

Big Sand Lake Association History by Bob Rust

The Big Sand Lake Area Association was organized in the summer of 1988. John McCallum and Bob Rust did most of the legwork to develop a mailing list of property owners on or near Big Sand Lake.

In a letter sent to all property owners, it was stated among other things, that the Association intends to investigate and take action on the following:

- Water Quality
- Swimmer's Itch
- Lake Shore and Back Lot Development
- Noise Pollution

Membership dues were established at \$50.00 for the first year. It was stated that we should have a "war chest" of \$5,000 to \$6,000 by the spring of 1989.

Personal contacts were made and the response to our letter was excellent.

The first officers of the association were as follows:

- President - John McCallum
- Vice President - Bob Rust
- Secretary - Ann Candor
- Treasurer - Mary Gladwin

Directors elected for one year:

- Pierce Fairchild
- Andrea Brainard
- Wayne Devore
- Dr. Jim Wenzel
- Ted Bair
- Doug Gladwin

As of October 8, 1988, the Association had 82 members.

On June 10, 1989, the annual meeting of the Association was held at the Eagles Club in Park Rapids. There were 52 members in attendance at this meeting. This was when the official articles of Incorporation were approved by the general membership.

The purpose of the Association was stated as follows in Article II Section 1. The Association shall promote and maintain the environmental, economic, and recreational protection of Big Sand Lake and vicinity.

- Section 2. The Association shall work in conjunction with federal, state, and local agencies, public and private, to maintain the quality of the lake.
- Section 3. The Association shall develop a program for the promotion of stocking Big Sand Lake.
- Section 4. The Association shall provide educational resources relating to the protection and quality of Big Sand Lake Area and its wildlife.
- Section 5. The Association shall inform the general membership of civil concerns relating to the purposes of the Association.
- Section 6. The Association shall be a non-profit, non-stock organization.

Since that time, the Association has continued to grow with the membership in excess of 100.

Accomplishments of the Association have been many. Here is a partial list of the most important items:

1. The fly over of Big Sand and action by the Association Board which resulted in Big Sand being the first lake in Hubbard County to have all septic systems up-graded.
2. Working closely with the DNR and making sure that adequate walleye fingerlings are stocked in the lake.
3. Secchi disk program which monitors lake clarity
4. Established a program to monitor and inform our members of what can and could be done about "swimmer's itch."
5. Maintains an annual program to make sure all sand bars and other hazards are properly marked.
6. The Association was very active in getting the parking problem at the access resolved.
7. Installed and paid for an attractive sign at the public access.
8. Have supported COLA in their efforts to improve and upgrade all the lakes in our area.

Our Association continues to flourish under good leadership and the cooperation of our members.

Bob Rust
August 28, 2002