

Big Sandy Area Lakes Watershed Management Project  
Executive Council & Technical Team Meeting Minutes  
January 14, 2015

Attendance:

Maggie Leach, MPCA

Al Rinta, Tamarack/Round Lake

Barbara Dahl, Carlton County SWCD

Carmen Rinta, Tamarack/Round Lake

Gary Peterson, Carlton County

Dianne Knobon, SWHIM, Island Lake

Mark J. Johnson, Big Sandy Lake

Bill Zelazny, Carlton County Resident

Patti McPhail, Island Lake

Frank Turnock, Aitkin Co. SWCD Supervisor

John Cyrus, City of Tamarack

Janet Smude, Aitkin Co. SWCD

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:35 pm. Introductions were made. The agenda was approved as presented. M/S/C Frank Turnock/Patti McPhail .

2. The November meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as presented. M/S/C Carmen Rinta / John Cyrus.

3. A financial report for the months of November and December was shared. Expenses totaled \$ 11,226.89 and were related to installation of the Anderson, Rinta, and Laberge cost share projects. Funds were also used to support technical and administrative services. The report was approved as presented. M/S/C Mark Johnson / Al Rinta.

4. Old Business:

4.1. Section 319 Grant: Workplan: 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. We hope to have this grant executed soon. Website: Pat Rath has drafted a website for the BSALWMP. This includes organizational information, grants, implemented projects, shoreline BMPs, and a watershed map. Members with project photographs and/or stories were encouraged to send them to Pat. Some members noted that they were unable to access the site. Janet will check with Pat regarding this.

Shoreland Planting Workshop: Eleanor Burkett from the University of Minnesota Extension Service recently met with Janet and Bob and Barbara Greifzu. Tentative plans are being made for a shoreland planting workshop at their property on Big Sandy Lake. This could be funded by a combination of Flood Recovery Funds and 319 Grant Funds. More details will be available in the near future.

4.2. Cost Share Project Updates: Updates were provided on the following cost share projects: Laing: The landowner has located a contractor interested in installing this project. They are proposing to install rock at the base of the slope this winter, and add erosion control fabric, native seed, and live plantings on the upper bank next spring. The estimated cost is \$ 84,000. The landowner is still interested in proceeding, however his cost share contract has expired and a new contract would be needed. A motion approving a new cost share contract for this project, not to exceed \$ 36,900 was made. M/S/C John Cyrus / Frank Turnock.

4.3. Aitkin County AIS Activities Grant Application: An application for grant funding to conduct education regarding Aquatic Invasive Species was submitted. Funds were requested 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 –Mary Blickenderfer from the U of M Extension Service would be pleased to cooperate with us. The workshop would be a classroom session that teaches ID of invasive plants and invertebrates. Mark Johnson offered to help with this workshop. Holding the workshop before the fishing opener was discussed – maybe on May 9<sup>th</sup>. The McGregor Community Center was noted as a location and Sheila Merit as a caterer. A total of \$ 1,950 was requested. We should hear before the next meeting if this is funded.

4.4. Minnesota Recovers Grant Progress Report / Future Planning: The group reviewed funding and projects in the Minnesota Recovers Grant. Three landowners did not complete their projects in 2014, as their contracts required. Greifzu's are one of these, however their funding and potentially more will be needed as we move forward with the planting project at their property. Available cost share funding is \$ 6,514.95. This needs to be used before December of 2015. Janet has 7 landowners on a waiting list of potential projects. The group discussed funding projects that can be easily installed and completed with the remaining funds. They also discussed allocating additional funding to the Bill Laing project. Funds could be used for the plantings in the rock and on the slope.

#### 5. New Business:

5.1. Cost Share Project Reviews & Payment Approvals: A project summary was shared for the Gary and Amy Hennen Project. They have added native trees and flowering plants between their home and Big Sandy Lake in an effort to restore vegetation that was lost during the flooding. A motion approving a cost share payment of \$ 537.60 was made M/S/C John Cyrus / Al Rinta. The landowners have also requested an additional year to utilize remaining funding for their project. They are excited to continue what they have begun and are not asking for additional funding, but are requesting another year to utilize the remaining original allocation. A motion was made to approve a new cost share contract for \$ 962.40 for the Hennen's. M/S/C John Cyrus / Al Rinta.

#### 6. Working Session:

##### 6.1. Sub Watershed Project Reports:

6.1.1. SWHIM: No Report.

6.1.2. Sandy Lake: Mark Johnson reported that the BSLA is working on a memorial for Brian Herbranson. 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. The Association is working to educate themselves on various water quality issues.

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 February 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm. It will be held at the Cromwell Park Pavilion, if a meeting room is available. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.