

Big Sandy Area Lakes Watershed Management Project  
Executive Council & Technical Team Meeting Minutes  
May 13, 2015

Attendance: Pat McGinn, Lake Minnewawa; Ray Gurske, Tamarack River Watershed Team; Jim Carlson, Big Sandy Lake; Maggie Leach, MPCA; Steve Hughes, Aitkin Co. SWCD; John Cyrus, City of Tamarack; Barb Bass, Lake Minnewawa; Bob Bass, Lake Minnewawa; Pat Rath, Lake Minnewawa; Barbara Dahl, Carlton County SWCD; Al Rinta, Tamarack Sno-Flyers; Carmen Rinta, Tamarack Sno-Flyers; Frank Turnock, Aitkin County SWCD Supervisor; Gary Peterson, Carlton County; Dianne Knoben, SWHIM/ Island Lake; Mark J. Johnson, Big Sandy Lake; Ramona Hooper, McGregor Township; John C. Hooper, McGregor Township; Bill Reed, Big Sandy Lake; Lindsay Lally, Island Lake; Janet Smude, Aitkin Co. SWCD.

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:35 pm. Introductions were made. The agenda was approved M/S/C Frank Turnock /Ray Gurske .

2. The April meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as presented. M/S/C Pat Rath / Bill Reed.

3. A financial report for the month of April was shared. Expenses totaled \$ 1,462.42 and were all from the EPA Section 319 Grant. The report was approved as presented. M/S/C Pat Rath / Ray Gurske.

4. Guest Presentation / Discussion: Steve Hughes, Aitkin County SWCD: Steve shared information with the group regarding the Upper Mississippi River Grand Rapids Unit Watershed Restoration And Protection Strategy (WRAPS). This project will assess water quality of this area which involves portions of Itasca, Aitkin, Cass, Carlton, and St. Louis Counties. Water quality will be measured through chemical and biological monitoring. A strategy for protection of the good quality water resources, and restoration of those found to not meet the standards will be developed. This effort will complement the existing TMDL for the Big Sandy & Minnewawa Lakes Watershed. A kick off meeting is scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup> in Grand Rapids. One or two representatives were asked to attend for the BSALWMP.

Steve also spoke regarding the Aquatic Invasive Species Control efforts undertaken in Aitkin County. Funding has been received from the State. A committee meets twice monthly to oversee efforts supported by this funding. They are currently working on a rapid response strategy, boat inspections, and deployment of decontamination units. The group discussed implementation of these efforts. Steve was thanked for joining the meeting and sharing this information.

5. Old Business:

5.1. Shoreland Planting Workshop: This workshop is scheduled for Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at the Greifzu residence on Big Sandy Lake. The workshop will include a discussion of flood tolerant plant species, weed control, and site maintenance. Planting will occur in the morning, with a potential boat tour of other project sites in the afternoon. A draft flier was shared. Barbara Greifzu will be asked when she would need to know the number attending – this deadline for registration will be added to the flier.

5.2. Aitkin County AIS Activities Grant: Information Card: Carmen Rinta shared copies of the cards. These were printed by McGregor Printing and Graphics. Distribution locations and strategies were discussed. Workshop: The AIS workshop is scheduled for Monday June 15<sup>th</sup> at the Tamarack Sno-Flyers Clubhouse. Staff from Minnesota Sea Grant and the University of Minnesota Extension Service will be sharing information. Pre-registration will be taken at the Aitkin SWCD office (218) 927-6565.

5.3. Rain Barrel Incentive Program: Draft coupons were shared. We will be offering a coupon for \$ 25 off the price of a barrel at local hardware stores. Landowners would be eligible for a maximum of 2 coupons. These would expire by August 15<sup>th</sup>. Cooperating stores include Peters in Cromwell, Sathers north of McGregor, and Groth Lumber in Wright.

5.4. Cost Share Project Policies: Janet Smude shared a handout explaining the cost share project policies that were discussed at the previous meeting. This has been useful in communicating with landowners interested in cooperating on cost share projects.

#### 6. New Business:

6.1. Area 3 Envirothon: This competition for high school students was held on May 4<sup>th</sup> at the Cloquet Forestry Center. Nine teams from the Cromwell Wright School participated. A motion was made that the BSALWMP send a congratulation and thank you card to the school. M/S/C Frank Turnock / Carmen Rinta. It was noted that the science teacher from the Moose Lake school is a Cromwell resident.

#### 7. Working Session: 7.1. Sub Watershed Project Reports:

7.1.1. SWHIM: Shoreline damage was noted near Indian Portage on Lake Minnewawa. The Rath and Kooda projects have held up well.

7.1.2. Sandy Lake: Mark Johnson reported that the Shamrock Township Clean Up Day went well. A Memorial Day 5K will be held by Big Sandy Lodge. June 6<sup>th</sup> is the BSLA Annual meeting. Approximately half of the landowners on Big Sandy Lake have joined the association. The BSLA continues to educate themselves on prominent water quality issues.

7.1.3. Sandy River: The river is rising. There are a lot of beaver obstructions. There is an estimate of 8 active beaver dams on the Sandy River between Clark and Jevne Townships. Bank erosion is also a concern.

7.1.4. Tamarack River: Copies of a newsletter that was sent to landowners on all Cromwell Area Lakes were shared. Nineteen landowners are interested in cooperating on aquatic vegetation management strategies. A permit application is being sent to the DNR.

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

#### 7.2. New Project Submissions:

7.2.1. Brad & Chastity Lund: These landowners are on the east side of Prairie Lake. They are experiencing severe soil erosion and heaving in the shoreline area where they install their dock and access the lake. To control this problem we are proposing to install 75' of rock rip rap, remove concrete slabs from an old boat house, and install 30 native shrubs. In addition to this work, the existing vegetation on the remainder of the shoreline will be retained. A motion approving \$ 2,850 in cost share funding, not to exceed 50% of the total eligible project costs, was made. M/S/C Al Rinta / John Cyrus. This funding will come from the Section 319 Grant.

7.2.2. City Of Tamarack: The city has obtained a bid from Brian Roth for installation of the drainage / stormwater management project at the city park. This was higher than anticipated. The group was asked if they would be willing to shift funding for the Greifzu project to the 319 grant, and use the flood recovery funding of \$ 3,497.51 for the Tamarack Project. A motion approving this adjustment of funding was made. M/S/C Mark Johnson / Pat Rath.

8. Agenda Additions: Janet Smude shared that the planting portion of the Bill Laing project will be completed soon. Steve Frauenshuh has been speaking with contractors and getting bids for his runoff management project on Glacier Lake.

9. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday June 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm. It will be held at the Cromwell Park Pavilion, if the meeting room is available. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm. M/S Pat Rath / Mark Johnson.