

Big Sandy Area Lakes Watershed Management Project  
Executive Council & Technical Team Meeting Minutes  
May 9, 2018

Attendance: Melanie Bomier, Carlton County SWCD; Jim Carlson, Big Sandy Lake; Barb Dahl, Carlton County SWCD Supervisor; Ray Gurske, Tamarack River Watershed Team; Ramona Hooper, McGregor Township Supervisor; Dianne Knoblen, SWHIM; Gary Peterson, Carlton County Commissioner; Bill Pratt, Aitkin County Commissioner; Al Rinta, Tamarack Sno-Flyers; Carmen Rinta, Tamarack Sno-Flyers / Round Lake; Janet Smude, Aitkin County SWCD; Frank Turnock, Aitkin County SWCD Supervisor; Bill Zelazny, Island Lake Cromwell; Sharon Zelazny, Cromwell Island Lake.

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Chairperson Barb Dahl. The agenda was approved as presented. M/S/C Ray Gurske / Dianne Knoblen.

2. The April meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as presented. M/S/C Al Rinta / Ray Gurske.

3. A financial report for the month of April was shared. Expenses totaled \$ 2,760.65 from the EPA 319 Grant and AIS Activities Grant. Expenses were related to the spring watershed wide newsletter. The report was approved as presented. M/S/C Carmen Rinta / Bill Pratt.

4. Old Business:

4.1 Spring Newsletter: Janet Smude shared that the newsletter was mailed on April 30th. All landowners in the watershed should have received a newsletter.

4.2. 2018 Aitkin County AIS Grant Implementation Update: Implementation of this grant has begun. The following activities have been undertaken

Carmen Rinta shared that updates to the AIS Placemat were made. McGregor Printing prepared the placemats and they were picked up yesterday. Rintas are working on distribution. It was noted that the restaurant in Cromwell is closing, but will reopen later with new owners.

Sharon Zelazny reported on the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Classroom Session in Cromwell. The event was held on Monday May 7<sup>th</sup>. Jim Carlson demonstrated the watershed tabletop model and talked about watersheds / watershed health. Janet Smude and Melanie Bomier shared information on aquatic invasive species and water quality. Sharon Zelazny and Barb Dahl also helped with the programming. The teachers were very supportive and helpful. Things went wonderful. At the end of the day students drafted artwork for a t-shirt based on what they had learned. The group reviewed the finalists and voted on the winner. Sharon will have the t-shirts printed for the kids. Thanks was given to Jim for sharing his presentation and to Sharon for all of her work in coordinating this event.

4.3. Lake Association / Lake Advocate Sharing Session: The date for this workshop / session was set for Saturday June 30<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at the Tamarack Sno-Flyers Clubhouse. A draft agenda has been prepared. The session will include time for a watershed / WRAPS discussion, sharing time between associations and a presentation on media relations. Melanie Bomier and Janet Smude will be coordinating the event.

4.4. EPA Section 319 Grant Completion: The Group was reminded that the EPA Section 319 Grant will be ending on August 31, 2018. Plans for spending the remaining funding were discussed. There is just over \$ 1,000 left for BMP projects. This could fund one small project. Septic system inventories will be worked on. There is some newsletter funding remaining. Seminar funds will be used for the Lake Association / Lake Advocate Sharing Session. Ideas for the tour were discussed. Frank Turnock will look into a tour of the peat plant near McGregor. Water sampling funding will be used up by August.

## 5. New Business:

5.1. WRAPS Ambassador Meeting: The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday June 26<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. It will be held at Long Lake Conservation Center. Everyone is welcome to attend and learn about water quality restoration strategies being developed for the Mississippi River Grand Rapids Unit Watershed, which includes the Big Sandy Area Lakes Watershed. Janet Smude was asked to email the meeting information / agenda to the group when it is available.

5.2. Aitkin County Clean Water for Bait Initiative: Janet Smude shared information on the Aitkin County Clean Water for Bait Initiative. The Aitkin County SWCD will be cooperating with area bait dealers to provide anglers with clean water that can be used to replace their bait water when leaving a lake. In an effort to control the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species anglers are required to dispose of their bait when leaving a waterbody, or replace the bait water with fresh water that has not had the opportunity to become contaminated. Bait dealers will provide the person purchasing bait with the bag of fresh water free of charge. The bait dealer will be reimbursed by the SWCD \$ 0.50 for every bag of water they distribute. Anglers can return the used bags to the dealer for \$ 0.50 cash or \$ 1.00 off the cost of an artificial lure. The following bait dealers are currently cooperating on the program: Beartooth Hardware in Aitkin, Bill's Sportsman's Service in Aitkin, The Farm Island Store, The Hill City Roadside, Fishers Resort on Mille Lacs Lake, and Westerlund's Cenex in Malmo. It is anticipated that additional bait dealers will join the program. Example bait bags were shared with the group.

## 6. Working Session:

### 6.1. Sub Watershed Project Reports:

6.1.1. SWHIM: There was nothing new to report.

6.1.2. Sandy Lake: Ice out was interesting on this lake. It seemed to go in small chunks. There are not many boats / docks out yet. A "Love Your Lake" event is scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup> and will focus on things that lakeshore owners can do to protect water quality.

6.1.3. Sandy River: No report was shared.

6.1.4. Tamarack River: This group will begin meeting again in June.

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

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

7. Agenda Additions: There were no agenda additions.

8. The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at the Tamarack Sno-Fliers Clubhouse, if it is available. The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm. M/S/ Jim Carlson / Dianne Knoben.