

Big Sandy Area Lakes Watershed Management Project  
Executive Council & Technical Team Meeting Minutes  
February 11, 2015

Attendance:

Ray Gurske, Tamarack River Watershed Team	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
Pat Rath, Lake Minnewawa	Janet Smude, Aitkin Co. SWCD
Jerry Pawlak, Horseshoe Lake	Kathy Jerikovsky, Cromwell/Island Lake

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:35 pm. Introductions were made. The agenda was approved with the addition of ice erosion problems on Big Sandy Lake. M/S/C Jerry Pawlak/Mark Johnson .

2. The January meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as presented. M/S/C Patti McPhail / Ray Gurske.

3. A financial report for the month of January was shared. Expenses totaled \$ 537.60 and were related to the Hennen cost share project. The report was approved as presented. M/S/C Al Rinta / Pat Rath.

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 before the next meeting. Website: Pat Rath shared that the website contains basic information right now. We will fill in more information as it is developed. Links to other partner websites were discussed. We will contact Carlton County, Carlton Co. SWCD, and the Big Sandy Lake Association. The pros and cons of adding a contractor list to the website were discussed. Members with project photographs and/or stories were encouraged to send them to Pat. Shoreland Planting Workshop: Tentative plans are being made for a shoreland planting workshop at the Bob and Barbara Greifzu 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. Planting Project Maintenance Workshop: Shelley Larson from Hayland Woods Nursery has agreed to lead a maintenance workshop at the Tamarack Sno-Fliers Clubhouse in Tamarack. At this site we will be able to combine classroom learning with a look at plant and weed ID in the rain garden. A date in July has been proposed, but not confirmed yet.

4.2. Cost Share Project Updates: Updates were provided on the following cost share projects: Laing: Installation of this project at the mouth of the Prairie River was scheduled to begin today. The project will include stabilizing the base of the bluff with rock rip rap. Sand from the DNR pit just down the road will be added to create a 3:1 slope to support the rock. After the rock is installed the slope above will be graded, sown with a native seed mix, and covered with erosion control fabric. In the spring, the project site will be planted with live stakes – cuttings of dogwood and willow that will sprout and grow. Shamrock Township has been asked to allow the use of some compost from the yard waste site, in an effort to make the sand more conducive for plant growth. Installation is expected to take approximately 2 weeks. Sparks: Rock rip rap has been installed at this project site on Big Sandy Lake. Photos of the project were shared. Weather conditions this winter made hauling of the materials and equipment on the ice easy. Reimbursement will be requested when the landowners return next spring.

4.3. Aitkin County AIS Activities Grant Application: Notice regarding the grant status should be coming out very soon. Janet Smude shared that she has heard the project was approved. 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. We budgeted for printing of 2,000 of these cards. 2). An AIS ID Workshop –Mary Blickenderfer from the U of M Extension Service will be asked to be the main speaker at the workshop. The workshop would be a classroom session that teaches ID of invasive plants and invertebrates. The McGregor Community Center was noted as a location and Sheila Merit as a caterer. A total of \$ 1,950 was requested.

Pat Rath shared that he attended the Aquatic Invaders Summit hosted by the Initiative Foundation. A broad variety of speakers shared information. A Best Management Practices document – outlining successes and strategies will be coming as a result from the Summit.

## 5. New Business:

5.1. Cost Share Project Reviews & Payment Approvals: Rock was hauled into the Tom Johnson site at the same time as the Sparks site. Janet Smude thought the project was installed, but further discussions with the landowner indicated that the rock was just deposited on the ice. Plans are for the landowner to hand place the rock to properly protect the eroding slope. When this is complete, a reimbursement request will be made.

5.2. Rain Barrel Incentive Program: How to implement this program was discussed. Barrels to construct / assemble vs. those that come ready to go were discussed. Programs run by the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District and Scott County SWCD were also discussed. Several sources will be explored for the next meeting, including Hytinen's Hardware, Menards, Lake Superior College, L & M Supply, Fleet Farm, and Lowes.

## 6. Working Session:

### 6.1. Sub Watershed Project Reports:

6.1.1. SWHIM: The Lake Minnewawa Association is purchasing a new weed harvester. Weeds are composted after being removed from the lake.

6.1.2. Sandy Lake: Mark Johnson reported that the BSLA also received an Aquatic Invasive Species Grant which will be used to monitor 4 main boat accesses on Big Sandy Lake. There is a slot limit on Big Sandy Lake, and they have been questioning how this impacts fishing tournaments. They are still working to educate themselves on pipelines and mines.

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: Ice Erosion / Damage: Damage to shoreline due to ice was noted. This is especially a problem on Big Sandy Lake. The availability of cost share assistance for restorations was questioned. Janet Smude shared that there is some cost share funding in the EPA Section 319 grant. This is all tied to water quality protection and improvement.

Aquatic Weeds on Island Lake: Kathy Jerikovskiy shared that the aquatic vegetation on Island Lake is becoming a problem. Nuisance conditions and swimmers itch are becoming prevalent. What could be done was questioned. DNR permits are available for removal. Bill Zelazny has worked through this process and will be removing vegetation by the access to north Island Lake.

8. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm. It will be held at the Tamarack Sno-Fliers Clubhouse in Tamarack. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm.