

**Meeting of the Policy Committee for Root River One Watershed, One Plan
Monday, November 2nd, 2015, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Room 108, Fillmore County Office Building, 902 Houston Street NW, Preston, MN**

Members in attendance: Matt Flynn, Duane Bakke, Marcia Ward, Leonard Leutink Jr., Jim Kellogg, Rodney Peterson, Dana Kjome, Jerry Mueller, Tim Gabrielson, Glen Hahn. Also present: Mark Deutschman, Jennifer Ronnenberg, Donna Rasmussen, Skip Langer, Justin Hanson, Karin Sonneman, Jenny Mocol-Johnson, Sheila Harmes, Nicole Lehman, Adam King.

1. Open meeting: Chair Bakke opened the meeting at 9:02 a.m.
2. Approve Agenda: Old Business item c. was moved to a. Tim Gabrielson moved to approve the agenda with that change; Marcia Ward seconded; motion passed unanimously.
3. Approve minutes of the 8/31/2015 meeting: Dana Kjome moved to approve the minutes from the August 31st Policy Committee meeting; Matt Flynn seconded; motion passed unanimously.
4. Old Business
 - a. Possible action item: Continue discussions about governance structures for plan implementation (action needed this meeting or at November 30th meeting): At the August 31st meeting, a straw poll of the members was in favor of moving forward as a group with implementation under either a MOA or JPA. Karin Sonneman, Winona County Attorney, was in attendance to provide guidance. Concerns were raised again about forming another JPB. Although there are benefits to a JPB, Sonneman pointed out some of the disadvantages: it is a separate entity that takes away the power of the individual entities, requires its own liability insurance and has its own employees. JPAs and MOAs are similar, and there is flexibility in the Joint Powers statute so that agreements can be set up to define liability, police powers, etc. Anything that is developed will be reviewed by MCIT. Grants/funding are issues that are important as the counties are reluctant to impose taxes to raise funds, and joint grants are more successful. Capital projects are large ticket items that will require other funding sources. The consensus was to leave a list of projects in the plan based on staff recommendations so that the process for doing capital projects is in place in case project funding becomes available. Ordinances (police powers) should continue through the individual counties, not as a function of the joint entity. Sonneman stated that an agreement should be very specific in its purpose and such things as disbursing funds (assigning a fiscal agent, process for approving disbursements, deciding on contractors, etc.) can be specified. Big projects can be decided by the joint entity while day-to-day operations can be designated to specific staff. The current MOA could be modified to reflect additional needs, such as distributing joint grant funds to the individual entities and completing capital projects. The initial step is to identify the essential functions of the joint entity and go back to the individual boards to get approval to allow the joint entity to do those things, such as decisions about grants. Jim Kellogg moved to have Sonneman develop a draft JPA for review at the November 30th meeting including a visual (e.g. flow chart) to show how decisions are made; Leonard Leutink seconded; motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Discussion item: Continue discussions on staffing needs and deliverables for plan implementation along with various funding sources: The members reviewed the table showing costs per county for varying staffing levels and the possible coordination duties and funding sources. No new funding is planned from any of the counties at this time, so any staffing would come from funds already budgeted for water management, such as the Local Water Management Grants. The members directed the staff to provide further input about what level of staffing is needed for the duties listed.

- c. Action Item: Continue draft plan review, Approval of Section 3
 - i. Review and discussions will be determined by the content of the comment cards filled out by the Policy Committee members: Jennifer Ronnenberg read the comments submitted for the Groundwater and Surface Water sections. The action items related to developing local ordinances for mandatory setbacks from sinkholes were deleted. Among the other topics discussed were irrigation, soil health, septic system upgrades, and designating the lead entities for several actions. Time did not allow for review of the remaining Resources. Those will be finished at the November 30th meeting.
5. New Business
 - a. Action Item: approve payment of HEI invoice #0026510, dated September 2, 2015, for \$12,485.49: Moved by Rodney Peterson to approve; seconded by Jim Kellogg; passed unanimously.
 - b. Action Item: approve payment of HEI invoice #0026924, dated October 2, 2015, for \$7,524.30: Moved by Tim Gabrielson to approve; Glen Hahn seconded; passed unanimously.
 - c. Action item: approve current Financial Reports (available as a handout at the meeting): Moved by Jerry Mueller to approve; Rodney Peterson seconded; discussion regarding the different balances shown on the two reports, one of which reflects the balance before paying the bills approved at this meeting and one after payment is approved; passed unanimously.
 - d. Action Item: approve payment of Winona SWCD invoice #2015-1003, dated October 30, 2015, for \$446.18: Moved by Marcia Ward to approve; Dana Kjome seconded; passed unanimously.
 - e. Report from Policy Committee members re: feedback from their respective Boards: none
6. Next meeting
 - a. Review dates for upcoming meetings: The next meeting will be November 30th at 9 a.m. in Room 108 of the Fillmore County Office Building. Members are reminded to bring their 2016 calendars to this meeting to begin scheduling future meetings.
 - b. Agenda items: 1) Finish the four remaining Resources in section 3; 2) Governance-review draft JPA; 3) Staffing level needs-review staff recommendations.
7. Adjourn: Moved by Rodney Peterson to adjourn; Jerry Mueller seconded; passed unanimously.

Marcia Ward, Secretary

Upcoming Meetings of the Policy Committee:

November 30, 2015: Policy Committee meeting

February 15-March 1, 2016: Public Hearing Meetings and Response to Summary of Public Comments

June 2016: Approval of Final Plan Document and Submission to BWSR