept grant process outlines the type of next steps that could be taken depending on what the survey discovers. BSLA would publish the results of the finding to our membership. Board vote was taken; motion passed with 6 yes. Karen opposed.

9. DNR Boat Landing AIS Boat Decontamination Station.

Emily Moore has a decontamination station which BSLA could work with DNR to get approval to install. The station consists of a sign, pump sprayer and PPE. If approved by the DNR, BSLA would need to supply posts for the sign, install the sign and keep the pump sprayer filled each week with a diluted bleach solution. Chip made a motion that we pursue with DNR and Emily getting station installed. Don 2nded the motion. The discussion was that we would sign up as a board to maintain the pump sprayer during summer months and get other volunteers as needed. Costs to BSLA would be the 4x4 posts and bolts to install the sign and ongoing cost for bleach solution. We discussed if any key liabilities issues. Given this is equipment supplied by county/DNR it's a well understood process with little risk. Crooked Lake in Siren has one of these stations if anyone wants to see what they look like. Board vote was taken; motion passed unanimously.

10. Review of agenda for July 20th 10am All Members Annual Mtg. Draft agenda is:

1. **Welcome** - Dennis (10 Mins)
2. **Guest Speaker** – Emily Moore Burnette County AIS Coordinator (40 Mins)
3. **Financial Report** – Steve (5 Mins)
4. **DNR Boat Landing & Geese Banding Projects** – Jane (5 Mins)
5. **BSLA Apparel** – Jane (5 mins)
6. **Intro of paper – Long Term Impacts of Lake Use on Heath of a NW WI Lake** – Don (5 mins)
7. **Well Water Testing** – Chip (3 mins)
8. **DNR AIS Point Intercept Survey project** – Chip (5 Mins)
9. **BSLA Bylaw modification** – Chip (5 Mins)
10. **BSLA Board Elections** – Dennis (10 Mins)
 - President
 - VP
 - Director #1
 - Director #2
11. **Closing** – Dennis
12. **Picnic follows** at Raisanen cabin. **4735 Basswood Dr S.**

11. Around the Room - Update on Old Business Topics

- **County Well Water Testing via volunteer sampling** – Dennis
 - County is volunteer testing ~600 wells. Testing is in process. No news on results yet. We pursue publishing the results when they are made available.
- **Big Sand Lake “Stakeholders” (BSLA/DNR/Tribe) meeting in 2024** – Dennis
 - No further action was taken on this at this time.
- **Goose Banding (and Deterrent) 2024** - Jane
 - Again this summer, we have a large group of 50+ Geese that congregate on BSLA
 - The banding project provides key data for DNR and acts as a deterrent for Geese living on the lake as they often relocate and don't return after being banded.
 - The DNR came on Monday 6/24 and had a successful banding event. They herded and banded 44 Geese. Of these, only 3 were returning banded females.
- **DNR Boat Launch Repair Project** – Jane
 - No new news
- **BSLA Apparel (Tshirts & Sweatshirts)** - Jane
 - Jane has worked with Fredrick Design on a design. She shared specifics with the board via email. We hope to be able to present this at the July mtg for people to then order directly if interested.
- **Welcome basket/letter idea (voted yes at Nov mtg)** – Chip & Jane
 - Chip met with county government; they can't provide us listing of sold properties. We will continue to explore options.
- **Adopt a highway (sponsored by BSLA) cleanup/sign** – Steve

- Steve explored this idea and all roads anywhere near BSL were already taken. The tribe has 3-4 different sections. Steve is going to see if we can get on a list in case any become available.
- **New 911 facility expansion at the government center during the county jail project** - Dennis
 - Dennis is going to talk to the County people next week and can explore as a possible topic for next year's annual meeting.

12. Informal Big Fish Contest via our FB Private Group.

- Someone suggested to Chip that we run a low key 'big fish' contest via our Facebook Private Group to encourage more use of that forum and contribute to community engagement. Chip suggested we could run July/August. Nothing complex, just post your pic and length - just for bragging rights. Chip said he would post something to give it a try. Contest was announced in the BSLA Private Facebook Group Jul 1st.

Next board meeting @ Annual Meeting: Sat July 20th

Motion to adjourn by Don. 2nd Paul. Vote taken was unanimous. Meeting was adjourned at 11:54am

Reminder \$25 yearly BSLA dues can be paid by:

- Mail check Payable to: Big Sand Lake Association and mail to:
Big Sand Lake Association
PO Box 145 Siren WI 54872
- Or give check, or cash, to any board member
- Or pay via Venmo: https://account.venmo.com/u/Big_Sand_Lake_WI_Association

Respectfully submitted,

Chip Applegath
BSLA Secretary