

Big Sandy Area Lakes Watershed Management Project
Executive Council & Technical Team Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2014

Attendance: Barb Dahl, John Cyrus, Bill Zelazny, Roger Harp, Mark Johnson, Ray Gurske, Dianne Knoblen, Lindsay Lally, Pat McGinn, Pat Rath, Al Rinta, Carmen Rinta, Gary Peterson, Frank Turnock, Janet Smude.

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:35 pm. The agenda was approved with the addition of State of the Water Conference. M/S/C Carmen Rinta / Ray Gurske.
2. The February meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as presented. M/S/C Mark Johnson / Ray Gurske.
3. A financial report for the months of January and February was shared. There were no expenses. The report was approved as presented. M/S/C Frank Turnock /Pat McGinn.

4. Old Business:

4.1. Water Quality Monitoring Proposal, Sulfate/Sulfide Monitoring: Monitoring of sulfates is proposed in an effort to collect baseline data before mining potentially occurs in the area. The proposal would monitor 4 stream sites downstream from mineral exploration sites. \$ 600 to support this effort has been requested from the Aitkin County Water Planning Task Force. Preliminary approval has been received from the Aitkin County Water Planning Task Force. Final approval should come at the next meeting of the Water Planning Task Force.

4.2. Sandpiper Pipeline Project Public Information Meeting: The group was reminded that the public meetings to gather comments on the proposed pipeline route will be held on Thursday March 13th. The first local meeting will be held at the McGregor Community Center at 11:00 am. The second meeting will be held at the Carlton County Transportation Department in Carlton at 6:00 pm.

4.3. Section 319 Grant Proposal Brainstorming: In anticipation of submitting a grant application to the EPA Section 319 Grant Program, the group reviewed the TMDL Implementation Plan Activity Ranking Form. The grant application will focus on the "High Priority" activities including education regarding septic systems, lakeshore erosion control projects, tree planting, on-lake tours / education events, lake monitoring, and youth activity support. Additional information will be shared as it becomes available.

4.4. Cost Share Project Updates: The City of Tamarack Park Drainage Management Project was discussed. Plans are being developed by Technical Service Area 3 (TSA 3) staff. They have been considering directing some water to the catch basin on the west side, and have received information from the Aitkin County Highway Engineer regarding this. Engineered plans for the Rinta project have been received from the project engineers. Technical Service Area 3 (TSA 3) staff have also been working on the design for the Bill Laing project on the Prairie River. Plans are anticipated to be completed before the end of the month.

Project Amendment, Tom and Rita Johnson: These landowners have requested a one year extension to their cost share contract. Plans originally were to haul rock for this project in the winter over the ice.

They were not able to accomplish this over the last winter. An extension until December 1, 2015 was approved. M/S/C John Cyrus / Mark Johnson.

5. New Business:

5.1. Aitkin County Rivers and Lakes Fair: This event is scheduled for June 14, 2014 in Aitkin. The BSALWMP has staffed a booth at this the last several years. Carmen and Al Rinta offered to staff the booth again this year. The focus will be water quality improvement projects.

6. Working Session:

6.1. Sub Watershed Project Reports:

6.1.1. SWHIM: No report.

6.1.2. Sandy Lake: The Big Sandy Lake Association is focusing their efforts on potential copper mining and pipelines. Concerns center on protecting the lake. They are working on other issues including fireworks and preservation of the DNR fire tower.

6.1.3. Sandy River: No report.

6.1.4. Tamarack River: This group will be meeting on the first Monday of each month until September. Meetings will be held at 2:30 pm at the Cromwell Park Pavilion.

6.1.5. Prairie Lake / River: No report.

6.2. New Project Submissions:

6.2.1. Shoreline Stabilization, Patrick & Beverly Rath, Lake Minnewawa: Wave and ice action are eroding this shoreline. Control of the erosion is proposed to be accomplished through the addition of two layers of coir logs and native vegetation. This will be a good demonstration of a non-rock option for stabilizing a shoreline. Cost share funding of \$ 4,531, not to exceed 75% of the total eligible project costs was approved. M/S/C Frank Turnock / Ray Gurske.

7. Agenda Additions: State of the Water Conference: Janet Smude shared fliers for this conference. It will be held on May 1st and 2nd at Cragun's Resort north of Brainerd. Presentations will focus on many water related issues including aquatic invasive species, habitat restoration, watersheds, and more.

8. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday April 9th at 2:30 pm. It will be held at the Tamarack Sno-Flyers Clubhouse. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm. M/S Pat McGinn / Al Rinta.