

Big Sandy Area Lakes Watershed Management Project  
Executive Council & Technical Team Meeting Minutes  
July 11, 2018

Attendance: 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; Phil Lippo, Cromwell South Island Lake; Bill Pratt, Aitkin County Commissioner; Pat Rath, Lake Minnewawa; Bill Reed, Big Sandy Lake Association; Al Rinta, Tamarack Sno-Flyers; Carmen Rinta, Tamarack Sno-Flyers / Round Lake; Janet Smude, Aitkin County SWCD; Frank Turnock, Aitkin County SWCD Supervisor; Norbert Wollak, Cromwell Island Lake; Sharon Zelazny, Cromwell Island Lake.

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairperson Barb Dahl. The agenda was approved with the addition of discussion of roadwork near Lake Minnewawa. M/S/C Al Rinta / Ray Gurske.

**Annual Business Meeting Agenda:**

2. 2017 – 2018 Annual Activity and Financial Summary: Janet Smude shared information on activities completed in the past year. Two grants were implemented during this period – the EPA Section 319 Grant and the Aquatic Invasive Species Activities Grant.

Expenses to the 319 grant totaled \$ 15,882.47. These funds supported numerous activities including newsletters, the BSALWMP website, information seminars, project tours, the rain barrel incentive program, water quality monitoring on several watershed lakes, and installation of 3 water quality protection projects.

AIS grant funds purchased AIS themed placemats and an AIS Identification insert in the watershed wide newsletter. It also supported the Cromwell-Wright 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade AIS education event. Total expenses were \$ 2,702.99.

Committee members were thanked for donating their time and energy to making these efforts successful.

3. Election of BSALWMP Officers: The positions of Chairperson and Secretary/Treasurer were up for election.

Pat Rath nominated Barb Dahl for the position of Chairperson. This was seconded by Ray Gurske and approved unanimously by the group. Barb Dahl was thanked for her leadership of the BSALWMP.

Carmen Rinta nominated Pat Rath for the position of Secretary/Treasurer. This was seconded by Ray Gurske and approved unanimously by the group. Pat Rath was thanked for accepting this position again.

**Monthly Business Meeting Agenda:**

4. The June meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as presented. M/S/C Ray Gurske / Pat Rath.

5. A financial report for the month of June was shared. Expenses totaled \$ 1,161.30 from the EPA 319 Grant. There were no expenses to the AIS Activities Grant. Expenses were related to coordinator services for septic system inventories, educational events, postage, and photocopies. The report was approved as presented. M/S/C Frank Turnock / Pat Rath.

6. Old Business:

6.1 2018 Aitkin County AIS Grant Remaining Funding: Implementation of this grant has continued. Rintas have worked on distribution of the placemats. A motion was made to reimburse the Rintas \$ 109 for mileage related to the placemat development and distribution M/S/C Pat Rath / Sharon Zelazny. The placemats and the education event came in under budget. There is approximately \$ 870.00 remaining. The group discussed ideas for using this funding including another AIS placemat, tackle boxes for kids, including lead free tackle and winter choices. Carmen Rinta agreed to follow up on these options and bring prices to the next meeting.

6.2. Lake Association / Lake Advocate Sharing Session: This workshop / session was held on Saturday June 30<sup>th</sup> at the Tamarack Sno-Flyers Clubhouse. Participation was good with 15 lake representatives attending and 5 presenters. Comments were positive, and participants would like to meet again. A September meeting was discussed. A motion

approving a \$ 125 donation to the Tamarack Sno-Flyers for the use of the Clubhouse for this meeting was made M/S/C Pat Rath / Dianne Knoblen.

6.3. WRAPS Ambassador Meetings: Pat Rath shared that the June 26<sup>th</sup> meeting had great attendance and the content was good. Several folks from the Grand Rapids area of the watershed came. It was noted that some water quality issues may not be fixable – they may just be natural. Development of action plans for the watershed should be coming soon. This will be an important discussion to participate in. The next WRAPS Ambassador meeting is scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at the Blandin Foundation in Grand Rapids. Everyone is welcome to attend. More information will be available as the meeting gets closer.

6.4. Summer Education Efforts: Several summer education events were discussed. Frank Turnock followed up on a tour at Peat Inc. They are willing to give us a tour, however a date has not been set. More information will be available soon. Approximately \$ 2,000 remains in the 319 Grant for mailings. A draft letter relating to zoning regulations, put together by the Carlton County SWCD, was shared. It was suggested that we add information on when to contact the Environmental Services Office. A second letter, specific to the lake receiving the mailing, will be developed. This will discuss lake water quality, the BSALWMP, and how people can get involved. Dianne Knoblen, Sharon Zelazny, Pat Rath, and Carmen Rinta volunteered to review this second letter before it goes out to landowners. Carmen Rinta shared information from the Aitkin County Rivers and Lakes Fair. Attendance was good – both visitor and exhibitor numbers were up this year. Reaction to the rain barrel drawing was good. A barrel to give away at the Harvest Fest will be purchased. The Harvest Fest will be held on September 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

## 7. New Business:

7.1. Project Summary – Mike Ruzek, Shoreland Revegetation Project: The Mike Ruzek project on Big Sandy Lake has been installed. The project included revegetation of the shoreline area with native trees and shrubs, revegetation of the lake access, and a buffer strip along the township road. A motion approving reimbursement to the landowner in the amount of \$ 2,232.44 was made M/S/C Jim Carlson / Bill Pratt.

## 8. Working Session:

### 8.1. Sub Watershed Project Reports:

8.1.1. SWHIM: Dianne Knoblen shared that there are 3 new landowners on Island Lake (Aitkin County). She is sharing water quality information with them. Pat Rath reported that water levels on Lake Minnewawa are high. Fishing has been great.

8.1.2. Sandy Lake: The Enbridge Pipeline has been rerouted to the north of Big Sandy Lake. It will still cross the Big Sandy Watershed, but there will be less opportunity to pollute Big Sandy Lake, should there be a spill. There was lots of boat traffic on Big Sandy Lake over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July week. There is a golf outing at Minnesota National Golf Course this coming weekend. Proceeds will benefit the Riverwood Foundation and the Riverwood Clinic in McGregor.

8.1.3. Sandy River: No changes in this watershed were noted.

8.1.4. Tamarack River: This group met the first Monday in July. They are working on plans for the Cromwell Harvest Fest. Clearing aquatic vegetation at the public access on North Island Lake was discussed.

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

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

9. Agenda Additions: Road work on 188<sup>th</sup> Avenue near Lake Minnewawa was discussed. A culvert under the road has been diverted toward the lake. It was believed that Shamrock Township is working on this project in conjunction with the County Road 6 repair project. Water quality protection strategies related to culvert replacement were discussed as were regulations that may relate to this project.

10. The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. The location is pending until a tour date is scheduled with Peat Inc. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm. M/S/ Pat Rath / Ray Gurske.