

BIG SAND LAKE CHARITABLE FUND COMMITTEE

Ice-out and open water will be here before we know it, which means the DNR watercraft inspection service will be in place at the public access, ready to help protect the lake from Aquatic Invasive Species infestation. Our annual Charitable Fund Committee spring campaign to raise money to fully fund this important process has officially begun!

[Please make a donation to help cover the cost of this critical effort for summer 2023!](#)

To date, Big Sand Lake remains AIS free, thanks to the diligence of your Big Sand Lake Association. Again this year, they have planned for 1100 hours of summer watercraft inspection. At \$25 per hour (an increase from \$22 per hour in 2022), the total cost of the inspection effort is \$27,500. The state of Minnesota will cover the cost of 360 of these hours (down from 432 in 2022) which leaves 740 hours, or a remaining cost of \$18,500. A \$3,300 grant received from Lake Emma Township further reduces **our final inspection cost to \$15,200**, which is our campaign goal this year.

[Donate NOW through the Northwest Minnesota Foundation by clicking here.](#)

Amazingly, 27 cabin/lake homeowners have already sent donations to the Northwest Minnesota Foundation Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund this winter totaling \$7,560, before we even asked! We heartily thank those donors for their commitment to protecting Big Sand Lake, and for giving the campaign a roaring start!

The Minnesota DNR website reports that currently 8% of Minnesota's more than 11,000 lakes have an AIS infestation. Sixteen of them are in Hubbard County. Lakes infested with Eurasian Milfoil or Starry Stonewort are being treated with herbicides costing *hundreds of thousands of dollars*. When a lake becomes infested with Zebra Mussels, there is no effective treatment! **Preventing infestation with watercraft inspection is our best option for protecting Big Sand Lake.**

If you haven't already donated in 2023, please do your part to protect our beautiful lake by making an online contribution. In the "Direct donation to:" box, select the *General Spendable* option. Or, mail a check made out to The Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund (designating it "*General Spendable*" in the memo) to:

**Northwest Minnesota Foundation
201 3rd St. NW
Bemidji, MN 56601**

Wishing you and your families a joyful summer at Big Sand!
Thank you,

Chris Hilger, Ann Hilger & Linda Lee
Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund Committee