

Big Sandy Area Lakes Watershed Management Project
Executive Council & Technical Team Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2014

Attendance:

Maggie Leach, MPCA	Pat Rath, Lake Minnewawa	Gary Peterson, Carlton County
Bill Reed, Big Sandy Lake	Dianne Knobon, SWHIM	Sharon Zelazny, Cromwell
Ray Lally, Cromwell	Patti McPhail, Cromwell	Pat McGinn, Lake Minnewawa
Curt Sparks, Big Sandy Lake		Ramona Hooper, McGregor Twp Supervisor
Jerry Pawlak, Horseshoe Lake		John Cyrus, City of Tamarack
Frank Turnock, Aitkin Co. SWCD Supervisor		Carmen Rinta, Tamarack/Round Lake
Ray Gurske, Tamarack River Watershed Team		Al Rinta, Tamarack/Round Lake
Janet Smude, Aitkin Co. SWCD		Mark J. Johnson, Big Sandy Lake

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:35 pm. Introductions were made. The agenda was approved with the additions of Ken Olson project payment request, and Curt Sparks project update. M/S/C Frank Turnock / Jerry Pawlak.

2. Guest Presentation – Introduction to the Proposed Sandpiper Pipeline Project: Christine Davis and Paul Menaghini (sp?) from Enbridge Energy Corporation addressed the group. Enbridge is a pipeline transportation company. They are dedicated to safe product transport and currently deliver 75% of the refinery needs in Minnesota. External corrosion of the pipe is a concern. To address this concern an epoxy is applied to the outside of the pipe. In addition there is 24 hour monitoring of the pressure in the pipe.

The cost of the proposed Sandpiper Pipeline Project is estimated at \$ 2.6 billion. The route being considered crosses the southern edge of the Big Sandy Area Lakes Watershed. There would be just under 300 miles of pipeline in Minnesota. Stream crossings will be 20'-30' below the water level. No stream sediments will be disturbed.

Approval has been obtained for the North Dakota portion of the project. There is a meeting of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission tomorrow. 86% of the easement agreements in Minnesota have been signed. It has been difficult to find a route through Minnesota that does not potentially impact surface waters and wetlands.

Christine and Paul were thanked for taking the time to discuss this project with the Group.

3. The June, July, and August meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as presented. M/S/C Frank Turnock / Jerry Pawlak.

4. A financial report for the months of June, July, and August was shared. Expenses totaled \$ 11,886.05 and were related to installation of cost share projects funded through the Minnesota Recovers Grant. The report was approved as presented. M/S/C Pat Rath / Jerry Pawlak.

5. Old Business:

5.1. Lake Minnewawa Tour Review: Pat Rath was thanked for hosting the project tour in August. The information was well received, and the tour by boat enjoyable.

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. He is not interested in working with the TSA 3 Engineers from Duluth and is looking for a qualified engineer to design a solution to this erosion problem. Frauenschuh: This landowner has had a difficult time finding a contractor to install his road runoff control project on Glacier Lake. He has requested a time extension, and would like until June of 2015 to complete the project. A motion approving this request was made. M/S/C Frank Turnock / Bill Reed. Strom: This landowner is also requesting a time extension to his contract. He would like to use the remaining funding to install additional native shrubs. All work will be done before the end of the year. A motion approving an extension until December 31, 2014 was made. M/S/C Pat McGinn / Jerry Pawlak. Johnson: This landowner on Big Sandy Lake has hired a contractor who will install the rock rip rap portion of this project next winter. The cost of the job has come in higher than budgeted due to additional damage to the shoreline and difficult access to the site. A motion approving an additional \$ 600.38 in cost share funding, not to exceed 75% of the total eligible costs was made M/S/C Pat Rath / Jerry Pawlak. Sparks: Curt Sparks updated the group on his project. A contractor from Nisswa has been hired to install this project next winter. Rock rip rap will be hauled in over the ice. Remaining Minnesota Recovers Grant Funds: The group discussed how to use the remaining grant funds. This grant expires in December of 2015. Unallocated funds in the Critical Area Stabilization area of the budget will be used for the Bill Laing Project. Efforts will be made to use the other remaining funds as needed, with priority given to projects that may come in over budget.

5.3. Section 319 Grant Proposal: Janet Smude shared that this grant application was awarded funding. A draft workplan was submitted to the EPA. When this is accepted we will be able to begin work. The grant will fund activities outlined in the TMDL Implementation Plan.

6. New Business:

6.1. Cost Share Project Payment Requests: Touhey: Gayleen Touhey has completed her shoreline revegetation project on Big sandy Lake. Native plants were added to replace those lost during the floods in 2012. Flood resistance species were selected. A motion approving reimbursement of \$ 543.38 was made. M/S/C Frank Turnock / Jerry Pawlak. Anderson: Mark Anderson, on Bridge Road of Big Sandy Lake, also added native vegetation to replace those lost during flooding in 2012. Trees and flowering plants were added. A motion approving reimbursement of \$ 993.27 was made. M/S/C Al Rinta / John Cyrus. Olson: Ken Olson, also on Big Sandy Lake, has completed his shoreland revegetation project. Native trees and shrubs were planted between the home and the lake. Flood resistant species were selected. A motion approving reimbursement of \$ 825 was made. M/S/C Pat Rath / Jerry Pawlak.

7. Working Session:

7.1. Sub Watershed Project Reports:

7.1.1. SWHIM: Pat Rath reported that the Minnewawa Lake Improvement District held their first Annual Meeting. They are investigating replacement of the weed harvester.

7.1.2. Sandy Lake: Mark Johnson shared that the Big Sandy Lake Association is working to educate themselves regarding pipelines and copper mines. Bob Greifzu is representing the Association on the Aitkin County Aquatic Invasive Species committee. The Big Sandy Foundation is holding a social / fundraising event on Friday evening at the new Floe East Plant. Jim Carlson is taking RSVPs if anyone is interested in attending.

7.1.3. Sandy River: No report.

7.1.4. Tamarack River: Ray Gurske recently staffed a booth at the Cromwell Harvest Fest. Attendance was good.

7.1.5. Prairie Lake / River: The Prairie Lake Improvement Association met on August 31st. They discussed water quality, fish habitat, fish stocking, lake vegetation and more.

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

8. Agenda Additions: Aquatic Invasive Species funding was discussed. Counties are receiving funding from the State to fight the spread of aquatic invasive species. Aitkin County has put together a committee of county staff and lake association representatives to determine how to best use this money. Jerry Pawlak discussed the new trailer sticker that will be required for boat trailers in 2015.

9. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday October 8th at 2:30 pm. It will be held at the Tamarack Sno-Fliers Clubhouse. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm. M/S Frank Turnock / Jerry Pawlak.