



April 1, 2025

Dear Big Sand Lake Association Members,

We hope that you are all looking forward to another wonderful summer on Big Sand Lake!

To date, our beautiful lake remains aquatic invasive species infestation free, but the sad news that Zebra Mussels were discovered in Potato Lake is concerning us all! Your Big Sand Lake Association and the BSLA Charitable Fund Committee remain committed and motivated to work hard on the behalf of our members to protect Big Sand!

A year ago, we sent a letter in a combined appeal for your support for two different things and are doing so again this year. First, we ask you to **renew your annual dues** to remain an active member of our Big Sand Lake Association. Second, we ask that you **make a contribution to the BSLA Charitable Fund of the Northwest Minnesota Foundation** to help cover the cost of the 2025 summer DNR watercraft inspection program at the public access, and to help us grow the fund for future needs.

To refresh your memory on the purpose and functions of the two different entities:

### THE BIG SAND LAKE ASSOCIATION

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](http://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 treasury 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.

### THE BIG SAND LAKE CHARITABLE FUND

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 last 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.

A priority 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. This summer 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 \$15,940, 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 the [bigsandlake.org](http://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. Donations to the Charitable Fund should be designated as “General Spendable.”

Thank you in advance for your generosity! Truly, a strong and engaged lake association membership will benefit us all for years to come!

With gratitude and appreciation,

Your Big Sand Lake Association Board of Directors

Catharine Williamson  
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The Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund Advisory Committee

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