

Meeting of the Policy Committee for Root River One Watershed, One Plan
Monday, March 20, 2017, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Room 108, Fillmore County Office Building, 902 Houston Street NW, Preston, MN

In attendance: Jerry Mueller (Winona SWCD), Tim Gabrielson (Mower County), Fred Arnold (Houston County), Brian Hazel (Fillmore SWCD), Glenn Hahn (Dodge SWCD), Rodney Peterson (Dodge County), Marcia Ward (Winona County), Duane Bakke (Fillmore County), Matt Flynn (Olmsted County). Also present: Dan Wermager (Root River SWCD), Daryl Buck (Winona SWCD), Sheila Harmes (Winona County), Adam Beilke (BWSR), Skip Langer (Olmsted SWCD), Justin Hanson (Mower SWCD), Tim Ruzek (Mower SWCD), Caleb Fischer (Fillmore SWCD), Donna Rasmussen (Fillmore SWCD)

1. Open meeting: *Chair Bakke called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.*
2. Approve Agenda: *Motion by Rodney Peterson to approve the agenda; seconded by Tim Gabrielson; motion carried unanimously.*
3. Approve minutes of the 12/19/2016 meeting: *Motion by Marcia Ward to approve the December 19, 2016, meeting minutes; seconded by Rodney Peterson; motion carried unanimously.*
4. Old Business
 - a. Progress reports
 - i. Update on LGU adoption of RR1W1P watershed plan and Joint Powers Agreement: *All LGUs except Dodge County have adopted the plan and approved the JPA. Dodge County is expected to act on it by the end of the month.*
 - ii. Progress with other 1W1P pilot projects: *Adam Beilke reported on their progress.*
 - *Yellow Medicine's plan was approved by BWSR in December. Several of the lead staff on the Planning Work Group (PWG) retired, so they have not had their first meeting yet. They are reviewing the MOA for the implementation governance structure. They used the HSPF-SAMS model for planning and now plan to rerun an improved ACPF model for better targeting for implementation.*
 - *The Lake Superior plan was approved by BWSR in January. The watershed plan includes mostly forestry and development concerns.*
 - *The Red Lake River watershed will be ready for local approval on April 12 and will go to the BWSR Board for approval April 26. PTMApp training is a priority for their staff.*
 - *The North Fork Crow is about 6-8 months behind in starting, so they are just finishing the final local review of the implementation plan. The draft plan should be ready for the state review process in about two months.*
 - iii. BWSR budget report/update: *Adam reported that there are bills in the House (HF 891) and Senate (SF 708) for \$11 million in implementation block grants from Clean Water Funds for fiscal years 2018-2019 for the five 1W1P pilot projects and seven Water Management Organizations in the metro area. The Senate bill goes to committee this week. Marcia Ward noted that the map showing FY2017 BWSR Clean Water Fund Projects and Practices grants that were awarded shows no projects in the 1W1P areas and an inequitable distribution of funding for southern Minnesota. The map shows only one year of funding and does not show non-competitive funds coming to the Root River and the rest of the southeast through MDA and MPCA. Predictable long term funding could help alleviate unequal distribution of funds.*
 - iv. Advisory Committee meeting report: project list and map
 - *The majority of the Advisory Committee meeting was a review of the annual work plan, which is divided into activities for January 1 to June 30 and July 1 to December 31.*
 - *Jeff Weiss, DNR, volunteered to assist PWG members Sheila Harmes, Tim Ruzek, Shaina Keseley and Donna Rasmussen with 1-2 page summary of the plan as suggested by the Policy Committee. There was also a suggestion for a 6-7 page summary of the technical information for Advisory Committee members and others.*
 - *PTMApp training for staff is coming up. State agency staff and NGO staff are also interested.*
 - *PTMApp validation will occur in the Field to Stream Partnership study watersheds plus any others suggested.*
 - *BMP implementation will continue with existing resources. There is a need for tracking the accomplishments of partners. The mapping exercise is part of that. A subcommittee was formed comprised of Caleb Fischer, David Schmidt (Nature Conservancy) and Adam Beilke.*

- In the second half of the year, the PWG will develop budget scenarios when funding information is available.
- A second meeting of the Advisory Committee is likely later this year when funding information is known.

The mapping exercise conducted at the Advisory Committee meeting was used to gather information about projects going on in the watershed that may offer opportunities for collaboration or that accomplish tasks in the plan. The Policy Committee reviewed the list (updated with numbers corresponding to project numbers on the map).

b. Action item: Consider draft 2017 annual work plan: Motion by Marcia Ward to approve the January 1 to June 30 portion of the work plan with the second half of the work plan for July 1 to December 31 pending legislative action on funding; second by Jerry Mueller; motion carried unanimously.

c. Action item: Consider draft updated bylaws: Discussion included:

- In Article II. 3. Membership, change MOA to JPA.
- Article V Voting 2. and Article IX Miscellaneous 1. designate a supermajority of 75 percent and two-thirds majority vote, respectively. It was the consensus that these can be different since one is for plan amendments or bylaws changes while the other is for a suspension of the bylaws.
- It was clarified that Article VII Subcommittees 2.b. refers to a subcommittee of the PWG, not the Policy Committee.
- Article IX. 5. Clarified that claims for expenses must be submitted within 30 days but that payment may not occur within 30 days due to scheduling of Policy Committee meetings when approvals are made.
- Article II. 6. Conflict of interest forms should be completed for this joint powers entity in addition to those completed for each member's individual board.

Motion by Tim Gabrielson to adopt the Bylaws of the Root River Watershed One Watershed One Plan Policy Committee; second by Brian Hazel. There was a question whether the title should be the Bylaws of the Policy Committee or if should be of the Joint Powers. This body is named the Policy Committee in the Joint Powers Agreement so it should remain so in the title to be consistent with the JPA. Motion carried with one nay vote.

5. New Business

- a. Update on regional collaboration regarding criteria for "Other Waters" designations: At the PWG meeting, there was discussion about how to go about the process for making the Other Waters designations for consideration by the Policy Committee action before the July 1st deadline. There are several criteria that can be used, and the PWG felt it best to have consistent criteria applied across county lines within the planning area. That led to the realization that, with several counties involved in more than one 1W1P process, the criteria should be applied consistently regionwide. A meeting of the SWCD staff involved in buffer implementation and the managers will be held on March 30 with the intent of coming to some agreement on the criteria to use for Other Waters designations. The Policy Committee requested that the County Boards be notified as early as possible about why "other waters" are being added and the criteria being applied to those decisions. Duane noted that a public hearing may be needed when the list is ready so the public has input.
- b. MPCA plans for 2018 Intensive Watershed Monitoring in the Root River watershed: At the March 9 Advisory Committee meeting, the MPCA presented their plans for 2018 IWM in the Root River. In Cycle 1, there were 15 chemistry sites and 180 biologic sites; a subset of those will remain as anchor sites (12 chemistry and 57 biologic) with the remaining sites to be determined with local input. A proposal is to be submitted to MPCA by April 15th for the additional sites. The Advisory Committee composed a preliminary list at the meeting which will be fleshed out by April 15th. The list was reviewed with the Policy Committee. It was requested that the Advisory Committee meeting notes be included in the Policy Committee packets.
- c. Report from Policy Committee members re: feedback from their respective Boards: Fred Arnold reported that Houston County did have concerns about funding for plan implementation; when and where it is coming from. Winona County has had discussions about how watershed plan implementation may be affected by the regional reorganization of the SE MN Water Resources Board and SE SWCD Technical Support Joint Powers Board (aka Technical Service Area=TSA). The Water Resources Board Executive Committee is meeting with Olmsted County to discuss how to handle administration after the Director resigns on June 1.

6. Next meeting

- a. Review dates for upcoming meetings: The next meeting will be Monday, June 19, at 9 am in Room 108, Fillmore County Office Building in Preston.

b. Agenda items:

- i. Other Waters designations: *Report on the criteria being used for the designations and review the list of "Other Waters" created for the watershed.*
- ii. Funding update
- iii. Staffing options
- iv. Other

7. Adjourn: *Moved by Matt Flynn to adjourn; second by Jerry Mueller at 10:53 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Ward, Secretary