

Big Sand Lake Association Annual Meeting – 2015

The Big Sand Lake Association held its annual meeting at Evergreen Resort on Saturday, June 27, 2015. Prior to the meeting, from 10:00-10:30, members participated in registration, membership updates, networking, visiting table displays, and enjoying coffee and donuts. Displays included AIS information, Friends of the Headwaters with Richard Smith, Unknown Legend Designs, Native and Invasive Plants with Terry Klepinski, Water Testing with Richard Sederstrom, Charitable Lake Fund with Catharine Williamson and Linda Lee, and DNR information on the Conservation Easement Program with Heather Baird.

The meeting was called to order by President Candy Malm at 10:30 a.m. There were about eighty-four members in attendance.

Introductions: Candy introduced herself, welcomed residents to the meeting, and thanked the Dyres of Evergreen Lodge for hosting the meeting. Attendees introduced themselves noting where they lived on the lake.

Annual Meeting Minutes for 2014, as reported on the Big Sand website, were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Al Judson presented the treasurer's report for calendar year 2014 and for 2015 to date. The 2014 financial report reflected an income of \$12,562.05 and expenses of \$12,037.03 for a gain of \$524.92. Income included \$6,480 in membership dues, \$3,418 in general donations, \$2,650 donated for AIS efforts, and \$370 earmarked for the BSLA Charitable Fund. The largest expenditure was \$6,000 for AIS inspectors. A vehicle counter was purchased for \$500 to be used at the public access to assist in determining high usage hours.

The 2015 financial report reflected the income of \$3,860 in membership dues, \$3,905 in donations, \$1890 for AIS inspections, and \$250 for the Charitable Fund. \$100 was donated by Paul Bunyan Communications for the web camera to be located on the East shore of the lake. The checkbook and money market total \$26,005.93 with several planned expenditures for July and August, the largest targeted for AIS inspection.

M/S/C to accept the treasurer's report.

Speaker Heather Baird: Board member, Irene Weis, introduced Heather Baird of the Fisheries and Wildlife Division of the Minnesota DNR. Ms. Baird reported on the Conservation Easement Program which has a goal of containing watershed areas as 75% forested. The handout she distributed states, "A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a government agency or land trust for the purpose of protecting and conserving the land." She also reported that the DNR is studying the habitat of five area cisco lakes. Fisheries will be assessing Big Sand on Wednesday, July 1, 2015, using vertical gill nets and hydroacoustics to count fish in the lake. Ciscos are the target species. For further information: Heather.Baird@state.mn.us

Thank you: President Candy thanked Don and Ivy Douglas, Richard Sederstrom, and Dan Dyre for the lake data that they have been collecting over the years.

Secchi Disc and Big Sand Lake Access: Richard Sederstrom reported that the last secchi disc testing showed the Big Sand Lake clarity was 29-30 feet. The average is 24 feet. In the '70s the average was 12 feet. Richard has been in communication with Dave Schotzko of the DNR through email. There has been no change in the plans for the public access since last reported. However, the DNR is planning to sell the house, and nothing will be done with the site until 2017. He was assured that Big Sand Lake residents will be a part of the planning of the access changes. There will be a buffer zone between the access and the first property east of the access.

Friends of the Headwaters: Richard Smith, a representative and a founder of Friends of the Headwaters, reported on what has happened with the Enbridge Sandpiper pipeline. The Friends of the Headwaters was formed in opposition to the Enbridge Pipeline with the mission of convincing Enbridge that the headwaters/lake country is the wrong place to put the pipeline. Friends of the Headwaters asked Enbridge to move the proposed route for the Sandpiper Pipeline to by-pass lake country and to double hull the pipe. As at last year's annual meeting, Mr. Smith had a wealth of information regarding the pipeline including many maps to illustrate the proposed route and effects it could have on lake country. Efforts of the Friends of the Headwaters convinced the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to delay a decision on a certificate of need for a year. But on June 6 the PUC voted to grant Enbridge Energy a certificate of need to construct the Sandpiper pipeline from the Bakken Fields in North Dakota to Lake Superior. The Friends of the Headwaters has filed a law suit against the PUC asking for a complete environmental review and a reasonable alternative route for the pipeline. Last Wednesday the case was in appeals court. Results of this were unknown at the time of the meeting. For more information and details of the pipeline and the work of Friends of the Headwaters members can go to www.friendsoftheheadwaters.org

Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund: Catharine Williamson and Linda Lee, co-chairs of the Charitable Lake Fund Advisory Committee, gave a report on the Northwest Minnesota Foundation Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund. Currently the fund has \$5,585 in endowment and \$42,200 in an active usable fund. Catharine made the announcement that there has been an anonymous offer of a match gift of \$25,000 if the fund receives \$25,000 in new donations beginning in April, 2015. Donations may be made through a one-time donation or a pledge. To donate members may go to the NWMN Foundation site, nwmf.org, or follow the link on the BSLA web site. Checks may be made to the Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund, turned into BSLA today or mailed to NWMN Foundation. A chart was shown to illustrate both the BSLA treasury and the Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund falling under the larger umbrella of the Big Sand Lake Association. The chart provided a working illustration of how both funds support the mission of the Big Sand Lake Association. The goal is to raise \$25,000 by the end of the current year. Linda and Catharine addressed questions from the membership and provided a handout with a chart illustrating how to donate on-line.

President Candy's Announcements:

- **Decontamination Station:** The decontamination station is available to anyone bringing watercraft on the lake. A poster containing a number to call and information regarding the station will be sent to BSL residents via an email blast. [Note: The poster was sent on Tuesday, June 30.]
- **News Letter:** Richard Sederstrom will take over the organization of the newsletter upon the resignation of Karen Nelson.
- **A Thank you** was extended to outgoing Board members Karen Nelson and Tim Conely with appreciation for their years of service.

Point of Business - Slate of Officers: Candy presented the slate of officers: President - Candy Malm, Co-Presidents Elect –Barb Kimer and Catharine Williamson, Secretary – Jo Judson, Treasurer – Al Judson.
M/S/C to accept the slate of officers.

Update on Big Sand Socials: Linda VanBruggen, social chairman, gave an update of socials:
Saturday, July 4, 11:00 a.m. – Boat Parade (meet at inlet at Northeast corner of the lake)
Saturday, July 4, 11:00 a.m. – Generations Social for all ages at Williamson's Beach
Monday, July 13, 11:00 a.m. – Bella Caffè – Women's lunch/coffee

August gatherings – To be announced

Further Announcements:

- Barb Kimer - There are “Big Sand” items to purchase at the “Unknown Legends” display table: t-shirts, caps, tee towels, Christmas ornament, Fourth of July t-shirts.
- Betsy Crabtree has a History project display containing guidelines for submitting a written history of one’s cabin/property.
- Lake residents are encouraged to collect AIS data with a cinder block. There are forms at the AIS table with Richard Sederstrom.

M/S/C to adjourn the meeting at 11:42.

Following the meeting a picnic lunch, organized by Linda VanBruggen and catered by the Iron Horse in Nevis, was served.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jo Judson Secretary