

BIG SANDY LAKE ASSOCIATION, Nov. 14th, 2008

Meeting called to order by President Jim Krezowski at 8:30 at Fisherman's Bay.

Members: Jack Johnson, John Merboth, John Pilney, Mark Johnson, Dan Branson, John Sturner, Neal Sampson, Bill Reed, Karen Trembley.

Guest: Bruce Larson, Jim Carlson, Brian Napstad, Pat Boettcher.

Minutes: Last paragraph of October 17th, was changed to read John Pilney will check with Janet Smude on whether or not water quality data on the Prairie River was impacted by heavy weekend boat traffic. Minutes were then approved.

Treasurer's report approved as read.

Membership John Merboth reported no change.

Newsletter: Put in the newsletter how to clarify if you are a member or non-member from your address label.

President Report: President Krezowski thanked Sharon and Brian Napstad for letting the BSLA use Fisherman's Bay for the November meeting. Jim reported he attended a 2 day session in Duluth regarding mining. Frank Angora from Hibbing is the PR person. The DNR has approved Kennecott to mine. Minnesota is very vigilant in approvals. There was discussion regarding emissions from Mining. The DNR has hired a number of folks to oversee the mining operations.show facts not fear is being used as the mining motto. Comments were made by the board members to attend a Tribal Counsel meeting at Black Bear regarding mining. Dan Branson has agreed to attend if there is space available at the meeting. Motion was made and seconded to cover all expenses for this meeting. If there is another person that would like to attend their expenses would be covered as well. The President asked if we should be looking at a new directory for next spring, the best time would be July/August.

ROPE: John Pilney reported he has had several calls regarding ROPE....Feb 9th, 2009 the CORP will be making their final decision. John asked what legal ramifications we have regarding the CORP decision on the water drawdown. He suggested the board come up with a contingency plan, such as calling a meeting with the CORP in the Minneapolis area and send down a small delegation to the city. We are looking for folks that could possibly attend this meeting if the CORP would agree. The President has reported he has received many letters regarding ROPE. Aitkin County strongly opposes this study and implementation.

BSALWMP: Mark Johnson stated that \$2500.00 grant money will begin July 1st; some could be used for our newsletter. Janet Smude also got some money approved for Sandy Lake, Davis Lake and Sandy River. Steve Clark gave a BSALWMP update on the Kennecott mining. The Question to Kennecott was how much sulfide is there in their finds; Kennecott will not answer that question. Next meeting is Dec. 10th, 2008, an evening meeting in Tamarack at the Snow Flyers.

TMDL: John Pilney gave an update from Janet Smude, lake samples will continue until the freeze. A question asked; did the Prairie River show any changes when the water is high or low. According to the data as of now a no wake zone on the Prairie would not be feasible at this point.

INVASIVE SPECIES: Neal attended a meeting in Duluth which was very informative. If the patch of Purple Loose Strife on Big Sandy was sprayed and did not work a possibility of introducing beetles could be an option.

Big Sandy will continue to be monitored. Neal signed Big Sandy Lake with the Sea Grant Program....Neal said this was a very good presentation.

Jim Carlsonthe water institute has finished for 2008; it is a marvelous program and will continue in 2009. Hopefully BSLA will support the water institute for 2009, BSALWAMP & the Big Sandy Foundation will also support the Water Institute. Jim C. thanked everyone for the award and gift from BSLA.

FISHERIES: Jack Johnson had nothing to report.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS: John Sturner has been appointed to the Star Lake Program. Their first official meeting will be next Wed. in Sauck Rapids. The Star Lake Program is a non-profit organization; John Sturner will keep us informed on the Star Lake Program. Motion was made and seconded to pursue the Star Lake opportunity at this time. Mark Johnson & John Pilney will work with John Sturner.

ACLARA: John Sturner offered to help out attending these meetings.

LAND USE & ZONING: Bill Reed's name is on the list to receive variance requests.

NEWSLETTER: We looked at the various costs for the newsletter. A motion was made and seconded to have Vern White do the January 2009 newsletter as planned.

Ron Smith....leaf sites have been changing. The clean-up went well and Ron appreciated all the help. Rip rap on the bridge has gone well. Shamrock Township is back to one meeting a month, this will be the 2nd Thursday of the month. The Township is ready for snow but is at a low ratio of salt. The new maintenance building is done; there are a couple of warranty things yet to be done. The policy for Shamrock plowing is to do black tops first. Ron will get a short article for the newsletter regarding contractors dumping etc. in ditches and public accesses.

Brian Napstad...land use and zoning has resulted in folks getting variances that were not granted. They argued for and after the fact variance, the board of adjustment did not take into affect a hardship. If you see variance's coming through it could be a practical hardship...be aware of that. The Shoreland Ordinance is still on going. Brian will continue to attend state meetings...some of issues have been very problematic.

Mark Johnson....time sheets for Oct., Nov. & Dec. will be due. Mark also asked folks if they could attend Rivers & Lakes Conference the 7th through the 9th of May 2009.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn meeting, next meeting will be Jan. 9th, 2009.

Neal Sampson will bring treats for Jan. meeting.

Karen M. Trembley, secretary

