

## Big Sand Lake Association Annual Member Meeting

July 20, 2024

**Location:** Siren Senior Center

**Board Members Attending:** Dennis Loots, Jane Jensen, Steve Farnham, Chip Applegath, Don Button

**Absent:** Paul Hassing, Karen Pavlicek

BSLA President, Dennis Loots, called the meeting to order at 10:06 am

- Approximately 24 members were in attendance

### Approval of 22June 2024 BSLA Board Meeting Minutes

- Approval was done via board email vote, vote was unanimous.
- Minutes were published on the BLSA website & emailed to members using MailChimp tool

### 1. Welcome & Update – Dennis Loots

- Dennis introduced the board members and explained that Karen was not able to attend today due to an urgent family situation and Paul was not able to attend due to a family vacation that had been booked for over a year.

### 2. Guest Speaker – Emily Moore, Burnett County AIS Coordinator

- Below are some scribble notes from her talk:
- Emily works on Best Management Water Practices for landowners, various groundwater management initiatives, and mitigation for land zoning issues. Her primary focus is on Invasive Species
- Shoreline Incentive Program, 70% rebates for people enrolled that take specific actions (like installing rain gardens).
- Requirement to leave buffer vegetation 35 feet from Ordinary High-Water Mark (OHWM) is State of WI law, not set by county.
- Balsam Lake has zebra mussels now. Purple Loosestrife is the biggest invasive plant in county, (Yellow River area especially), Other issues are: Yellow Iris, Chinese Mystery Snails. Eurasian Water Milfoil is in 4 lakes in the county now.
- For Purple Loosestrife, they raise and release special beetles that eat only Purple Loosestrife. 75,000 beetles were released in 2020. They also cut and spray smaller infestations. Big Sand has Purple Loosestrife at the DNR boat landing.
- Yellow Iris is a new invasive, seeds are huge and float. Loon Lake is actively working to control it. You can cut these below the waterline to kill. Purple Iris is fine/non-invasive.
- Japanese Knotweed has been found in the county. Emily showed photos of a large area they worked to eradicate
- Clean Boats/Clean Waters program, Tom Jenson (contractor) covers Big Sand Lake. Last year the CB/CW team inspected over 5000 boats in the county and educated 13,000 people.
- Emily runs hands-on workshops on lakes to educate groups on invasive species
- She has achieved 11 different DNR grants, many working with various lake associations.
- County Ground water testing survey via well sampling. The 1st 300 results are coming in a week or so. They did not test for bacteria, they tested for the ‘basic homeowners’ list of contaminants and metals (25 tests). This was last done in 1990. Watch for an Education Session in the fall on the findings.
- Clam Lake harvests Curly Pond Weed with their own harvester machine. It’s a huge issue for that lake. They are the only lake in the county that harvests. 3 lakes have grants to treat CPW with herbicide, but DNR is backing down on herbicides approvals
- Interestingly, some lakes that have invasive species are seeing invasives increase as they adapt to humans trying to control them.
- Link to Emily’s presentation is here: <https://www.bigsandlakewi.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Emily-Moore-7.18.24-Presentations.pdf>

### 3. Financial Report – Steve Farnham

- A financial summary was handed out at each table. See a board member for details
- Last year: Expenses \$1822, dues collected \$1400. This year YTD: Expenses \$839 dues collected: \$1200. BSLA Organization is in fine financial shape.
- We are requesting dues be paid by all this year to fund the proactive Aquatic Invasive Species projects we have underway for this next year

### 4. DNR Boat Landing Repair, Geese Banding – Jane Jensen

- DNR Landing - \$30K funding by DNR was in plan for 2024, but cost estimated was \$300K. DNR has a 2025/2026 project they are working through their planning to cover. It would entail:
  - Fix cement ramp into the water
  - Redo (re-pave) parking lot and drive to the landing
  - We should find out about status in next 8 months
- Our BSL Big Gaggle of Canadian Geese –
  - DNR came out again this summer to band. They had 10 kayaks they used to find, then herded the gaggle onto shore where they had nets set up
  - 44 total netted: 5 adult males, 4 adult females. 37 non adults. 3 were re-captured females with BSL tags. DNR said the only geese that come back each year to a specific lake are the females.
  - We plan to do the banding with the DNR again next year

### 5. BSL Apparel – Jane Jensen

- Jane worked with Shari Chadwick at Frederic Design in Frederic, WI for shirt design. She showed various options at the meeting and some members of the board were wearing examples
- They have our design on file, go there directly or call them to get some gear
  - Address: 101 Oak St W, Frederic, WI 54837
  - Store Phone: (715) 566-0255
  - Email: ChadwickFredericDesign@gmail.com

### 6. Intro of Paper – “Long Term Impacts of Lake Use on Health of a NW WI Lake” – Don Button

- Don handed out copies of Sand Lake Observer Volume 5, No 1 which was his paper
- Don feels, for BSL, Lake water drainage is the biggest issue impacting fish population and size. He stated the inflow into the lake was cut off when HWY 70 was built-up many years ago as they raised the drain culvert up 10 feet. On the outlet end (Sand Creek) the beavers have dammed up the flow in multiple places. These two actions have reduced the flow significantly which changes the fish habitat greatly.
- Don talked about his experience living in Alaska and actions that were taken to improve fishing in fished-out lakes. Don feels BSL is fished down (aka now has a overpopulation of small fish)
- Don’s paper has two more pages that were missed in printing that list out proposed next steps/ actions. When his paper is complete we will make available via BSLA website

### 7. Well Water Testing – Chip Applegath

- Chip explained the process to get test kits from the county Health dept located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Government Center. The county was not supportive of us handing out kits at the meeting today as they only had limited quantities.

### 8. DNR AIS Point Intercept Survey & DNR Landing Cleaning Station – Chip Applegath

- Chip summarized the two projects in the works. See the details of each project in the 22June2024 board meeting minutes.
- Chip submitted the DNR Grant Eligibility form and supporting documentation to Jill Sutherland at the DNR. On July 22<sup>nd</sup> we received our Grant Eligibility Application Approved letter. This enables us to apply for future DNR grants in the next 10 years.
- Emily Moore said she may be able to cover the DNR grant funding for a 2025 AIS Survey via an existing grant she has. This would reduce the amount of grant writing needed. Chip will check with her after Grant Eligibility application with DNR is completed.

### 9. BSLA Bylaw Modification – Chip Applegath

- A proposed update to our bylaws Membership section was emailed to our members a month ago. The change wording was also handed out at the meeting.

- This change is to re-align us with DNR requirements to pursue grants. This change reverts back to the original language before the 2022 change.
- Motion to adopt updated bylaws made by Chip Applegath, 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Jim Anderson
- Discussion - None
- Vote taken – unanimous
- Link to updated bylaws: <https://www.bigsandlakewi.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/BSLA-Bylaw-Final-Approved-20Jul2024.pdf>

#### 10. BSLA Board Elections

- Dennis announced he was retiring from the position of president after many years of leadership in that role. The BSLA Board thanked Dennis for his numerous contributions and the membership gave him a nice round of applause. Dennis then opened the election process:
- **President**
  - Paul had volunteered for the president position
  - Paul Hassing was nominated by Dennis Loots, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jane Jensen
  - Discussion: None
  - Vote: Approved Unanimously
- **Vice President**
  - Jane had volunteered for another term
  - Jane Jensen was Nominated by Chip Applegath, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Rice
  - Discussion: None
  - Vote: Approved Unanimously
- **At-Large Director 1 (Don's Seat)**
  - Don had volunteered for another term
  - Don Button Nominated by Chip Applegath, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Anderson
  - Discussion: None
  - Vote: Approved Unanimously
- **At-Large Director 2 (Paul's seat)**
  - Dennis had volunteered to stay on the board as an at-large Director to remain involved and help with transition
  - Dennis Loots was Nominated by Dennis Loots (and the board in general), 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim Shimko
  - Discussion: None
  - Vote: Approved Unanimously.

#### 10. OPEN Q&A Session

- We got various questions on membership. Here's the numbers:
  - **170** property addresses in our spreadsheet. These are mostly people directly on the lake
  - **38** properties had paid dues as of 7/19 for a total of **46** paid members. (8 properties have +1 significant others that also paid as a member). These numbers are before the payments we took it in at the meeting and picnic
  - **138** active emails in our distribution list
  - **87** members in the Private Facebook Group
- Someone mentioned there is also a Webster area Facebook Group that is a great source for leads
- Someone asked about Bocan Campground near BSL update. Dennis had no new news; last he heard the lawsuit between Bocan and the County is still pending.
- Someone asked if anyone had any idea what was going on with the former Anchor Inn property. An audience members said Fallen Tree Service purchased that property but that was all that was known.

#### 11. Closing – Dennis Loots

- Motion to adjourn made by Chip Applegath, 2<sup>nd</sup> by various members on board and audience
- Vote taken, anonymous.
- Meeting was adjourned at 11:25am

**12. Annual Picnic**

- Thank You, Neil & Susan Raisanen, for hosting!! Thank you to all that attended and brought items to share. We had excellent weather and food. It was great to see new connections made. We had approximately 35 people attend the picnic.

**Reminder that \$25 yearly BSLA dues are due.**

- Mail check Payable to: Big Sand Lake Association
- Mail to: 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](https://account.venmo.com/u/Big_Sand_Lake_WI_Association)

Respectfully submitted,

Chip Applegath  
BSLA Secretary