

IMPORTANT CHANGES!!! WATERCRAFT INSPECTIONS COMMITMENT & PAYMENT DEADLINES

Recently, Hubbard County transitioned the Aquatic Invasive Species Program to the Hubbard County Environmental Services Department. Formerly, it was managed under Hubbard County Soil and Water. Bill DonCarlos remains as the full time AIS program coordinator.

As a result of this change, we have been advised of program changes in our Watercraft Inspection Program.

- **Lake Associations must commit to the number of inspections hours by January 31st, 2017.**
- **The payment deadline for inspections is March 1st, 2017**

How does this affect our Big Sand Lake Association?

The biggest impact is the payment being due March 1, 2017. Previously, payments were made for inspections during the Summer months. Our membership dues are traditionally collected between Spring and our annual meeting. Often times, additional contributions are sent along with dues for watercraft inspections. The March 1 required payment may result in a significant impact to our association's cash flow.

The BSLA treasury paid \$8950 in 2015 and \$7170 in 2016 for watercraft inspections at our access. This supported 1058 inspection hours in 2015 and 1000 inspection hours in 2016. The future hourly rate for inspections is likely to increase, adding to the cost.

How does the BSLA support this change?

The BSLA board recommends we establish a special project line item under our spendable fund in the Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund. Donated AIS project monies will be deposited into this line item account. These monies may be earmarked specifically for watercraft inspection hours and similar, future AIS projects. This allows us to retain a large source of money in our charitable spendable fund in the event of a lake crisis.

A separate campaign from our membership dues drive will encourage donations for this line item. Monies from the 'special project' fund would go towards 2017 Watercraft Inspection hours.

The Big Sand Lake Association and The Big Sand Charitable Fund Advisory Committee plan a funding campaign for the 'special project' line item prior to year end, 2016.