

Big Sandy Area Lakes Watershed Management Project
Executive Council & Technical Team Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2016

Attendance: John Cyrus, City of Tamarack; Barb Dahl, Carlton Co SWCD Supervisor; Jim Carlson, Big Sandy 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; Pat McGinn, Lake Minnewawa; Gary Peterson, Carlton County Commissioner; Pat Rath, Lake Minnewawa; Janet Smude, Aitkin Co SWCD; Frank Turnock, Aitkin County SWCD Supervisor.

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:35 pm. Introductions were made. The agenda was approved with the addition of a report on the State of the Water Conference. M/S/C Carmen Rinta / Ray Gurske.
2. The April meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as presented. M/S/C Pat Rath / Carmen Rinta.
3. A financial report for the month of April was shared. Expenses totaled \$ 3,966.68 and were related to educational activities, coordinator services, and administrative costs. The report was approved as presented. M/S/C Lindsay Lally / Pat McGinn.
4. Old Business:
 - 4.1. Aitkin County AIS Grant 2016: The application requesting \$ 4,200 was approved. This will fund youth fishing kits, and floating key chains. Posters will be laminated, and mileage reimbursed for material distribution. Thanks were given to Carmen Rinta and Dianne Knoblen for helping with this.

Options for Fishing Kits were reviewed. The group decided to purchase the Jig Fishing Kit. Floating Key Chains were also reviewed. The group decided to purchase the rectangular keychains in yellow. All products will be purchased from McGregor Printing and Graphics, and will feature the Clean, Drain, Dry message. A motion approving the purchases, within the grant budget, was made. M/S/C Pat McGinn / Jim Carlson.
 - 4.2. Watershed Wide Newsletter: All newsletters have been mailed. Response has been good. Janet Smude has received several phone calls requesting additional information or technical assistance.
 - 4.3. Lake Water Quality Monitoring 2016: Janet Smude shared that lake water quality monitoring will begin this month. Monitoring of 2 lakes (Blackface and Island) will be funded by the Aitkin County Watershed Planning Task Force. The 319 Grant will monitor 9 lake sites on Big Sandy, Minnewawa, Eagle, Lower Island, Upper Island, and Prairie Lakes. Volunteers have been found to help on each lake.
 - 4.4. Capturing Rainwater Workshop: This workshop is scheduled for Saturday May 21st at 9 am. It will be held at the Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club on Aitkin County Road 6. Jim Ravis, Aitkin County Master Gardener, will lead the discussion of stormwater impacts, rain barrels, rain gardens, and native vegetation filter strips. Janet Smude will talk about the cost share incentives and rain barrel coupons that the BSALWMP can offer. Everyone is welcome to attend. Pat Rath has shared the flier through the Lake Minnewawa Association. Articles have been submitted to the Aitkin Independent Age and the Voyager Press.
 - 4.5. Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws / Annual Meeting Planning: The previously proposed amendment to the bylaws was reviewed. A motion to move ahead with the amendment was made. M/S/C Frank Turnock / John Cyrus.

The BSALWMP Annual Meeting will be held at the Tamarack Sno-Flyers Clubhouse on July 16th. It will begin at 8:30 am.

5. New Business:

5.1 Aitkin County Rivers and Lakes Fair: This event will be held on June 18th, at the High School in Aitkin. Featured presentations will include Moose – Minnesota’s Swamp Donkey, Water! By the Science Museum of Minnesota, Fascinating Pollinators by the Xerces Society, and Lakeshore Living by author Paul Radomski. The Minnesota Zoomobile will also join the Fair. Carmen and Al Rinta offered to assist with the booth. Hopefully we will have the AIS keychains to distribute.

6. Working Session:

6.1. Sub Watershed Project Reports:

6.1.1. SWHIM: Lake Minnewawa Association meetings have begun for the summer. The Lake Minnewawa Lake Improvement District will start meeting next month. Dale Kratochwill is the president of the Lake Minnewawa Lake Association.

6.1.2. Sandy Lake: Big Sandy Lake is at normal summer level. The Big Sandy Lake Association is preparing for the Governor’s Fishing Opener this weekend.

6.1.3. Sandy River: There has been no progress on beaver control issues. The Aitkin County Commissioners are waiting until Dale Lueck is available (after the Legislative Session).

6.1.4. Tamarack River: This Group will meet at 2:30 on the first Monday in June.

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

6.2.1. New Project Submissions:

6.2.1. Jean & Ken Garrison, Prairie Lake: The landowners would like to stabilize their eroding lakeshore with coir logs, erosion control fabric, and native plantings. Access to the site is a challenge. The cost estimate for the project is \$ 9,500. A motion approving \$ 4,750 in cost share funding, not to exceed 50% of the total eligible costs was made. M/S/C Ray Gurske / Jim Carlson.

6.2.2. Dale Noyed, Big Sandy Lake: The landowner is requesting assistance to plant native trees and shrubs on his property on Big Sandy Lake. These will replace those killed by the flooding in 2012. The total cost estimate is \$ 872. A motion approving \$ 436, not to exceed 50% of the total eligible project costs was made M/S/C Pat McGinn / Pat Rath.

6.2.3. Linda Killbourne, Big Sandy Lake: The landowner has requested technical and financial assistance to manage the stormwater on her property. It currently runs off of HWY 65 toward her home. The proposed project will use a rain garden to capture the runoff, and a rock lined channel to transport any overflow to the south. The total cost estimate for the project is \$ 3,526. A motion approving cost share funding of \$ 1,763, not to exceed 50% of the total eligible project costs was made. M/S/C Jim Carlson / Frank Turnock.

7. Agenda Additions: Barb Dahl shared information about the State of Waters Conference. She attended sessions on watersheds, buffer zones, and AIS research. Ron Schara was a keynote speaker. Governor Dayton also spoke to the attendees. It was a worthwhile conference to attend.

Shelley Larson recently reviewed the Sno-Flyers Rain Garden. It is looking good.

Mark Jacobs, Aitkin County Land Commissioner recently received an award for his forestry related accomplishments. Rick Nolan will be visiting Long Lake Conservation Center.

8. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday June 8th at 2:30 pm at the Cromwell Park Pavilion, if a meeting room is available. The meeting adjourned. M/S Frank Turnock / Pat Rath.