

Big Sand Lake Association Board Meeting

Thursday Dec 18th, 2024

Location: via Zoom

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

Board Members Absent: *None*

BSLA President, Paul Hassing, called the meeting to order at 2:00pm

Approval of 26Oct2024 BSLA Board Meeting – Chip Applegath

- Approval via board email vote. Vote unanimous by board members that attended the meeting
- Minutes were published on BSLA website & emailed to members via Mailchimp on 10/30/2024

The topic of this meeting was:

- Environmental Damage to lakes by Wakeboats (in wake surfing mode)
- Town ordinances restricting use of certain wake enhancement features

Today there are no restrictions in place at the State, or County level. However, the state of Wisconsin allows Towns to enact ordinances regulating this topic on lakes within their jurisdiction. Town ordinances don't ban wakeboats per se, they just ban using the wake enhancing features.

Chip led a summary discussion on

- How Wakeboats work
- Environment Damage Issues
- Safety Issues

Motion by Chip: "To Initiate discussion with BSLA members on the topic of wake boat environment issues and town ordinances, to ascertain BSLA members thoughts on this topic"

Motion was seconded by Dennis

Board Discussion Followed:

- 10 of 21 Towns in Burnett County are actively exploring ordinances. The towns of Scott and Swiss have recently enacted ordinances.
- An ordinance by a Town, affects all lakes in that town. For the Town of Sand Lake this would include Big Sand Lake, Viola Lake, Mallard Lake, Owl Lake, Austin Lake and Buck Lake. The other smaller lakes inside the Town are < 50 acres so they are no wake by DNR ordinance.
- Other key stakeholders include Viola Lake, Mallard Lake and the Tribe
- Don noted growth of wild rice in the lake is incompatible with wake boats
- The far south part of Big Sand Lake is in the Town of LaFollette, but since > 60% of the shoreline of BSL is in the town of Sand Lake, an ordinance in Town of Sand Lake would

cover all of Big Sand Lake. Jane indicated that the Town of LaFollette has this topic on their agenda for discussion.

- If there is enough stakeholder support on this topic, the starting point would be to approach the Town of Sand Lake to consider initiating the ordinance process.
- The initial info to be shared to BSLA members in 1Q2025 includes: Link to Video by Lakes At Stake Wisconsin, Lakelines Fall 2024 Article, Town of Scott Ordinance enacted 11Nov2024

Paul called for a vote on the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:35pm