

Big Sand Lake Preservation Association

Annual Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2013

Board Members Present: Don Button, President; Deb Loots, Secretary; and Susan Raisanen, Treasurer

Members Present:

Anderson, CC and Judy
Boylan, Gary
Button, Carol
Cobb, Jim and Dotti
Corty, Bill
Farnham, Steve
Goetzke, Jack and Jan
Mason, Barry and Sharon
Patnaude, Virginia
Raisanen, Neil
Taylor, Jim
Tjader, Jerry and Doris
Welsh, Mary Jo

Don Button opened the meeting at 10:10 a.m. and welcomed all present and then introduced the board members. He asked that all sign in on sheet going around and indicate accurate address information. He then introduced Jim Taylor and asked that he say a few words. Jim, a Native American authority, stated that he is disappointed in the Tribes lack of involvement in lake preservation activities. However, the Tribe has made a financial commitment for the replacement of the culvert---50% of the cost or up to \$50,000. They are having an internal election today so potentially some new members might be interested in getting involved.

Don began the meeting by addressing the importance of a healthy lake and shared information from his presentation. There is a scientific model on how lakes should operate. He discussed the food/fish chain and the effect of over fishing. Prevention that this Association is doing is much cheaper than restoration. He then deferred to the agenda.

Secretary's Report

Deb Loots summarized the board meetings that had occurred since the last annual meeting on June 9, 2012. On 9-8-12, the upcoming meeting with the Tribe was discussed, website, need for incorporation, maintenance of landing signs, fish restoration, and how to collaborate with the other Big Sand Lake Association. The next meeting on April 14, 2013 was conducted after three attempts in the winter forced cancellation due to

weather. The meeting with the Tribe was discussed, lake level and flushing, Don's presentation on the status of the lake, and plans for the upcoming annual meeting. A final organizational annual meeting was held on May 26, 2013. It was proposed that a position of Vice President should be added to help with the workload of the President. Deb asked for a motion to approve the minutes—Gary Boylan moved that the minutes be approved and Judy Anderson seconded it.

Treasurer's Report

Susan Raisanen reported the BSLPA had \$937 in expenses last year and our current balance is \$1667.93. She asked for dues of \$25 and other donations for the many upcoming expenses. She asked for ideas on fund raising. Someone mentioned sending an end of calendar year letter to membership requesting donations. Another idea was to sell calendars. And a final suggestion was to collaborate with Big Sand Lake Association on ideas and funds which would benefit all lake members. Susan invited interested members to attend the Northwest Lakes Conference held in Spooner, Wisconsin on June 21 and the Burnett County Lakes meeting on June 29, 2013. Finally, Susan noted she will be working on obtaining a tax exempt status for our Association. Dotti Cobb made a motion to approve the report and Barry Mason seconded.

Webmaster Report

Jim Cobb described the BSLPA website which he and his son Brent had created. The address is www.bigsandlakepreservationassoc.org. There is currently a camera showing a live picture of the lake and the lake temperature. In addition, they are experimenting with the addition of a hydrostatic measurement of the lake level by measuring the pressures in the lake over time. Jim has also added a calendar of all local and regional events. All were very excited about these additions and anxious to try out this new website.

President's Report

Don stated that he had planted some wild rice in the West Bay of our lake on May 10. He reviewed his presentation with the group. Of specific importance were the accomplishments and TO DO items.

BSLPA accomplishments:

1. Incorporation of the BSLPA
2. Tax free status (in progress)
3. Drainage improvement
4. Fishing improvement (in progress)
5. Rice restoration (in progress)
6. BSLPA recognition (local to international)
7. Native American involvement
8. Web Site including camera of lake
9. Underwater video to study activity in our lake
10. Landing flyers and monitoring
11. Publication of new Sand Lake Observer
12. Rapport with fishermen—most are now doing catch and release

TO Do List:

1. Grant proposal (DNR)
2. Site selection for fish sticks
3. Education on release of large northern pikes
4. Improve understanding of lake ecology
5. Effect reduced phosphate input from shoreline
6. Seed wild rice in west bay
7. Raise donations for various efforts to improve health of the lake

Don discussed the importance of the wood material or fish sticks project to restore and stimulate a healthy fish population. Essentially it is an engineered piece of fish habitat created to give fish a place to gather along shorelines. The DNR can work with us to establish these fish habitats with the property owner's approval. Don also mentioned he had purchased an underwater video camera that will help him to assess the health of the lake.

Comments from the floor

--Neil Raisanen described that a large lake in Michigan put in fish cribs about 10 years and they now have a very good walleye population.

--Jack Goetzke said he has a good friend, Mark Hunter, who is president of Mallard Lake Association. They have done many preservation activities on their lake and Jack could facilitate an introduction so that ideas could be shared.

--Gary Boylan said he installed the landing signs in a new format and asked for feedback—all liked what he had done.

--Don asked for members to help clean up junk along Sand Lake Road and Olsen Road on the way to the boat launch. Susan and Deb volunteered to help with Sand Lake Road and Virginia Patnaude volunteered to clean up Olsen Road.

--It was asked if members would be interested in a BSLPA social. Many agreed it would be a good idea and Susan volunteered to have it at her cabin in August. However, it was suggested that we wait to see when the other Association is having their Social and potentially have it together.

--Barry Mason asked about the lake level and the culvert, an issue which needs to be addressed because of the negative perception. Don gave a brief explanation of the reason for making changes in the flushing rate of the lake and more will be forthcoming.

--It was suggested that specific goals and objectives should be drafted and the needs and budget be sent to property owners.

--Members requested an updated list of property owners and Deb agreed to send all an updated copy. Perhaps our list could be compared to the list of Big Sand Lake Association to increase the accuracy.

--Jim Taylor asked if any had been contacted by Cooper Engineering in their attempt to determine where the flood plane is in the old campground. He also stated that the Tribe is against a rounded culvert and in favor of a box culvert.

--Jerry Tjader stated he is running for Secretary-treasurer of BSLA and hopes to get more activities going. He would be receptive to coordinating some activities with BSLPA.

--Barry Mason said that we need to stay true to the mission of lake preservation and build on collaboration with BSLA rather than being competitive.

Election of Officers

Don asked for nominations for new officers. It was explained that the current three officers will stay in office for at least the next year. The bylaws state the officers essentially have a three year commitment (including one year in transition with the new officers). Don also proposed that a Vice President be added to the officer roster to help to minimize the time consuming commitment of the President. Also additional Board of Directors positions were proposed. Don opened the election of the BSLPA secretary. There was much discussion on if the timing was right to elect a new slate of officers if there were to be discussions on collaboration with the Big Sand Lake Association. CC Anderson proposed that we hold off electing new officers for now and that the current officers facilitate a meeting with the BSLA officers after their annual meeting. Deb suggested and all agreed that the election be postponed until after meeting with the Big Sand Lake Association. Jerry Tjader, who is active in the BSLA, was in agreement with this recommendation. Then Bill Corty nominated Barry Mason for President or Vice President. He agreed and the group was all in favor of Barry Mason as Vice President. Jim Taylor re-nominated Don Button for president and all were in agreement. Deb Loots nominated Gary Boylan and Jim Cobb for Board of Directors—all agreed. Gary Boylan nominated Bernie Allen for Board of Directors—all agreed.

Don Button thanked everyone for attending. He adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Respectively submitted,

Deb Loots
Secretary BSLPA