

Big Sandy Area Lakes Watershed Management Project  
Executive Council & Technical Team Meeting Minutes  
October 8, 2014

Attendance:

Maggie Leach, MPCA	Gary Peterson, Carlton County
Barbara Dahl, Carlton County SWCD	Willis Mattison
Don Knudson, Tamarack	Mark J. Johnson, Big Sandy Lake
Ann Zaphia, Big Sandy Lake	Candy Knudson, Tamarack
John Cyrus, City of Tamarack	Janet Smude, Aitkin Co. SWCD
Frank Turnock, Aitkin Co. SWCD Supervisor	Carmen Rinta, Tamarack/Round Lake
Ray Gurske, Tamarack River Watershed Team	Al Rinta, Tamarack/Round Lake

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:35 pm. Introductions were made. The agenda was approved with the addition of Tom Strom project payment request, and a correction to item # 3 that changed August to September. M/S/C Carmen Rinta / Frank Turnock .

2. Guest Presentation – Introduction to the Proposed Sandpiper Pipeline Project: Willis Mattison addressed the Group regarding the Sandpiper Pipeline Project. Willis is a citizen advocate / advisor in crude oil pipeline issues. He is a retired MPCA Regional Director who has been educating himself on environmental issues in northern Minnesota, and is helping others to do the same. Citizen involvement in this project is important.

The oil and gas industry is exempted from most major federal environmental statutes. Environmental analysis of the proposed project is being conducted now. An Environmental Impact Statement allows everyone to make better decisions.

Transporting crude oil presents new hazards. The Bakken Crude oil and Tar Sands oil are different than traditional crude oil. Bakken Shale oil is being shipped without stripping the liquid natural gas component. This unstripped oil is more volatile. Pipelines are not the solution to railroad congestion. Railroads are still the best financial option for oil companies. Pipelines are limited as to where they can take the oil. Production of oil is increasing faster than the capacity to transport. There is corridor fatigue – many pipeline corridors are full.

Enbridge has a history of spills / leaks. Human error is responsible for most of the troubles. A pipeline system could be shut down, however this does not prevent large spills from happening. Clean up of an oil spill typically only captures 40 – 60 % of the spill. The rest remains in the environment.

Five alternative routes to the Sandpiper Pipeline have been proposed by the Friends of the Headwaters. They have a goal of avoiding risks to valuable surface and ground water resources. The burden of proving prudent alternatives rests on the public. Minnesota is reducing its dependence on oil products. We need to look at the larger picture, not just Minnesota. For more information, the Friends of the Headwaters has a good website.

Willis was thanked for joining the meeting and sharing all of this information.

3. The September meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as presented. M/S/C Al Rinta / John Cyrus.

4. A financial report for the month of September was shared. Expenses totaled \$ 4,378.27 and were related to installation of the Anderson and Olson cost share projects as well as technical and administrative services. The report was approved as presented. M/S/C Carmen Rinta / Ray Gurske.

5. Old Business:

5.1. Section 319 Grant: Janet Smude reported that we are still waiting for final approval and a contract from the MPCA. This is anticipated to be completed soon – then we will be able to begin using the grant funding.

5.2. Cost Share Project Updates: Updates were provided on the following cost share projects: Laing: The landowner has been searching for a contractor interested in installing this project. John Welle, Aitkin County Highway Engineer, is assisting with design ideas and contacts that might be willing to work on this site. Strom: This landowner on Big Sandy Lake has been working on completing his shoreland revegetation project. He just sent a copy of his invoice and plant list, saying that the project has been completed. Reimbursement approval, pending a positive inspection of the project, was requested. A motion approving reimbursement not to exceed \$ 196.36, pending a successful inspection was made M/S/C John Cyrus / Mark Johnson. Photographs of the site will be shared at the next meeting.

6. New Business:

6.1. Lake Minnewawa LID Cost Share Funding: Jerry Pawlak shared a newspaper article regarding the Lake Minnewawa Improvement District. The article referenced the availability of cost share funding from the LID. Pat Rath was contacted regarding this. He stated that they will not be accepting applications that mainly benefit a private property owner. This was misleading as printed in the paper. Their funding will support the weed harvester, aquatic invasive species prevention efforts, and potentially projects that benefit the entire lake.

7. Working Session:

7.1. Sub Watershed Project Reports:

7.1.1. SWHIM: No report.

7.1.2. Sandy Lake: Mark Johnson shared that the Big Sandy Lake Association met recently and discussed Enbridge and AIS prevention. The Big Sandy Foundation fundraising event at Floe International was successful. Dan Guida is no longer serving on the Aitkin County Boat and Water Patrol.

7.1.3. Sandy River: No report.

7.1.4. Tamarack River: This group is working to keep moving forward and gaining members. They met for the last time of 2014 last Monday. They will resume meetings next spring.

7.1.5. Prairie Lake / River: No report.

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

8. Agenda Additions: The University of Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center will be hosting tours on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Fliers regarding this tour were made available.

9. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday November 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm. It will be held at the Cromwell Park Pavilion, if it is available. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm. M/S Frank Turnock / Al Rinta.