

MINUTES OF SAND LAKE ASSOC. INC. MEETING  
MAY 25, 2019—BIG BEND TOWN HALL

ATTENDEES: Cindy Griffin, Nick Stadnyk, Dennis Ferstenou, Greg Rogge, Mike Spencer, Randy Devendorf, Denny Denk, Allen Strey, Jim Rassbach, Roland Jolsvay, Teri Perry, Laurie Ham, Aaron Ham, Adam Mohr, Rebecca Mohr, Steve Cook, Julie Rogers, Louie Rogers, Margarite Cook, Dave Cook, Judy Holmquist, Steve Sweet, Dave Stanton, Duane Reinecke, Steve Johnson, Stan Lebakken, Jude Peskuski, Jack Peskuski, Austin Casey, Mike Walker, Al Lechleitner

MINUTES:

Co-President Mike Walker called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM and asked for approval of the Sept. 1, 2018 meeting minutes. Mike Spencer motioned approval first, followed by Steve Cook. Unanimous approval.

Al Lechleitner summarized the treasury report following the Sept. meeting. He noted \$9328.76 in deposits and \$3146.00 in debits for a fund balance of \$6182.40. Of the latter amount \$5000.00 is in the CB/CW grant account that does not show the deduction of the 2019 fees. He noted that Beaver Creek just billed him \$3998.76 this week for the 2019 CB/CW grant. That payment was mailed yesterday so CB/CW fund would now have a balance of \$1001.24 and the general fund would be \$1182.40. Total remaining in the two funds will be \$2183.64. Al reported that our 2018 membership totaled 54 members which matched our high of 54 in 2016 and 10 more than 2017. He extended thanks to the membership committee and any others who helped solicit several first-time members.

Margarete Cook reported on the Water Quality Committee updates. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the CB/CW grant which has been easy to renew each year and our enrollment fees are fully reimbursable at the end of the season. She welcomed and introduced this year's dock inspector, Austin Casey, who is a student at UW-Stout, majoring in Environmental Studies. Our targeted invasive species are Eurasian water milfoil, aquatic forget-me-nots, and curly leaf pondweed. Our lake has the latter two and she asks everyone to inspect their frontage for weed growth. Pictures of each specie were on display at the meeting but anyone who has questions about a weed type were asked to contact Dave Cook for assistance in identification. She also had laminated copies of 3 different lake bottom maps available for purchase based on the lake study done last fall; small maps at \$5 each and large ones for \$35. Contact Margarete if you want one and she will try to have them available for you by the August Annual Meeting. Cindy Griffin gave an update on the Biobase lake study subscription which is about \$195/yr. as our current subscription expires Aug. 6. Since we have access to or have captured most of the study data, it was determined that we would not renew our subscription until our Association felt a need to have a redo of the study sometime in the distant future.

Steve Johnson provided an update of the fish crib restoration project last February. About 25 volunteers assisted in restoring 4 cribs at no cost to our Association, thanks to the work and fundraising of the Wisconsin Restoration Association of Rusk County. The WRA provided all the prep work (snow plowing), rock delivery, trucks, and tools. Their volunteers, those from our association and some from Fireside Lake completed the work in about 3 hours. Our crib rehab permit is good for 8 years so we will try to repeat this project annually. Dave Cook used his GPS to locate existing cribs and asked that anyone who scuba dives to mark crib locations with a balloon for a future restoration site. Other options beyond crib construction include building a reef, countersinking brush or small trees or adding wood on top of the new rock stacks. Thanks to Leslie Johnson and Joann Walker for hosting treats and the lunch for all the volunteers. Steve also summarized the results of the Sand Lake Creel Study by the Treaty Fishery Unit of the DNR. From last fall through the winter months, an employee spent 40 hrs/wk recording data of fish caught, sizes and species. Catch results of all species were very minimal. This study is done about every 15 years as part of the Treaty of Ceded Territories Agreement and has

resulted in the restocking of about 4500 walleyes intermittently based on the annual spearfishing take by Native Americans after the ice thaw and before Opening Fishing Season in early May. The full report is available on our association website.

Mike Walker reported on his efforts to get the county to repair asphalt buckling and apron separations due to ice damage at our boat landing. Anyone launching a watercraft is advised to be sure their motor is raised to avoid damage to their watercraft. Many people reported shoreline heaving due to high water and ice movement. Some mentioned their concern for shoreline erosion. Our new Rusk County Conservationist, Nick Stadnyk, was in attendance and highly encouraged planting native vegetation and having a natural buffer area as part of your shore frontage which was also stated in our last Association Newsletter. Riprap is another option to control erosion but placing riprap requires a DNR permit. Due to current high-water levels, Al Lechleitner advised boat operators to keep a significant distance from shore to minimize wake activity at the shorelines.

Al Lechleitner reported on budget items for this calendar year. Float prizes/engraving, picnic and Coffee On-The-Dock expenses, website renewal fees and miscellaneous expenses are predictable expenses each year which collectively total about \$400/yr. When asked if there were any suggestions for new projects, no responses were given.

Dave Stanton reported on the success of the road clean-up which happens in the spring and fall. About 10 volunteers responded this spring so the activity took little time to do the nearly 4 miles of ditches. He is working with Sand Lake Assn. member Dave Miller and the president of the local snowmobile club as well as the highway department to have our Association's name on the signage to give us proper acknowledgment for our efforts to keep nearby area roadways clean and attractive.

Mike Walker reported that our association would like to recruit volunteers to host 2 Coffee-on-the-Dock gatherings this summer. These are very well attended social meet and greet events that keep us all connected. If interested in hosting, please contact Mike or his wife, Joann, to arrange a date.

Margarete Cook was thanked for her efforts in publishing the Association Newsletter. One is published whenever she information that needs to be shared, no set schedule. She welcomes your ideas for topics to be published.

Mike Walker reported the dates of upcoming 2019 events: Float Parade at noon on Thursday, July 4 (registration can be done online or at the Quady home beginning at 10:30 am), the August Annual Brunch/Meeting on August 10 at 10:00 AM at the Motley's on Sand Lake Road, and the final meeting on August 31, 9:00 A.M. at the Big Bend Town Hall. Mark your calendars!

Al Lechleitner reported on the Executive Board's decision to keep the 2019 annual membership dues at \$20/yr. to keep basic membership affordable to everyone. This recommendation was made after a suggestion last fall to consider staggered levels of membership dues as a way to increase our treasury. Al noted that over \$1400 was donated by members to completely cover the cost of the Biobase lake mapping project that was done late last summer without using any money from our general fund. He encouraged people to continue to make donations based on their personal advocacy to projects and their personal ability to donate to our treasury. Denny Denk suggested the 2020 membership fee be raised to \$25. No action was taken on his suggestion as it was determined to withhold action until the August Annual Meeting when a larger quorum is in attendance. Al's suggestion in the meantime was to make every effort to recruit as many non-members as possible through the efforts of our Membership Committee.

Jim Rassbach reported that the First Responders would not be hosting the annual Pancake Breakfast/Raffle this year due to lack of aging staff and the amount of work involved in hosting it. The lack of those proceeds puts a tremendous strain on the group's ability to replace or purchase needed equipment. Several attendees indicated their willingness to assist in serving the breakfast should the group decide to host it in the future. He also reported the need for more EMT's which has 50% fewer technicians since he and Sandy first joined the First Responders. If interested in becoming a First

Responder please contact Jim. He also reported on the surprising 43.5% response rate to the Town Board's survey on zoning rules. Early compilation of results indicates a preference for more town zoning rules.

A motion by Dave Stanton and seconded by Steve Cook to adjourn. Motion approved. Meeting was adjourned at 11:24.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Al Lechleitner, Secretary/Treasurer.

5/28/2019