



March 20, 2024

Dear Big Sand Lake Association Members,

We hope that you are all getting excited for another wonderful summer on Big Sand Lake!

This past winter, your Big Sand Lake Association (BSLA) was busy preparing for the summer season. We coordinated a professional vegetative and invasive species detection study of the lake, applied for AIS inspection grants and worked with the DNR to plan the 2024 watercraft inspection program.

In addition, the BSLA board of directors has taken steps to clarify the distinct roles, finances and fundraising of the Big Sand Lake Association and the Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund. ***Going forward, the BSLA annual membership renewal/dues request is being combined with the annual Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund solicitation in one combined appeal, but separate checks, or online donations, to the two entities are still necessary.***

Please participate financially in these programs that strengthen our lake community and protect pristine Big Sand Lake!

WHAT DOES THE BIG SAND LAKE ASSOCIATION DO?

The Big Sand Lake Association Board conducts many important activities to “promote and maintain the environmental, economic, and recreational protection of Big Sand Lake,” and to make it a safe and wonderful place to own a home or cabin. We maintain the bigsandlake.org website, distribute newsletters, maintain a member directory, conduct lake water testing, apply for grants to help offset the cost of DNR watercraft inspection at the boat launch, coordinate social events and so much more.

Annual dues to pay for the activities of the Big Sand Lake Association are set at \$50 for members/property owners, and Associate Member dues are \$20 per year for family, friends, and non-property owners. Think of the BSLA money as our household checking account, taking care of smaller day-to-day expenses.

[Dues are paid directly to BSLA, either online at \[bigsandlake.org\]\(http://bigsandlake.org\) \(under the membership tab\) or by mailing a check in the enclosed envelope.](#)

WHAT DOES THE BIG SAND LAKE CHARITABLE FUND DO?

The Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund was established in 2009 to “preserve, protect and enhance Big Sand Lake and its environs.” It is managed by the Northwest Minnesota Foundation. Examples of how the fund has been used include helping to pay for the costs of the annual DNR watercraft inspections, and for the special aquatic survey conducted this past year. In addition, the fund

is available to support other large expenses or special projects necessary to protect the lake, including quickly addressing any possible AIS infestation emergencies.

One of the main priorities of the Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund has been to raise money each year to pay for the cost of DNR boat inspectors stationed at the Big Sand Lake boat launch to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species into the lake. For 2024, there will be 1,100 inspector hours contracted with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). After grants received from the state of Minnesota and Lake Emma Township, the balance of the DNR watercraft inspection bill is \$15,200, and we are once again seeking donations to cover the cost. **Therefore, in addition to paying your annual membership dues, please donate to the Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund to help cover the cost of this critical activity that is our best weapon against the spread of aquatic invasive species.**

To donate to the Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund, go to the bigsandlake.org website, and click on the yellow “Charitable Fund, Donate Now” button on the right side of the page, which takes you directly to the Northwest Minnesota Foundation website, or mail a check in the enclosed envelope.

Clear as can be?

We are asking you for two things. First, please renew your annual BSLA membership by paying your dues. Second, please donate to the Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund to help pay for the 2024 DNR watercraft inspection, or just to help keep the Fund growing for future needs! Two separate envelopes are enclosed for your contributions.

Thank you in advance for your generosity! We all benefit from a strong and engaged lake association membership!

With gratitude and appreciation,

Your Big Sand Lake Association Board of Directors

Chuck Fenton

Linda Lee

Catharine Williamson

Steve Kimpton

Al Judson

Don Kilander

Ann Hilger

Jo Kilander

Mike Cziok

Rich Provinzino

Mark Kalvoda

The Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund Advisory Committee

Chris Hilger

Ann Hilger

Linda Lee