

This message is being sent to Big Sand Lake Association (BSLA) members and all Big Sand Lake property owners to inform everyone about the DNR plans to purchase the Bogg property adjacent to the Big Sand Lake public access for the purpose of enlarging and improving the access. The DNR is asking for public comment about plans as stated in the notice which is found at the end of this email. The BSLA Board of Directors voted to oppose the proposed public access for a number of reasons some of which are the following:

- There has not been a public hearing to learn of the plans of the DNR nor the sharing of concerns of the residents affected. Why haven't local residents been involved or at least appraised of the plans? Why have local residents been denied the opportunity for an open hearing?
- The cost of purchase of the property, removal of the house, cutting of trees and developing the property as a boat access is very costly. It seems the money could be better spent on other more important/relative issues. What is the total cost of developing the proposed access? A conservative estimate would be \$500,000
- The acquisition would remove the property from the tax rolls. Is this fair?
- The possible expansion of the access provides challenges in the fight against AIS. What changes are going to be made? Will the DNR provide AIS inspectors?
- There seems to be a lack of documentation regarding the need to expand the current access. Trained DNR staff have stated "The boat access is adequate" and "I wonder if access would be improved with a new site any or much more that it is now with the present arrangement". Who wants the change?
- Big Sand Lake Association has a shore land management plan to protect the lake. Why destroy beautiful trees when there is not a documented need for an expanded access?
- The present access is adequate to handle boat traffic. BSLA, Lake Emma Township and Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District coordinated efforts to have an AIS inspector at the access for the past 2 summers. The data of boats entering and leaving the lake does not support the need for an expanded access. Is there documentation that there is a need to increase the parking or access due to full lots or wait time at the access? What happens to the current access?

The following notice first appeared in the Park Rapids Enterprise on Saturday, September 28, 2013:

"The Parks & Trails Division of the Department of Natural Resources has obtained an option to purchase a 0.56 acre parcel of land located in Section 35, Township 141 North, Range 34 West, Lake Emma Township, Hubbard County, Minnesota, owned by Polly A. Boggs, for the purpose of improving the existing public water access site in the southeast corner of Big Sand Lake. Proposed improvements would include a new and expanded bituminous parking area, a double concrete plank ramp with floating docks, storm water retention ponds to accommodate runoff and aquatic invasive species best management practices. Provisions would be made for portable toilets. One residential structure and a detached garage are located on the site. The project would be tentatively scheduled for the 2015 construction season.

Comments will be accepted from the public concerning this proposal until 4:30 p.m. Thursday, October 31, 2013. Comments can be sent to David Schotzko, Area Supervisor, Department of Natural Resources, Parks & Trails Division, 3296 State Park Road NE, Bemidji, MN 56601 or david.schotzko@state.mn.us ."

Mr. Schotzko has recommended that correspondence to him be in hard copy.