

Big Sandy Area Lakes Watershed Management Project  
Executive Council & Technical Team Meeting Minutes  
October 12, 2016

Attendance: John Cyrus, City of Tamarack; Ray Gurske, Tamarack River Watershed Team; Barb Dahl, Carlton Co SWCD Supervisor; Carmen Rinta, Tamarack; Al Rinta, Tamarack; Dianne Knoblen, SWHIM; Barb Peterson, Carlton County; Gary Peterson, Carlton County Commissioner; Janet Smude, Aitkin Co SWCD; Frank Turnock, Aitkin County SWCD Supervisor; Amanda Miller, Kennecott; Joni Torgerson, Kennecott.

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:35 pm. Introductions were made. The agenda was approved with the movement of agenda item # 4 to the top of the agenda. M/S/C Frank Turnock / Dianne Knoblen.

4. Guest Presentation: Amanda Miller, Communications Coordinator for Kennecott Exploration Company: Amanda Miller introduced herself and Joni Torgerson to the group. A history of the mineral exploration project in Tamarack was given. Drilling started in 2001. Since then there has been 5 full years of drilling. In 2014 Kennecott partnered with Talon Metals Corp to continue with exploration activities. Summer drilling has wrapped up for 2016. Three drill rigs completed 10 drill holes. There will be a winter drilling program that will most likely start in January 2017.

Joni Torgerson shared information on the baseline monitoring program. This began in the end of 2007. Seventeen surface water sites are being monitored for multiple parameters. Groundwater is tested at 12 wells. Samples are taken 4 times per year.

Amanda and Joni expressed their willingness to keep local citizens up to date on their activities. Everyone is welcome to visit their core shed in Tamarack and ask questions. The group thanked them for coming to the meeting and sharing this information.

2. The August meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as presented. M/S/C Frank Turnock / Ray Gurske.

3. A financial report for the months of August and September was shared. Expenses totaled \$ 2,139.15 and were all from the EPA Section 319 Grant. Funds were spent on the Pavlak rain garden project and water quality monitoring. The report was approved as presented. M/S/C Al Rinta / Carmen Rinta.

5. Old Business:

5.1. Potential Public Meeting / Fall Seminar: The group discussed hosting an educational meeting this fall or winter. A few ideas were discussed including – beaver problems / control and how lakes function / are monitored. No specific plans were made, however members were asked to consider options and bring them to the next meeting.

5.2. Watershed Project Tour – Summary / Comments: The group discussed the tour held last month on Big Sandy Lake. The FloeCraft was nice. Projects visited were successful, which was good to see. Space was limited on the boat, and it was a shame to have to turn people away. Thank you notes were sent to Floe. The group was asked to consider another lake for 2017 – maybe Island Lake in Carlton County or Prairie Lake in St. Louis County.

5.3. Cost Share Projects – Status / Updates: Janet Smude shared that she has contacted nearly all of the landowners with open cost share contracts through BSALWMP. Several have decided to wait until spring for installation of their projects. The heavy rains this summer have made project installation a challenge. She spent a day with Shelley Larson of Hayland Woods Nursery and Jared Deboer of Minnesota Shoreworks. Several project sites were visited and plans developed for the sites. They may be cooperating with landowners we already have contracts with, and developing proposals for new projects.

The need for additional project money was discussed. Enbridge will be opening their Eco-Footprint Grant Program in December. We could potentially apply for funding through this program. It may be a good idea to partner with Aitkin County and /or Carlton County on an application.

## 6. New Business:

6.1 2017 Aitkin County AIS Grant Application: Applications for AIS funding through Aitkin County are being accepted until December 30<sup>th</sup> 2016. A 10% match is required as part of the application. Preliminary ideas were discussed. Carmen Rinta offered to check on the cost of a billboard. Janet Smude will research an information campaign on Facebook. This topic will be discussed more at the next meeting.

## 7. Working Session:

### 7.1. Sub Watershed Project Reports:

7.1.1. SWHIM: Water testing on Island Lake (Aitkin County) has been completed for this season.

7.1.2. Sandy Lake: No report was available.

7.1.3. Sandy River: No report was available.

7.1.4. Tamarack River: No report was shared.

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

Al and Carmen Rinta shared that they recently pulled out their lifts / dock from Round Lake. There was an unusual dark shine on the dock. The lake also had a lot of snails this year. There were small black dots on the bottom of the lake. The DNR Fisheries division will be asked about this.

7.2.1. New Project Submissions: No were no new project submissions.

8. Agenda Additions: There were no agenda additions.

9. The next meeting will be held on November 9th at 2:30 pm at the Cromwell Park Pavilion, if a meeting room is available. The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm. M/S Dianne Knoblen / Frank Turnock .