

Big Sandy Area Lakes Watershed Management Project  
Executive Council & Technical Team Meeting Minutes  
June 8, 2016

Attendance: Richard Beatty, Big Sandy Lake; John Cyrus, City of Tamarack; Barb Dahl, Carlton Co SWCD Supervisor; Jim Carlson, Big Sandy Lake; Gary Fischer, Eagle Lake; Ramona Hooper, McGregor Twp. Supervisor; Carmen Rinta, Tamarack; Al Rinta, Tamarack; Ray Gurske, Tamarack River Watershed Team; Dianne Knoblen, SWHIM; Lindsay Lally, Island Lake; Maggie Leach, BWSR; Gary Peterson, Carlton County Commissioner; Caitlin Ryan, Aitkin Co. SWCD; Janet Smude, Aitkin Co SWCD; Frank Turnock, Aitkin County SWCD Supervisor; 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 another new project submission – Kern, Big Sandy Lake. M/S/C Ray Gurske / Al Rinta.

2. The May meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as presented. M/S/C Lindsay Lally / John Cyrus.

3. A financial report for the month of May was shared. Expenses totaled \$ 397.90 and were related to rain barrel purchases, lake assn newsletters, and the Capturing Rainwater workshop. The report was approved as presented. M/S/C Carmen Rinta / Ray Gurske.

4. Old Business:

4.1. Aitkin County AIS Grant 2016: Tackle boxes have been received. Carmen and Al agreed to attach the AIS card to the back. Key chains will arrive on the 17<sup>th</sup>, and will be distributed at the rivers and Lakes Fair. Tackle boxes will be donated to the Big Sandy Water Institute fishing day on Lake Minnewawa. A motion was made approving payment of the McGregor Printing and Graphics invoice for the materials. M/S/C John Cyrus / Ray Gurske. A motion was made to reimburse the Rintas for their mileage used to order, pick up and distribute these materials. M/S/C Frank Turnock / Lindsay Lally.

4.2. Aitkin County Rivers and Lakes Fair: This event is coming up on June 18<sup>th</sup>, at the High School in Aitkin. The BSALWMP booth will focus on rain barrels. Rinta's offered to staff the booth. After the Rivers and Lakes Fair the rain barrel will be taken to the Cromwell Summer Fest, and then to the Aitkin County Fair. Following this it will be displayed / used at the Cromwell Food Shelf.

4.3. Lake Water Quality Monitoring 2016: Monitoring of 2 lakes (Blackface and Island) is being funded by the Aitkin County Watershed Planning Task Force. The 319 Grant is monitoring 9 lake sites on Big Sandy, Minnewawa, Eagle, Lower Island, Upper Island, and Prairie Lakes. Thanks was given to the volunteers who are helping on each lake. Historic lake data is located on the Minnesota DNR – Lakefinder website. This links to the MPCA data repository.

4.4. Capturing Rainwater Workshop: This workshop was held on Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup> at 9 am. Jim Ravis, Aitkin County Master Gardener, led the discussion of stormwater impacts, rain barrels, rain gardens, and native vegetation filter strips. A motion approving a \$ 150 donation to the Aitkin County Master Gardeners in appreciation of his program was made. M/S/C Gary Peterson / Frank Turnock.

The group also discussed reimbursement for the Lake Restoration speaker who talked about aquatic vegetation. A motion was made to reimburse him mileage for presenting the program. M/S/C John Cyrus / Dianne Knoblen.

4.5. Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws / Annual Meeting Planning: The previously proposed amendment to the bylaws was reviewed. This will be voted on at the BSALWMP Annual meeting on July 16<sup>th</sup>.

5. New Business:

5.1 Cost Share Project Review / Payment Approval: The Ed O'Donnell project on Round Lake has been completed. 55' of eroding shoreline was reshaped and stabilized with coir logs, erosion control fabric, and native vegetation. A motion approving reimbursement to the landowner of \$ 2,187.14 was made. M/S/C John Cyrus / Al Rinta.

5.2. Looking Ahead – Summer Activities: The 319 Grant budget was reviewed. Additional educational events should be completed this summer. A watershed project tour on Big Sandy Lake was discussed. Several landowners have been requesting technical and financial assistance for projects. Janet Smude will try to catch up on these before the next meeting.

6. Working Session:

6.1. Sub Watershed Project Reports:

6.1.1. SWHIM: No report was available.

6.1.2. Sandy Lake: The Governor's Fishing Opener was a success, even though the weather was poor. Big Sandy Lake is currently at normal summer level.

6.1.3. Sandy River: Water is slowly receding. There are still beaver control issues. A flier regarding beaver control services was shared.

6.1.4. Tamarack River: This Group will meet next Monday at 2:30. They will be discussing aquatic plant management at the public access on Island Lake.

6.1.5. Prairie Lake / River: This group held their spring membership meeting on Memorial Day. It was well attended.

6.2.1. New Project Submissions:

6.2.1. Linda Boals: This landowner on Lake Minnewawa would like to install a small rain garden to capture runoff from the road that adjoins their property. The cost estimate for the project is \$ 611. A motion approving \$305.50 in cost share funding, not to exceed 50% of the total eligible costs was made. M/S/C Al Rinta / Dianne Knoblen.

6.2.2. Kevin & Sue Kern, Big Sandy Lake: The landowners are requesting assistance to plant native forbs and shrubs on his property on Big Sandy Lake. These will replace those killed by the flooding in 2012. The total cost estimate is \$ 379. A motion approving \$ 189.50, not to exceed 50% of the total eligible project costs was made M/S/C Frank Turnock / John Cyrus.

7. Agenda Additions: It was noted that today was Barb Dahl's last day of work. Congratulations were given to Barb on her retirement.

8. The next meeting will be held on Saturday July 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am at the Tamarack Sno-Flyers Clubhouse. This will be the Annual Meeting of the BSALWMP. The meeting adjourned. M/S John Cyrus / Diane Knoblen .