

Big Sandy Lake Association Meeting

Big Sandy Lodge - 7/13/2019

Called to Order at 8:30 a.m.

Board Members Present: Bruce Johnson, Kathy Beatty, Christopher Krolak, Ann Rorem, Stu Mortrude, Margo Gisselman, Russ Thompson, John Sturner, John Pilney, Janet Hill, Laurie White, Dick Beatty, Jack Johnson

Others Present: Dan Guida, Ron Smith, Bill Reed, Tony Rinta, Curt Sparks

A. Review and Approve April Meeting Minutes, John S. moved, Janet seconded

B. Review and Approve April Membership and Treasurer's Report, John moved, Dick seconded

Report from Sheriff's Department: Dan Guida responded to questions about lake safety issues. After the July 4th weekend, his office received many calls about wake boats and the potential damage to shoreline caused by their big wakes. He explained that there are no special restrictions for wake boats except that they are to stay 300 ft from shore and are to be accountable to other activities happening on the lake. Kari Horbacz from the McGregor Chamber of Commerce added that although we want to protect the lake and its shoreline, we also do not wish to discourage visitors to the area. It was noted by Christopher Krolak that information gathered at boat launches indicate that very few wake boats come in as visitors to the lake, and more likely are weekenders or residents on the lake. Dan suggested that we form a group to address wake boat issues, including 4-6 wake boat owners and 4-6 property owners worried about wake boat activity) and ask that group to come up with ideas to work together so that the lake is protected as much as possible without discouraging fun on the water. Dan stated that boating rules aren't very specific, but common sense and courtesy are necessary and expected by all boaters. He also reminded us that all boaters need to be aware of the right of way at bridges – that boats should take turns moving through bridges, and that towing a swim pad behind your boat is not a good idea.

C. President's Report

Bruce reported that he thought the June Annual Meeting went very well, and that he had talked with many attendees who thought so too. Minutes of that meeting will be posted at next year's meeting.

D. Old Business

Next year's "Love Your Lake" event will be on Saturday, May 9th at MN National. The topic for the event is still being considered.

E. Director's Reports

Janet reported that she is working on the next newsletter, and that the usual articles will be included, as well as an article about the 'no-wake' standard, and an article about the compost site by Ron, and information about the most recent Lakes & Rivers meeting by Ann Rorem.

Kathy reminded us that we continue to monitor privacy on our Facebook page – she deletes anything inappropriate – and we also do not allow ads on the site.

Margo will order fly swatters for giveaway items at our booth at Wild Rice Days.

Stu has distributed 5 additional new-member packets.

John S. Moved to approve all current officers for another year. Motion was approved.

Christopher reported that funding through BSALWMP for funding for water testing this year has not been approved, and he asked if we might fund it to continue monitoring phosphorus levels. John P. and Dick will work together on this to determine cost and feasibility.

John P. will work with officials in McGregor on solving water treatment issues. Bruce, Dick and Curt Sparks will attend the next meeting.

E. Visitors

CD3 Systems Representative (sorry, don't have his name) presented information on a new waterless boat cleaning system designed as a possible method to assist our efforts to keep invasive species out of the lake. The system includes a washing station that could be used at each of our monitored boat launches. Major equipment is installed at no cost to us, and our responsibility would be to maintain the equipment and tools at each location. Grant money is perhaps available for our portion of the cost. We will discuss the details at upcoming meetings before any decision is made on how to proceed.

Ron Smith (Shamrock Township) announced that September 14 will be Clean-Up Day. Users from Turner Township will be asked to pay a portion of the dumpster cost. Also: the township is hoping to install a score board on the ball field soon. Ron reminded us that only loose leaves should be dumped at the compost site (no plastic bags) and stumps and logs should be left in the designated area.

Curt Sparks spoke about the Sandy Lake Foundation and the educational programs it supports in the area. He asked that a member of our board consider becoming a Foundation board member. We will respond to him after our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:04 am, Kathy moved, Janet seconded