

Big Sandy Area Lakes Watershed Management Project  
Executive Council & Technical Team Meeting Minutes  
January 9, 2019

Attendance: Melanie Bomier, Carlton Co. SWCD; Jim Carlson, Big Sandy Lake; Barb Dahl, Carlton County SWCD Supervisor; Ray Gurske, Tamarack River Watershed Team; Ramona Hooper, McGregor Township Supervisor; Lindsay Lally, Cromwell; Patti McPhail, Cromwell; Gary Peterson, Carlton County Commissioner; Bill Pratt, Aitkin County Commissioner; Pat Rath, Lake Minnewawa; Al Rinta, Tamarack Sno-Flyers; Carmen Rinta, Tamarack Sno-Flyers / Round Lake; Janet Smude, Aitkin County SWCD; Frank Turnock, Aitkin County SWCD Supervisor; Rod Walli, Cromwell Lakes; Bill Zelazny, Island Lake.

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairperson Barb Dahl. The agenda was approved as presented M/S/C Pat Rath / Al Rinta.

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

3. A financial report for the months of November and December was shared. Expenses totaled \$ 964.50 from the AIS Activities Grant. These were the final expenses to this grant that ended on December 31<sup>st</sup>. A \$ 500 donation was received from Lake Country Power in support of a spring newsletter. The report was approved as presented. M/S/C Gary Peterson / Frank Turnock.

4. Old Business:

4.1. 2018 Aitkin County AIS Grant Final Report: This grant was completed in December. Copies of the final report were shared. Grant funds were used to purchase 3,000 AIS themed placemats, print an AIS insert in the spring newsletter, and host an AIS education event with the Cromwell-Wright 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes. Additional funds were used to purchase 65 tackle boxes which will be distributed this winter when 41 McGregor 4<sup>th</sup> grade students go ice fishing. The remaining tote bags from the previous year were distributed. All but \$ 16.51 of the grant was spent. Activities supported by this grant were successful. The group was thanked for supporting these efforts.

5. New Business:

5.1. 2019 Aitkin County AIS Grant Application: The application period for the 2019 Aitkin County AIS Grant is open. Ideas for a new application were discussed. Another education day for the Cromwell-Wright 4<sup>th</sup> Grade was suggested. Sharon Zelazny will be asked if she would be willing to coordinate this again. Funding is needed for the spring newsletter and could be requested from this source. Handout materials were reviewed. The group liked the boat plug holders and coasters. Frank Turnock made a motion to request \$ 6,000, for items including coasters and boat plugs. This was seconded by Pat Rath, and approved by the committee. Janet Smude will draft the application. Pat Rath and Carmen Rinta offered to assist as needed.

Gary Peterson shared that the Association of Minnesota Counties nominated Bill Pratt to serve on the statewide AIS committee. Bill was congratulated. Gary also mentioned that Carlton County receives AIS funds from the state too, and may be able to provide financial assistance for education events.

5.2. Spring Newsletter: Janet Smude noted that she would like to send out a spring watershed wide newsletter. This has been done for numerous years, and she would like to maintain the continuity of that effort. \$ 500 has been received from the Lake Country Power Operation Round Up. Up to \$ 800 is available from the Mississippi River Grand Rapids WRAPS project. The remaining needed funds can be requested from the AIS Education Grant. Some of the information will be directed by the funding source. Other ideas for items to be included were what we have done (projects) links to partner websites / contact information.

The need for adequate print size was noted. Even though we want to include a lot of information, we need to ensure that it is easily readable. Recipients should also be given the option of receiving an email / electronic copy. This may help to reduce costs in the future.

5.3. Love Your Lake Septic & Well Event: Janet Smude and Jim Carlson shared that this event is scheduled for the morning of May 4<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at the Minnesota National Golf Course and will feature speakers from the University of Minnesota Extension Service and Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Information on maintenance of septic systems and private wells will be shared. The session will begin with brunch at 9:30 and will be done by noon. Vendors have been invited to join the event and visit with participants. The event is free thanks to support from the Big Sandy Lake Association and Lake Minnewawa Lake Improvement District. Watch for pre-registration information to come this spring.

5.4. 2019 Website Support: Payment on our website will be due in February. Similar groups have decided that a website is an important tool for connecting with folks interested in the watershed and the BSALWMP. It can add a level of “legitimacy” to the group when applying for grants. The Aitkin County Water Planning Task Force will be asked to cover the cost of website hosting and domain name registration for the next year. This amounts to \$ 285.88. Grants that could support this expense will be sought for future years.

## 6. Working Session:

### 6.1. Sub Watershed Project Reports:

6.1.1. SWHIM: Pat Rath shared that things are quiet on Lake Minnewawa. There is ice push impacting the shoreline. Currently there is 15+” on ice.

6.1.2. Sandy Lake: Jim Carlson noted that there is increased snowmobile traffic on the weekends on Big Sandy Lake.

6.1.3. Sandy River: Ramona Hooper shared that water levels have remained pretty steady on this river.

6.1.4. Tamarack River: Ray Gurske noted there is a lot of snow on Tamarack Lake. This had made it hard on the fishermen and many have been removing their fish houses.

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

7. Agenda Additions: There were no additions to the agenda.

8. The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at the Tamarack Sno-Flyers Clubhouse. Kennecott Exploration Company will be invited to share information with us. The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm. M/S/ Bill Zelazny / Pat Rath.