

Big Sandy Area Lakes Watershed Management Project
Executive Council & Technical Team Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2014

Attendance:

Maggie Leach, MPCA

Al Rinta, Tamarack/Round Lake

Barbara Dahl, Carlton County SWCD

Carmen Rinta, Tamarack/Round Lake

Mark J. Johnson, Big Sandy Lake

Ray Gurske, Tamarack River Watershed Team

Pat Rath, Lake Minnewawa

Frank Turnock, Aitkin Co. SWCD Supervisor

John Cyrus, City of Tamarack

Janet Smude, Aitkin Co. SWCD

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm. Introductions were made. The agenda was approved as presented. M/S/C Carmen Rinta / Frank Turnock .

2. The October meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as presented. M/S/C Al Rinta / Ray Gurske.

3. A financial report for the month of October was shared. Expenses totaled \$ 739.74 and were related to installation of the Strom and Touhey cost share projects. The report was approved as presented. M/S/C Pat Rath / Mark Johnson.

4. Old Business:

4.1. Section 319 Grant – Education Activities Objective Discussion / Prioritizing: Janet Smude reported that we are still waiting for final approval and a contract from the MPCA. Once this is completed we will begin work on the grant objectives. The group discussed ideas for education activities that should get underway soon. A watershed wide newsletter is planned for spring distribution. Article ideas included: What individual landowners can do to improve water quality, a TMDL Update, information on the WRAPP Study, what's happening in the watershed, a watershed map, rain barrel sales, information from Neva in Carlton County about her water quality monitoring efforts, and availability of cost share funding. Pat Rath offered to assist with editing the newsletter and potentially writing an article. These same ideas can be carried over into the website and facebook page.

The group also discussed potential topics for the public meetings. Ideas included: a planting maintenance workshop – maybe held at the rain garden in Tamarack and led by Shelley Larson; managing your beach – when is a permit needed to work on your shoreline?; runoff management strategies, including rain barrels.

It was also noted that we should have a demonstration rain barrel for display at the Aitkin County Rivers and Lakes Fair.

4.2. Cost Share Project Updates: Updates were provided on the following cost share projects: Laing: The landowner is still searching for a contractor interested in installing this project. Design modifications for the upper slope are being discussed. Strom: Reimbursement of this project was approved at the previous meeting, pending a successful inspection. This has been completed and photographs of the site were shared. Greifzu: These landowners on Big Sandy Lake were unable to complete their project this summer. They are still interested, and would like to cooperate with us on a planting / maintenance workshop to be led by the U of M Extension Service next summer. A new contract will be presented when an updated budget is prepared.

5. New Business:

5.1. Cost Share Project Reviews & Payment Approvals: Rinta: Al and Carmen Rinta shared photographs of their shoreline stabilization project. The rock has been installed on the shoreline, protecting the eroding bank and existing trees. The vegetative buffer was installed earlier this summer. Project invoices and listings of in-kind contributions have been submitted. A motion approving reimbursement of project costs totaling \$ 4,974.55 was made M/S/C Pat Rath / Mark Johnson. Laberge: Lowell and Kathy Laberge on Big Sandy Lake have begun their shoreland revegetation project. So far they have planted one native tree and completed the site prep needed for planting next spring. Work has wrapped up for this fall. A motion approving reimbursement of project costs of \$ 119.95 was made. M/S/C Mark Johnson / Carmen Rinta. Anderson: Mark and Jodi Anderson have completed their shoreland revegetation project. This final step included adding native perennial flowers between the home and the lake. A motion approving reimbursement of \$ 74.89 was made M/S/C Ray Gurske / Pat Rath.

5.2. Aitkin County AIS Activities Grant: There is an opportunity to apply for grant funding to conduct education regarding Aquatic Invasive Species. Ideas were discussed and it was decided to apply for funds for two activities. 1). Information Card – a small laminated card that explains what to look for when inspecting a boat / equipment for Aquatic Invasive Species, and what to do if species are found. Carmen Rinta was willing to assist with development of this card. 2). An AIS ID Workshop – If possible we'd like to work with Mary Blickenderfer from the U of M Extension Service. She presented a great workshop for the Big Sandy Lake Association a couple of years ago. The workshop could be both in a classroom session, and on the water. Mark Johnson offered to help with this workshop. An application will be developed and submitted. It is due by January 12th.

6. Working Session:

6.1. Sub Watershed Project Reports:

6.1.1. SWHIM: Pat Rath shared that the Lake Minnewawa Association recently approved the purchase of a new weed harvester. This will be more reliable and require less maintenance. The cost is \$ 180,000. The old one will be sold. The Lake Improvement District is functioning well. A survey of Lake Minnewawa, looking for Aquatic Invasive Species, was conducted – no invasive species were found.

6.1.2. Sandy Lake: Mark Johnson reported that there is a 90% chance of the 2016 Governors Fishing Opener being held on Big Sandy Lake. This would be a benefit to local businesses. Members of the Friends of the Headwaters will be speaking at the next meeting of the Big Sandy Lake Association.

6.1.3. Sandy River: No report.

6.1.4. Tamarack River: No meetings will be held until next spring.

6.1.5. Prairie Lake / River: No report.

6.2. New Project Submissions: There were no new project submissions.

7. Agenda Additions: There were no agenda additions.

8. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday January 14th at 2:30 pm. It will be held at the Tamarack Sno-Fliers Clubhouse. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.