

Big Sandy Area Lakes Watershed Management Project
Executive Council & Technical Team Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2015

Attendance: Barb Dahl, Carlton Co SWCD Supervisor; John Cyrus, City of Tamarack; Al & Carmen Rinta, Tamarack; Nancy Karjalahti, Lake Minnewawa; Ray Gurske, Tamarack River Watershed Team; Gary Peterson, Carlton County; Janet Smude, Aitkin Co SWCD; Lindsay Lally, Cromwell; Frank Turnock, Aitkin Co. SWCD Supervisor; Dianne Knoblen, SWHIM.

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:40 pm. Introductions were made. The agenda was approved with the addition of a Lake Monitoring Discussion. M/S/C Frank Turnock /Carmen Rinta.

2. The October meeting minutes were reviewed. A correction to item 6.2.1. was noted. \$ 1,305 in cost share funding was allocated for the O'Donnell project on Round Lake. The minutes were approved with the noted change M/S/C Ray Gurske / Al Rinta.

3. A financial report for the month of October was shared. Expenses totaled \$ 165.00 from the EPA Section 319 Grant. The report was approved as presented. M/S/C Carmen Rinta /Lindsay Lally.

4. Old Business:

4.1. Ed O'Donnell Shoreland Stabilization Project Amendment: A revised cost estimate, based on contractors bids, was received for this project on Round Lake. The landowner has requested an increase in cost share funding to make up the difference. A motion was made approving an additional \$ 882.14, for a total of \$ 2,187.14 in cost share funding for this project. The cost share percentage remains at 50%. M/S/C John Cyrus / Gary Peterson.

4.2. Aitkin County AIS Activities Grant Workshop: Lori Wester in Cromwell will be leading a unit with her 10th grade class in December focusing on AIS. She has noted that specimens of AIS that her students could view would be helpful. The group also discussed purchasing visual aids that may be useful in future educational meetings. Janet Smude will look into purchasing these with the remaining AIS grant funding. If no specimen examples are found to purchase, the group approved using the funding for printing of AIS focused placemats, similar to those prepared by the Lake Minnewawa Association. Carmen Rinta agreed to help with this.

4.3. Minnesota Recovers Grant Wrap Up: This grant expires at the end of 2015. All funds must be expended before December 31st. The \$ 2,550 approved for the Aitkin County Highway Department was sent to them in early November. A small amount of project money remains. This has been used to purchase additional shrubs for the Tamarack Sno-Flyers rain garden, and enhance the City of Tamarack Park. Reimbursements will be made.

The Gary Hennen project on Big Sandy Lake remains to be installed. Janet Smude has been working with the landowner to ensure that this is completed. Concerns about the status of the project were shared. A motion was made stating that if the project is not installed to committee satisfaction, no reimbursement will be made. Reimbursement will be based on the technical judgment of Janet Smude M/S/C Lindsay Lally / Gary Peterson. A second motion was made stating that in the event that the

Hennen project is not satisfactorily completed, remaining funding will be used to provide assistance toward the Bill Laing project. M/S/C Nancy Karjalahti / Diane Knoblen.

4.4. Annual Meeting: The BSALWMP By-Laws were reviewed. Changing the annual meeting date will involve a revision of the By-Laws, which needs to be done at an annual meeting. We will meet once more on the third Saturday of July, but proceed with amending the By-Laws to state that the Annual Meeting will be held on the normal meeting date in July. A motion was made to proceed with changing the by-laws. M/S/C Carmen Rinta / Diane Knoblen.

5. New Business:

5.1. 319 Grant Supported Winter Activities: A watershed wide newsletter will be prepared and distributed this winter / spring. Articles will focus on the cost share projects that we have going on in the watershed. It was suggested that information on AIS also be included in the newsletter. Janet Smude will be working on this, with assistance from Pat Rath and Merritt Linzie.

The grant also supports septic system inventory work. Some work will be done in both Carlton and Aitkin counties, with Carlton County staff taking the lead. The initial proposal was to gather information available in courthouse records and summarize this to provide a picture of the known / unknown health of septic systems around a lake.

6. Working Session: 6.1. Sub Watershed Project Reports:

6.1.1. SWHIM: No additional information was shared.

6.1.2. Sandy Lake: No report was shared.

6.1.3. Sandy River: No report was shared.

6.1.4. Tamarack River: This Group will not meet again until next spring.

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

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

7. Agenda Additions: Lake Monitoring for 2016: As discussed at the last meeting, there is the potential to add more lake sites to the monitoring schedule in 2016. John Cyrus has a friend who will likely help on Blackface Lake. Diane Knoblen could ask her neighbor who takes secchi disk readings on Island Lake (Aitkin County) to also assist with sampling. Round Lake was monitored by the MPCA in 2015, so is not eligible for this funding. Janet Smude will draft a proposal / request to the MPCA based on this discussion.

8. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday January 13th at 2:30 pm. It will be held at the Tamarack Sno-Flyers Clubhouse. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm. M/S John Cyrus / Diane Knoblen.