

Meeting of the Policy Committee for Root River One Watershed, One Plan
Monday, November 30th, 2015, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Room 108, Fillmore County Office Building, 902 Houston Street NW, Preston, MN

In attendance: Glenn Hahn (Dodge SWCD), Matt Flynn (Olmsted County), Marcia Ward (Winona County), Jerry Mueller (Winona SWCD), Dana Kjome (Houston County), Loren Lapham (Root River SWCD), Duane Bakke (Fillmore County), Leonard Leutink (Fillmore SWCD), Tim Gabrielson (Mower County). Guests: Tom Gile (BWSR), Scott Winslow (MN Corn Growers/Farm Bureau), Karin Sonneman (Winona County Attorney), Natalie Siderius (Winona County), Daryl Buck (Winona SWCD), Skip Langer (Olmsted SWCD), Justin Hanson (Mower SWCD), Dave Walter (Root River SWCD), Adam King (Dodge SWCD), Donna Rasmussen (Fillmore SWCD).

1. Open meeting: Chair Bakke opened the meeting at 9:11 a.m.
2. Approve Agenda: Tim Gabrielson moved to approve the agenda; Leonard Leutink seconded; motion carried unanimously.
3. Approve minutes of the 11/02/2015 meeting: Marcia Ward moved to approve the minutes; Dana Kjome seconded; motion carried unanimously.
4. Old Business
 - a. Action item: The draft JPA prepared by Karin Sonneman, Winona County Attorney, was reviewed. It outlines the intended implementation phase governance structure. Its purpose is to make decisions as a watershed, not by political boundaries.
 - i. There are two attachments: a watershed map and the bylaws.
 - ii. Each party is liable for the actions of their own staff. Contracts will be brought to all the individual boards for signature.
 - iii. In 3. Adding Additional Parties: the first sentence will end with "...shall indicate its intent by adoption of a governing board resolution." The remainder of the sentence "prior to" will be deleted.
 - iv. In 4. Removal of Parties: the last sentence will be changed to "Notice must be made 180 days in advance of leaving the group." The rest of the sentence will be deleted.
 - v. In the Indemnification paragraph, MCIT will be asked for clarification of Minnesota Statutes Section 471.59, Subd. 1a(a) regarding liability and coverage caps, and also to clarify the sentence with the terms "cooperative activity" and "single government unit".
 - vi. The meeting schedule in 6.a.i-iv. is worded to allow flexibility for either more or less meetings.
 - vii. In 7. and 8., a request is needed to the Winona SWCD Board and Fillmore SWCD Board to be the fiscal agent and day-to-day contact, respectively. More general language could also be used to indicate that the Policy Committee will appoint the fiscal agent and day-to-day contact each year. Karin's recommendation is that each grant agreement be reviewed by the individual member Boards and signed by them if a Joint Powers Board is not being formed.
 - viii. Corrections will be made to the titles of the county administrators/coordinators and SWCD managers/administrators.

These changes will be made and brought back to the Policy Committee at their next meeting along with additional information requested from MCIT.

- b. Action Item: Continue draft plan review, Approval of Section 3
 - i. Discussion and review of section 3 began at 3.5 Landscape Features.
 1. LF-1.3 Counties will be revising their shoreland ordinance ag buffer language to be consistent with the new state buffer law, and the actions in the plan should reflect that same language.
 2. LF-1.7: question regarding trespass law and why have it in the plan; people accessing streams often have questions so education can help the public understand when trespass law might apply; DNR lead with SWCDs and counties supporting.
 3. LF-1.9: mapping of other waters where buffers may be needed; the responsibility of the SWCDs but not required; map eventually incorporated into water plans.
 4. LF-2.1: stream shading reference questioned; DNR also commented on this and these references will be removed since stream shading is not always the desired outcome.
 5. Definitions are needed for things like IBI and Rosgen Stream Classification; also provide a list of acronyms and what they represent.
 6. There was much discussion about how to list the lead entity when multiple groups/entities are the potential lead and if non-governmental organizations should be the lead. One lead

entity/responsible party should be listed; others can be listed as supporting entities/partners. If it is a county, specify the department whenever possible. The Planning Work Group should make these changes in Section 4. In 3.5.2-SW-9, the WCA LGU would be the first contact, but the project may be funded by one of the other entities. Can add "Work with partners to increase acreage...." Include table of WCA LGUs in the plan.

7. In SC-2.2, remove "local"; this is addressed by the MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program.
8. The plan is complex, and there is concern that its length and complexity may make it difficult for staff to use and that the public will be overwhelmed. Staff commented that water management is complex, and the plan provides rational and defensible reasons for doing projects and applying for grants. Section 4 is intended to be in table format and easier to understand.
9. With regard to property tax credits in LF 4.4, include language that local units of government will be reimbursed for the lost revenue. This action should get input from county assessors.
10. LF 5.3-Add pollinator programs into the plan. LF 6.4 lists these types of programs for protecting karst features.
11. Cooperative Weed Management Areas were explained, and there are examples in Winona and Wabasha counties. County highway departments are commonly a partner.
12. Better salesmanship is needed to implement BMPs, which highlights the need for social capacity.
13. SC 2.3 Fall nitrogen application restrictions are currently voluntary but will become mandatory. Crop input suppliers from outside the planning area that still fall apply N present a challenge. Landowners / producers and crop input suppliers need to be brought on board with education. Lead: County Extension.
14. 3.6.3 Producers are a business, so don't forget to invite and include them.
15. 3.7.3 The involvement of cities is lacking, although Bob Mierau from Crooked Creek Watershed Board is also a city employee.
16. The livability index is not easily defined. The EDA contact on the Advisory Committee is helping to gather information about if/how this can be used as a metric.

The Advisory Committee did not complete section 3. The Policy Committee would like their comments before continuing review starting at 3.7.3, action 3.7. It was noted that 3.8.1 Drainage Systems is important in Dodge and Mower counties; field tile mapping and inventory have not been done so input is needed from the Advisory Committee on this section.

5. New Business

- a. Action Item: approve payment of HEI Inc. invoice #0027510, dated November 6, 2015, for \$3,480.75; Moved by Glenn Hahn to approve the invoice for payment; Tim Gabrielson seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- b. Action item: approve November 19, 2015 Financial Reports; Moved by Mueller to approve the financial reports; Leonard Leutink seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- c. Report from Policy Committee members re: feedback from their respective Boards: nothing to report from any of the boards.

6. Next meeting

- a. Review dates for upcoming meetings: The next meeting is planned for Monday, Jan 4th pending confirmation that Mark Deutschman can attend and Advisory Committee comments can be received by then.
- b. Agenda items: updated JPA draft; continue review of section 3

7. Adjourn: Marcia Ward moved to adjourn at 11:53 a.m.; Leonard Leutink seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Marcia Ward, Secretary