

Big Sand Lake Preservation Association

Board Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2014 @ 8:00 a.m.

Secretary's report—There was no report because the secretary was not present at the previous board meeting. Minutes were approved. Deb noted that she would be sending the completed minutes from this meeting and the previous meeting plus the next annual meeting agenda to all membership with emails.

Treasurer's report—Susan noted that the current balance is \$1951.43. Bernie made a motion to approve and Barry seconded the report. Barry also noted that the balance should be reconciled with the previous balance. It was discussed that all expenses should be reported even if they are not reimbursed by the Association. Don has had many expenses that he will be donating. The officers suggested that he report these and then be given recognition in kind.

Announcements

Annual meeting will be held on June 14 at the Sand Lake Town Hall.

The letter from BSLA and their cleanup activity discussed. It was suggested that we coordinate our summer picnic with this group.

The construction of the new culvert across Sand Lake Road will be moving forward shortly.

Barry suggested we add to the agenda a proposal for a new structure of our Board.

President's report

- Don announced that we received \$3,000 in funding from the DNR and this will be matched by \$1,000 from our treasury. Congrats to Don to his hard work on persevering on this.
- Don attending the Wisconsin Lakes Association meeting in Stevens Point from April 25-27. He said it was a very informative meeting and is one all the board members should attend next year. There was particularly good information about fish and fishing and Bernie volunteered reviewing all of it and determining what we could use.
- Deb checked on the date of the Northwest Lakes Conference and it is on Friday, June 20 from 8-3 at Drummond High School, Drummond, WI.
- The St. Croix Tribe Environment group would like to schedule another meeting with us to discuss monitoring of the lake and collaboration on our mission. They will set a date and decide who to invite.
- Don has been invited to speak at the Oregon Joint Lakes conference on May 19. He hopes to also learn things there which will help our lake.
- Don and tribe representatives planted some wild rice in the west bay. Don had pick some rice and seeded it so much of the wild rice planted was from strains of our lake.
- The Observer was sent to the Board but unfortunately most were unable to open the document from Don's software. Bernie had one correction and the rest will provide feedback to Don. Don included a brief survey as the last page of the Observer. The group proposed this be a separate document from the Observer so would not be missed. They also agreed to provide feedback on this.

Assignments

- **Shoreline restoration:** Don proposed that property owners may want to do this on their own as the DNR would charge \$8,000. We need to further examine the issue of restoration and

have a sign up at the annual meeting for those interested and perhaps a checklist with pointers.

- **Communications:** Deb said after these minutes are approved, she would email the latest two minutes from Board meetings, notice of the upcoming meeting, and the landowners survey to all email addresses. She will also email a reminder closer to the annual meeting.
- **Budget and Funding:** Don discussed expenses for the lake monitoring supplies and equipment, travel, and matching funds. It was suggested that this be included as part of the Treasurers report to present at annual meeting. Barry will work with Susan to help set up the spreadsheet for this. Don said he may have a student who could also help with some of these projects.
- **Fishsticks:** Areas need to be identified, property owners affected will be contacted, and application submitted to the DNR. Don, Bernie, and Gary to work on this project.
- **Summer picnic:** Susan volunteered to host the picnic at her cabin on August 9. Deb will assist Susan with planning for food and beverages. Don suggested some games for kids like invasive species identification. It was also agreed that we contact BSLA to help with the picnic. Susan will contact Jerry Tjader about this.
- **Annual meeting logistics:** Set up at the town hall should be done on Friday, June 13—Susan and Don to do. Deb and Susan will plan what fruit and/or snacks to purchase. Deb suggested that we change the annual meeting to June 28 so that all board members could be present. Don vetoed this idea as this may also delay proceeding on some of our lake projects.

Election of Officers

There was considerable discussion on the structure of the current association and which officers are up for election. There was a difference of opinion among the board members. While the bylaws states that officers run for 2 years, Don volunteered to be president for another year and that only the secretary and treasurer be elected at this meeting. The remaining board members and the vice president have one more to serve. It was suggested that Deb contact those who will be serving another year to assure they are in agreement.

Barry proposed that a minor change be made to the current BSLPA structure. We have a committee in charge of research and scientific (preservation committee) headed up by Don Button, who is more knowledgeable than anyone in this area. As committee chair he would be an equal member with the other board members. Then the president could provide leadership and organization to the association in addition to having a working knowledge of the mission. Don disagreed and feels the president must have extensive knowledge on how lakes work. He said it is necessary to have local DNR contacts and other state and national lake association contacts. Others felt there could be no one to take Don's scientific role and would therefore not be able to elect a different president. Again there was difference of opinion on this proposed structure so a vote was taken. Deb made the motion and Bernie seconded. The vote was 3-2 with keeping the same structure, but should be noted that two board members were absent. Don feels he wants to take some time looking at this proposal and want to table the discussion until the September board meeting. Barry said that he has strong misgivings about delaying this proposal and feels that it will not strengthen the association.

The others said that it would still be important for this proposed structure be presented as a point of interest at the June annual meeting. It will be later discussed on who should present this and the content of the presentation.

The content of the annual meeting was discussed—all agreed the goal should be to keep the meeting to 90 minutes. Some education should be provided by Don but this should be limited. Don proposed getting a vote to raise the dues to \$50 and others disagreed. He also proposed doing the steps necessary to become a Lake District. Others felt the current association is not ready to understand the implications of a Lake District.

Projects Going Forward

Don identified a list of projects to propose to the group.

- Fish diet data
- Restoration strategy, fish sticks installation and monitoring
- Catch and release large northerns, perch? and keep the small ones
- Limit early fishing of bluegills
- Fish down largemouth bass
- Shoreline plantings
- Improve dissolved phosphate measurements
- Deep water oxygen monitoring

The Board proposed that we package these things together for the annual meeting, have 7 to 10 minutes of discussion on it, and then ask for a motion of support and a vote from the membership on the direction we are going. Ask for help from members to proceed with these projects.

Other Items

- Don said we should request at the annual meeting that a sign be made for the boat landing on the catch and release of fish. Don has resources to create this sign.
- Bylaws—never seem to get enough time to discuss the revised bylaws. There have been multiple revisions but no consensus. Barry said he would take a look at them and hopefully get a draft together that we could approve at the annual meeting.
- There will be an informal meeting on Sat., May 24 at 9:00 am at Don's home. The purpose is to stuff envelopes with The Observer and other to send out to the membership. All available are encouraged to come.
- It was suggested that our brochure be revised/updated. Janine Allen did the original version so Bernie will talk to her about updating and the Board can suggest changes.

At 11:10 a.m. Bernie made a motion to adjourn and Barry seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Loots
Secretary