

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

Attendance: Melanie Bomier, Carlton Co. SWCD; Barb Dahl, Carlton Co SWCD Supervisor; John Cyrus, City of Tamarack; Carmen Rinta, Tamarack; Al Rinta, Tamarack; Ray Gurske, Tamarack River Watershed Team; Dianne Knoblen, SWHIM; Lindsay Lally, Cromwell Lake; Patti McPhail, Cromwell Lake; Gary Peterson, Carlton County; Janet Smude, Aitkin Co SWCD; Frank Turnock, Aitkin Co. SWCD Supervisor; Bill Zelanzy, Cromwell Lake.

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:33 pm. Introductions were made. The agenda was approved as presented. M/S/C Carmen Rinta / Patti McPhail.

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

3. A financial report for the months of December 2015 and January 2016 was shared. Expenses totaled \$ 1,511.76. The report was approved as presented. M/S/C Al Rinta /Dianne Knoblen. It was noted that the 319 Grant expires on August 31, 2018

4. Old Business:

4.1. Aitkin County AIS Grant Activities: 2015: Carmen Rinta shared a copy of the placemat and examples of the proposed paper. 4,000 placemats will be printed with the 2015 funding. 2016: Ideas for a new grant application were shared. These included more placemats plus mileage to distribute, floating keychains, bobbers. Janet Smude will check on giveaway items. Carmen Rinta offered to explore options for placemat distribution. It was noted that a decontamination station will be at Willey's during the week, but out at lake accesses on the weekends. The deadline for a 2016 application is March 31<sup>st</sup>.

4.2. Upper Mississippi River River (Grand Rapids) WRAPS Update: A "Convening Community Conversations That Engage" workshop was recently held in Grand Rapids. Thanks to Pat Rath and Merritt Linzie who attended. An invitation to the next meeting of this project was shared. This will be held on Monday February 29<sup>th</sup>, at 10 am at Long Lake Conservation Center near Palisade. Community input will be needed as this project moves forward.

4.3. Watershed Wide Newsletter: Janet Smude shared that the first draft of the newsletter is nearly complete. She will be sending it to Pat Rath and Merritt Linzie for editing before the end of the week. Address lists for Carlton and St. Louis counties have been updated.

4.4. Additional Lake Monitoring Grant 2016-2017 Status: Janet Smude informed the group that the MPCA canceled the funding for this grant. She submitted a request to the Aitkin County Water Planning Task Force to replace some of this funding. They agreed to support sample analysis on Island (Aitkin Co) and Blackface Lake – the two lakes where volunteers had offered to assist. Thanks for this funding was expressed. This is in addition to the lakes that will be monitored through the EPA Section 319 Grant.

4.5. Septic System Inventories: Melanie Bomier updated the group on this project. The Carlton County Environmental Services Office will be taking the lead and following the format they used to study Lac La Belle and Net Lake. Courthouse records regarding the septic system, soils, and land use information will be used to estimate phosphorus sources to the lakes. In Carlton County that will include Eagle and Tamarack Lake, and potentially Island Lake. Janet Smude will be

following a similar format in Aitkin, and starting with Horseshoe Lake. Melanie Bomier will be gathering information to share with landowners on the lakes (septic maintenance, funding assistance, etc...)

4.6. The State of Water Conference: The MPCA has denied our request to use 319 funds to sponsor attendance. It was felt this was appropriate, however it is not currently in our workplan. A change to the workplan could be made but it would not be done in time for this conference. A motion was made to request \$ 800 from the Aitkin County AIS Committee for 2 member to attend the conference. M/S/C Gary Peterson / Frank Turnock.

4.7. Governor's Fishing Opener: The group discussed this event. Friday events will be held in McGregor. Saturday will be up at Big Sandy Lake. Options for being involved were noted. We may be able to contribute information to gift bags that will be distributed. The McGregor Chamber of Commerce and Nicole Eld would be good people to contact regarding this. Janet Smude and Carmen Rinta will follow up on this.

4.8. Spring Educational Workshops: Aquatic vegetation management will be occurring in the Cromwell area again. The first treatment will be around July 4<sup>th</sup>. A workshop on aquatic vegetation could include ID of vegetation, treatment options, allowable limits, what vegetation should be protected, etc... A DNR speaker was recommended for this. Janet Smude will follow up on this. Bill Zelazny will check with the company that sprays vegetation for them.

## 5. New Business:

5.1. 319 Grant Semi Annual Report: Copies of the submitted Semi-Annual Report to the MPCA were shared.

5.2. Education Event Updates & Funding Requests: The Aitkin County Rivers and Lakes Fair is scheduled for Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup> at the High School in Aitkin. It will include presentations, booths and exhibits, as well as hands on activities for families. This is the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the event. A motion approving a \$ 300 donation to this event was made. M/S/C John Cyrus / Ray Gurske. The Area 3 Envirothon is an environmental learning competition for high school students. They compete on their knowledge of water quality, soils, forestry, wildlife, and a current event. A motion approving a \$ 150 donation to this event was made. M/S/C Frank Turnock / Patti McPhail. The Big Sandy Water Institute is preparing for its 15<sup>th</sup> year. They have served 5,800 kids who have been exposed to nature and the natural environment. A motion approving a donation of \$ 2,500 to this event was made. M/S/C Frank Turnock / John Cyrus. The Cromwell School 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades are planning a trip to Eagles Bluff Learning Center and are working to raise funds. The group approved contributing \$ 150 to this trip, if the funds are still needed. M/S/C Gary Petersen / Lindsay Lally.

## 6. Working Session: 6.1. Sub Watershed Project Reports:

6.1.1. SWHIM: Dianne Knoblen noted that folks have been ice fishing on Island Lake.

6.1.2. Sandy Lake: No report was shared.

6.1.3. Sandy River: No report was shared.

6.1.4. Tamarack River: This Group will not meet again until next spring.

6.1.5. Prairie Lake / River: Merritt Linzie shared via email that fish populations on the lake are good, and do not appear to have been impacted by the 2012 flooding.

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

## 7. Agenda Additions: There were no additions.

8. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday March 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm at the Tamarack Sno-flyers Clubhouse. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm. M/S Dianne Knoblen / John Cyrus.