

BSLA MEETING MINUTES OF FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008 (RE-SCHEDULED DUE TO WEATHER)

Meeting called to order by President Mark Johnson at 8:35.

Board Members Present: Bob Griefzu, Jim Krezowski, Bill Reed, Jack Johnson, John Merboth, Karen Trembley, Dan Branson, Neal Sampson, Don Fuchs and John Pilney.

Guest Speakers: Bonnie Finnerty (MPCA) and Jeff Steere (Corp on Engineers)

Guests: Brian Napstad, Todd Streater, Dean Anderson, Richard Kush, John Daine, Vern Awes, Ron Johanson, Ron Smith, Dave Orttels, Ron Fitzel, John Gornick, David Oswald, Ron O'Brian & Katie Lutz.

Meeting minutes for March 14, 2008 was corrected to read BSLAWAMP – Locals were apposed to the meandering of Ditch 14. Minutes approved as read.

Treasurer's report approved as read.

Membership is at 350 members.

Presidents Report: Karen has old material from BSLA, such as meeting minutes etc. We need to go through this and determine if there are things to keep or to get rid of. Mark asked if we should send someone to an invasive species conference.

Bonnie Finnerty (MPCA) reported that Bar Engineering will lead the entire study for Aitkin County water sampling. There are sampling points used for data collecting, modeling etc. We are hopeful this modeling and sampling will be helpful for our TMDL on BSL. Bonnie said a contract has to be signed before any of the studies can begin. Brian Napstad reported that there could grant money available for this project. We can send our questions to John Pilney who will in turn give to the appropriate folks regarding the TMDL.

Water Planning Task Force: Brian Napstad passed out a report of Aitkin County Water Planning concerns. There were 5 concerns developed by the Task Force: 1) Surface Water Management 2) Land Use and Development 3) Ground Water Quality 4) Fish & Wildlife Habitat 5) Education. This could affect future grants.

Invasive Species: Neal S. reported there will be 2 interns coming to cover our public accesses on high weekend traffic. We need to register for invasive species class that will be conducted on July 25-26. Neal will have a request ready for the board. Neal will check on signs at public access. Dan Branson is gathering information about a pressure washer for boat launches.

Our Community meal is still on schedule for July.

Water Surface Use: Nothing to report at this time....hope the group will stay active when folks return for the summer.

Todd Streater is still planning on having some of his yard goes back to its natural state. Jim Krezowski is working with Janet Smude to set up a planting day where others can learn about a buffer strip.

Newsletter articles: Article from Bonnie (MPCA), Bill Reed will have an article on 911 signs. Mark Johnson will have a news article from Kennecott mining. Each person running for BSLA board position have a short

BIO. Survey results from John Merboth. Articles for the newsletter need to be given to Jim Carlson by May 21st. Mark your calendar to put newsletter together June 12th at Karen's at 1:00.

ROPE: Jeff Steere.....Jeff explained the possible Headwaters Reservoir Operating Plan Evaluation (ROPE), a draft operating Plan for Big Sandy Lake. There is a possibility of draw down of water on BSL earlier than usual. This could happen in July opposed to the middle of Sept. Work is nearly complete on the refinement and analysis of the proposed plan. Environmental Impact Statement, or EIS, describing the effects of the plan in detail is currently being drafted and will be released for public review this spring. Following the release of the draft EIS, a final series of public meetings will be held to gather public comments. Public notices will be released at a later date announcing the dates and locations for the public meetings, which will likely be held in late May or early June. It is anticipated that operation under the new plan would begin this fall.

Recommendation of our board is to send a letter to all lake shore owners with information on this subject. Motion was made and seconded to send an informational letter to every home owner on BSL regarding the Reservoir Operating proposed plan. The board will meet on the 24th of April to put this letter together and mail to home owners. Bob Griefzu will be the focal point for ROPE.

Thanks to Bonnie (MPCA) and Jeff (Corp of Engineers) for attending our BSLA meeting.

Ron Smith....reminded folks that Tax protest day is on the 25th of April, you must go to your township first and then to Aitkin County Board if you are unhappy with your property taxes. The County 14 Bridge is on hold at the present time.

Old Business: Annual Meeting... on going.

Audit....on going

Nominations for Board members....on going

Survey....on going

New Business: Dan Branson will pay the bill for BSLA coffee.

Meeting Adjourned.

Treats for May.....Jim Krezowski

Karen M. Trembley, secretary

A work session was held on April 24th, 2008 to compose a position paper that will be sent to all BSL owners regarding the proposed changes regarding the lowering of BSL starting in July opposed to Sept. This letter will go out to all lake owners with information regarding the draw down of BSL and contacts that folks can write letters/e-mail/call regarding the draw down the Corp are proposing. The position paper will also be sent out from the lake association board signed by Mark Johnson to Minnesota senators/representatives on the Federal level, state level, Governor and to Steve Clark, Corps of Engineers. This position paper that was written by Vern Awes and reviewed by guests at the special meeting and will be refined and prepared for printing by Vern White, Vern Awes, Bob Griefzu, Dan Branson and Mark Johnson. Board members present, Karen Trembley, Bob Griefzu, Mark Johnson, Jack Johnson, Dan Branson, Vern White, Bill Reed, John Merboth and 48 guests present.