

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: INITIAL BIG SANDY LAKE GROUP MEETING

1. The initial ROPE meeting for the Big Sandy lake group was held at the McGregor Community Center on Thursday July 11<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 3 p.m. There were 8 people in attendance who either live on Big Sandy Lake, the Prairie River, the Sandy River or the Mississippi River. Two of the attendees were on the Big Sandy Lake Association Board, one was on the Big Sandy Area Lakes Watershed Management Project Board and one was the owner/editor of the local newspaper the Voyager Press. All were concerned property owners on the Big Sandy chain.
2. The meeting started off at 1 p.m. with everyone taking turns giving a brief introduction of themselves and what interests they represented around the lake. Jeff Steere gave a brief overview of the ROPE Study and the different groups that will be involved and the role that each group will play in the study.
3. A discussion was held on who was missing and how we could get those parties involved. A number of additional interest groups were identified during this discussion that were not on the original mailing list. They included the Libby, Turner, Shamrock, and Workman Township Board members, the McGregor City Clerk, the Aitkin County Zoning office, and a member from the Milac Band of Ojibwa from the East Lake Community. It was noted in the discussion that the October meeting should be held on a Saturday afternoon to allow for those people who work and also those who live out of town to attend. Big Sandy Board members B. Grifzu and R. Johanson suggested using the Big Sandy Lake Association's bulk email address to send out a notice of the October meeting to BSL Association members. J. Steere will make the necessary contacts to get an invitation for the October meeting to the interests that were not included in the initial lake group meeting.
4. The accommodations at the McGregor Community Center were more than adequate and would be a good location to hold the October meeting.
5. Some of the concerns voiced by individuals were the possibility of dredging the Aitkin Diversion Channel, Sandy and Pokegama Lake having more equality when sharing the flooding burden, delaying the winter drawdown procedures, improving the water quality on the lake, what impact does the flooding have on the septic systems and the roads around the lake, and reinstalling a fish ladder on the dam to improve the fisheries on the lake. Everyone agreed that before these concerns can be addressed getting more people involved for the next meeting in October was the main priority.
6. All attendees signed up to be volunteers on the lake group.
7. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:45 p.m.
8. A meeting roster is attached with names and their complete addresses.