

Big Sandy Lake Association Meeting  
Big Sandy Lodge – 3/11/17

Called to Order at 8:35 a.m.

Board Members Present-Bruce Johnson, Ben Gisselman, Kathy Beatty, Christopher Krolak, Russ Thompson, Jack Johnson, Janet Hill, John Sturner, Micki Berg, Jim Carlson, Dick Beatty

Others Present: Ron Smith, Bob Greifzu, Grant and Kathy Garriott (Bridge Road cabin, live in Twin Cities)

A. Review and Approve January Minutes-

Jack moved, Dick seconded

B. Review and Approve Treasurer's Report and membership Report

Ben moved to approve Treasurer's report, Jack seconded

Motion made for \$300 donation to Rivers and Lakes Fair, Micki moved Janet seconded

C. President's Report

a. Canceled February Meeting

- Bruce wondered whether there were any issues with that cancellation. Consensus was there was no issue and discussion ensued that we could permanently skip some winter meetings but we agreed that having the meetings scheduled as usual makes sense and if we need to cancel we can do that

b. Annual Meeting

- Date will be June 24<sup>th</sup>
- Various members up for reelection, we have one director opening
- Kathy pointed out that the BSLA was established 25 years ago, on March 13, 2017, and that we should commemorate this at the annual meeting

D. Old Business

a. MNCOLA Survey Sandy Lake Area Watershed Management

- Discussed the Action Agenda items. Most favored number 1 on the list-Enhance AIS inspection and decontamination. There was also significant discussion regarding septic system regulation, ensuring sustained funding for the U of M, and increasing fines

b. Status of AIS Funding and Detectors

- Christopher discussed the AIS 60-minute training concept and all agreed that having that basic training as a lake association sponsored event would be a good idea. Question came up about whether this could be part of the annual meeting agenda. Agreement was that these should be two separate events, one being scheduled early summer and put on by the DNR, and a short educational session put on by County AIS folks at the annual meeting. May 20<sup>th</sup> or May 6<sup>th</sup> at 10am were proposed as possible dates. Christopher will look into
- Christopher discussed the data he has received from Steve Hughes regarding inspections, inspection hours and results from the 2016 season. 16 accesses

AIS-11 members  
times 10  
minutes

AIS-11 Member  
times 30 minutes

were inspected total in Aitkin County and there were no mussel sightings. There were however veligers found in Round Lake north of Mille Lacs during a water test. The numbers showed that about 10,000 inspections took place which equate to about one per hour. Discussion had regarding whether we should go above our 420 hours in the grant. Above that threshold commits us to a 50/50 share as opposed to the 90/10 in the grant itself. Christopher discussed that he will discuss with Steve Hughes the concept of expanding the inspection hours by having them start earlier in the day, and if that is not viable, then perhaps asking that the start time be shifted to earlier in the day to ensure we are covering the busier mornings when more boats are being launched, focusing primarily on Friday through Sunday mornings

E. New Business

a. Bruce

- 5k Run for the Lake
  - Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend
  - Micki Berg is taking over responsibility, Ben is helping as well
- Bruce mentioned community education opportunities, Micki pointed out that two U of M classes are scheduled and coming up
  - April 19<sup>th</sup> Planting Natives at 5pm at High School
  - April 26<sup>th</sup> Watering Wisely at 5pm at High School

b. Particular Member-Benefactor Matter

- Has been donating, as a benefactor, via the United Way for quite some time, and should be acknowledged as Lifetime Member
- Kathy will be in touch with her to ensure our recognition of her/their efforts

F. Director's Reports

a. Janet Hill

- Discussed efforts regarding the improvement of Internet connectivity here in Aitkin County. She participated in a well-attended event involving the Blandin Foundation (who is offering community grant funding for this purpose) involving community stakeholders passionate about the issue of poor Internet options in our area. Projects discussed included creating "hot spots" in places like Palisade, McGregor, Internet on school buses. This would involve erecting more towers in our township for this purpose. Ron Smith mentioned that the Township favors this concept.
- Guest speaker, Grant, spoke on various options for Internet and the various problems with what exists now, including poor service from Frontier. Part of problem is that Frontier is not investing in improving its own technology. Grant has a background in IT. Grant asked BSLA and Township if we would support this cause by working with Frontier in pricing out best options for improving their technology. The notion was discussed that the area is becoming a less desirable place to live and own property due to how lacking we are in Internet service compared with other areas. The specific role that we would be taking

on would be to help apply pressure on Frontier to apply for available grant funds for this purpose

- Janet discussed her experience at the MNCOLA meeting regarding efforts statewide regarding AIS, and particularly at Lake Sylvia to decontaminate boats with Hydrogen Peroxide. Ben mentioned outreach via coasters with BSLA and AIS information, Ben will bring a sample to next meeting

b. Kathy Beatty

- Discussed Herbranson scholarship
- Mentioned MASF is having a breakfast tomorrow morning at 10:30am at the Community Center
- Kathy asked about miscellaneous treasurer resources and where they are, Jim Carlson has some things and so does Bruce
- Discussed ice-out fundraiser concept being part of membership application process

c. Jim Carlson

- Mentioned that BSALWMP has \$500 of grant funding for newsletter purposes if we tie in AIS pertinent info in our newsletters (which we almost always do by default). Must be applied for by the end of May

d. Dick Beatty

- Mentioned that we could have a representative at the high school awards ceremony to present our scholarship check. That ceremony is near the end of the school year-TBD

e. Ben Gisselman

- Mentioned that one of our members, Kurt VonBusch, brought up the idea of having a discussion about limiting possession and/or size of the crappie catch on Big Sandy. We hope to have Rick Bruesewitz from the DNR at our April meeting to discuss this topic

G. Guest Speakers

a. Ron Smith

- April 29<sup>th</sup> 9am-2pm Township Clean-Up Day
  - Tires will be \$4 each this year instead of \$2 because they have been hard to dispose of
- Township Annual Meeting is March 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:15pm. It will be at this meeting that the Lodging tax will be voted on
- Various permit applications are on the rise-building permits, etc. Shamrock and townships near Farm Island, parts of Mile Lacs lead the County in permit applications
- Proposed Bridge Road radio/cell tower discussed in the past is now being considered for a different location

Motion made by Dick Beatty to adjourn, Kathy seconded. Adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Next Meeting is Saturday April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017