

Big Sandy Area Lakes Watershed Management Project
Executive Council & Technical Team Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2016

Attendance: Barb Dahl, Carlton Co SWCD Supervisor; Ramona Hooper, McGregor Twp. Supervisor; Carmen Rinta, Tamarack; Al Rinta, Tamarack; Dianne Knoblen, SWHIM; Lindsay Lally, Island Lake; Gary Peterson, Carlton County Commissioner; Pat Rath, Lake Minnewawa; Bill Reed, Big Sandy Lake; Janet Smude, Aitkin Co SWCD; Frank Turnock, Aitkin County SWCD Supervisor; Norbert Wollack, N. Island Lake; Bill Zelazny, Island Lake; Sharon Zelazny, Island Lake.

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm. Introductions were made. The agenda was approved with the addition of a Pavlak Project Review, and McGregor Lakes Area Foundation. M/S/C Lindsay Lally / Carmen Rinta.

2. The June and July meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as presented. M/S/C Gary Peterson / Frank Turnock.

3. A financial report for the month of July was shared. Expenses totaled \$ 3,405.49 and was all from the EPA Section 319 Grant. It was noted that the negative value for rain garden projects is a reminder to Janet to request the grant amendment that was approved at the July meeting. The report was approved as presented. M/S/C Pat Rath / Bill Reed.

4. Old Business:

4.1. Aitkin County AIS Grant 2016: This grant has purchased tackle boxes, keychains, and laminated posters. Mileage to distribute the materials is the only item left in the grant. A motion approving reimbursement to the Rinta's for the mileage they contributed toward this effort was made. M/S/C Frank Turnock / Pat Rath. 50 tackle boxes will be donated to the McGregor School winter fishing outing. Ideas for distribution of the remainder of the boxes were discussed. It was noted that the Cromwell 5th grade students go to Deep Portage in Hackensack each spring.

4.2. Watershed Project Tour – Potential Date: The group approved touring project sites on Big Sandy Lake. These will mainly be in the Bellhorn Bay area of the lake. It was decided to hold the tour on September 14th, in place of the regular BSALWMP meeting. Frank Turnock agreed to contact Floe International regarding using their Floecraft for the tour. We could potentially have guest speakers attend to share information. Shelley Larson from Hayland Woods Native Plant Nursery and a representative from the USACOE were suggested.

4.3. Rain Barrel Discount Program: Three more rain barrels were sold by Groth Lumber. They have just a couple of barrels left in stock, and will probably not order any more until next spring. This program has been much more successful in this season than last summer.

4.4. Board of Water and Soil Resources Clean Water Fund Application: Janet Smude shared that a Community Partners Grant application was submitted. If approved this would have funding for the Cliff Erickson project on Prairie Lake, and potentially others. We should find out in January if the request is funded.

5. New Business:

5.1 EPA Section 319 Grant Semi-Annual Report: Copies of the grant report that was submitted to the MPCA were shared. Members were thanked for submitting their records of in-kind time and miles donated toward watershed activities. These were very helpful in preparing the report. Through the end of June, 36% of the grant had been spent. The needed in-kind match has been documented. Grant activities are on track for successful completion.

5.2. Potential Public Meeting / Fall Seminar: The group discussed hosting an educational meeting this fall. No specific plans were made, however members were asked to consider options and bring them to the next meeting.

6. Working Session:

6.1. Sub Watershed Project Reports:

6.1.1. SWHIM: Island Lake (Aitkin County) is being monitored for total phosphorus and chlorophyll a. Dianne Knobon has distributed AIS keychains. Water levels on Lake Minnewawa are still high. A floating bog has obstructed the channel between Minnewawa and Horseshoe Lakes. The lake association is working to clear this.

6.1.2. Sandy Lake: Big Sandy Lake has also had floating bogs breaking loose from the Prairie River. The lake went up 9" after a recent storm. Trees also blew down during this storm. The lake has returned normal summer level.

6.1.3. Sandy River: This river is still experiencing beaver control and water level issues.

6.1.4. Tamarack River: Island Lake (Cromwell) is high. Large snails have been appearing in the lake.

6.1.5. Prairie Lake / River: No report was available.

6.2.1. New Project Submissions: No were no new project submissions.

7. Agenda Additions: David Pavlak Project summary: This landowner on Big Sandy Lake has completed his rain garden project. Copies of invoices and time spent on the project have been submitted, however Janet Smude has not had time to inspect the project site yet. A motion approving reimbursement of \$ 794.50, pending a successful inspection was made M/S/C Frank Turnock / Carmen Rinta. Pictures of the project will be shared at the next meeting.

The McGregor Lakes Area Foundation is having their annual social gathering on Saturday August 27th from 2 pm to 4:30 pm. It will be held at Dick and Kathy Beatty's home on the NE corner of Big Sandy Lake. Admission is free. Donations are welcome and tax deductible.

Al and Carmen Rinta attended the Kennecott Mine Tour in Ladysmith Wisconsin. This mine has been retired for 40 years. The site has been reclaimed and is showing no signs of pollution to the environment.

8. The next meeting will be held on October 12th at 2:30 pm at the Tamarack Sno-Flyers Clubhouse. Amanda Miller from Kennecott will be invited to share an update at the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm. M/S Dianne Knobon / Pat Rath .

The meeting concluded with Happy Birthday wishes to Ray Gurske. Ray was thanked for all of his contributions to the BSALWMP and the local community.