Big Fish Lake Association Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

6:00 p.m.

Cold Spring, MN

In attendance: Kit Ferber, Jim Sand, Mark Backes, Joel Meyer, Doug Adamek, Chris Wenner, Allen Schmitz, Paul Steil, Nina Steil

Guests: Dee Peters, Mary Schramel

1. Phosphorus Report for Big Fish Lake – Jim Sand
   1. Jim Sand went over graphs and data from a phosphorus testing on Big Fish Lake from a 2014 Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) investigation report requested by State Representative Jeff Howe. The levels of phosphorus were not high, and in fact had improved. He had explained that Big Fish has been monitoring the lake, and has been supporting projects to help maintain a healthy lake. One example would be the Board of Water & Soil group offered to install rain gardens if residents of Big Fish Lake wanted to go this route. Jim also explained that 8-10 years ago a DNR Specialist spoke at a BFLA meeting regarding what we could do to improve our lake. Another project called the “Hammond Project” was implemented to plant new prairie grasses on 20 acres on the west side of Big Fish. All good things for Big Fish Lake. Jim also spoke about numerous changes on Big Fish Lake that have helped stop the run-off of phosphorus on into the lake, including new homes built that have rain gardens, infiltration areas, directing storm water runoff away from the lake, and farm land permanently planted in native grasses and trees.
   2. Jim also discussed the Alleyway on Big Fish Lake, and how the Township owns this property, and the Township decided to keep the Alleyway open – allowing four wheelers and snowmobiles to access the lake in the winter. We do not and cannot make decisions regarding this property.
   3. Guests to the meeting – Mary Schramel and Dee Peters discussed their concerns regarding the phosphorus levels in Big Fish Lake because of the Alleyway being open. They request that the BFLA Board send out a communication to all Big Fish Lake residents regarding this concern. Dee and Mary stated that they have spoken to the Environmental Director of Stearns County, and Nikki the local DNR Hydrologist.. Discussion continued until 6:25 p.m.
   4. Meeting was adjourned.
2. Executive Session – Training for Legacy Fund Campaign by the Initiative Foundation Representative Kristi Ackley.

Minutes were written by Secretary Nina Steil.