



# One Watershed One Plan

## Policy Committee Bylaws of the Le Sueur River Watershed

Waseca County, Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District, Blue Earth County, Blue Earth Soil and Water Conservation District, Faribault County, Faribault Soil and Water Conservation District, Freeborn County and Freeborn Soil and Water Conservation District

ADOPTED March 8, 2021

These bylaws establish rules governing the conduct of business by the Policy Committee of the Le Sueur River Watershed 1W1P, hereafter referred to as Policy Committee.

**ARTICLE I: PURPOSE**

1. The purpose of the Policy Committee is to recognize the importance of partnerships to plan and implement protection and restoration efforts and to review recommendation of that Advisory Committee and make final decisions about the content of the plan pertaining to that area within the Le Sueur River watershed.
2. The Policy Committee operates under a Memorandum of Agreement. The Member local units of government are Waseca County, Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District, Blue Earth County, Blue Earth Soil and Water Conservation District, Faribault County, Faribault Soil and Water Conservation District, Freeborn County and Freeborn Soil and Water Conservation District

**ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP PROVISIONS**

1. The membership of the Policy Committee shall be comprised of at least 8 members as designated by the governing board of each member local unit of government. Each member local government unit may chose an alternate...
2. Members of the Policy Committee shall serve until the expiration of the Memorandum of Agreement to run concurrently with each Policy Committee member's term on his/her respective board.
3. In the event that a member of the Policy Committee resigns or is otherwise unable to complete his or her term, the member shall notify his or her appointing authority of the vacancy as soon as practicable. The local unit of government shall appoint a replacement member as soon as possible.
4. A Policy Committee member shall not take any action that may materially benefit the financial interest of that member, a member's family member, or a member's close associate, unless and until that member first discloses that interest for the record. The member who so discloses an interest may be present to answer questions related to that interest, but shall not advocate for nor vote on the action. If a Policy Committee member concludes that his or her interest does not create a conflict, but that there may be an appearance of a conflict, he or she shall disclose the interest for the record before participating in discussion or voting on an action.

**ARTICLE III: OFFICERS**

1. The Officers of the Policy Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and a Secretary elected by members of the Policy Committee at their first meeting.
  - a. The Chairperson shall:

- i. Serve as Chairperson for all meetings; and
    - ii. Sign and deliver in the name of the Partnership any correspondence pertaining to the business of the Partnership.
  - b. The Vice Chairperson shall:
    - i. Discharge the Chairperson's duties in the event of the absence or disability of the Chairperson.
  - c. The Secretary shall:
    - i. Maintain records of the Partnership.
    - ii. Certify records and proceedings of the Partnership.
    - iii. Ensure that minutes of all Policy Committee meetings are recorded and made available in a timely manner to the Policy Committee, and maintain a file of all approved minutes including corrections and changes.
    - iv. Provide for proper public notice of all meetings.
    - v. The Secretary may delegate a representative to record the minutes and perform other duties of the Secretary. The elected Secretary will sign the official minutes of all meetings following approval by the Policy Committee.
2. An Officer will serve until replaced by the election of a successor. No Policy Committee member may hold more than one office at a time.
3. In the event that an Officer cannot complete his or her term of office, the Policy Committee shall immediately elect from among its members an individual to fill the vacant position. The individual to be elected may not already be serving as an officer of the Policy Committee.
4. The Policy Committee will request the respective local unit of government participant to replace their representative member if that representative member misses two (2) consecutive meetings without notice to the Chairperson.

#### **ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS**

1. All meetings of the Policy Committee will comply with statutes and rules requiring open and public meetings.
2. The conduct of all meetings of the Policy Committee shall be generally governed by the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Parliamentary Law.
3. A quorum of the Policy Committee shall consist of a simple majority of the members.
4. All votes by Policy Committee members shall be made in person, and no member may appoint a proxy for any question coming before any meeting for a vote.

5. Notice of Policy Committee meetings and a proposed agenda shall be emailed or mailed to all Policy Committee members not less than 7 days prior to the scheduled meeting date of the Policy Committee.
6. The minutes of any meeting shall be made available to all Policy Committee members prior to the next meeting.

#### **ARTICLE V – VOTING**

1. A motion or resolution shall be approved by a favorable vote of a simple majority of the members present, provided enough members are present to make a quorum.
2. A supermajority vote of 75 percent of those members present shall be required for final plan approval for submittal to review.

#### **ARTICLE VI – COMPENSATION**

1. Policy Committee members may be compensated by the member local unit of government they represent for meetings and expenses incurred, according to the policies of the local unit of government.
2. Policy Committee members may not be compensated for meeting time and expenses using funds granted by the state for the purpose of developing the *One Watershed, One Plan*.

#### **ARTICLE VII – SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE AND OTHER COMMITTEES**

1. The Policy Committee may appoint subcommittees for the purpose of assisting the Policy Committee in the performance of its duties. Except for a Policy Committee member appointed to a subcommittee, no other member of a subcommittee shall be able to make motions for consideration to the Policy Committee, or vote on matters put before the Policy Committee.
2. The Policy Committee shall appoint an Advisory Committee and act to approve all Advisory Committee members. The Advisory Committee will routinely advise the Policy Committee on the content and development of the *One Watershed, One Plan*, on plan implementation, and on issues of policy and administration related to the plan.
  - a. A member of the Policy Committee or an alternate will be assigned by the Chairperson to meet with the Advisory Committee as an ex-officio member.
  - b. Each Partnership member local government unit shall designate a representative to the Advisory Committee.
  - c. The Advisory Committee shall also include representatives from Minnesota's principal water management or plan review state agencies (Board of Water and Soil Resources, Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, Department of Natural Resources, and Pollution Control Agency). Each agency will designate a lead contact person from its

agency to participate on the Advisory Committee. Additional agency or other persons may participate as Advisory Committee members depending on the desire of the Policy Committee or the needs of the Advisory Committee.

- d. The Advisory Committee may also include representatives of groups or organizations such as county highway, zoning or drainage staff, municipalities, townships, lake or river associations, farm or agricultural groups, non-profit groups organized around water, and citizen-based environmental, sporting or conservation groups.
- e. The Advisory Committee may form subcommittees to increase Advisory Committee effectiveness or to address specific topics or project areas. Each subcommittee shall report to the Advisory Committee.

#### **ARTICLE VIII: MEETING LOCATION**

- 1. All regular meetings of the Policy Committee will be held at a location within one of the participating counties.
- 2. In the alternative, due to the on-going global pandemic, Policy Committee, Advisory Committee, and any subcommittee meetings may be held virtually. All or some attendees may appear virtually. Allowing these meetings to be held virtually does not hinder the public's ability to attend. Regular meetings can occur virtually, in real time, utilizing the technology our counties have been using to continue essential operations in these unprecedented times.

#### **ARTICLE IX: MISCELLANEOUS**

- 1. Portions of these bylaws may be suspended temporarily by a two-thirds vote of the Policy Committee.
- 2. Addition to, alteration, or repeal of any part of these bylaws by the Policy Committee may be made at any meeting by a majority of the full membership, provided that thirty (30) days advance written notice of the proposed change has been given to each member of the Policy Committee.
- 3. The Policy Committee's official records and the requirements of the BWSR grant agreement shall be maintained by the fiscal agent, Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District. The maintenance and disposition of these records shall be in accordance with applicable laws.
- 4. All expenses incurred by the Policy Committee or the Advisory Committee must have prior approval of the Policy Committee, and include a signed claim form itemizing expenses that is submitted to the Policy Committee for approval at their next meeting. All claims must be submitted no more than thirty (30) days after the month in which they were incurred.



(Le Sueur River Watershed, March 8, 2021)

5. These bylaws are intended to be consistent with applicable provisions of Minnesota Statutes Chapters 103B, 103C, and 103D. In all cases of omission or error, Minnesota Statutes Chapters 103B, 103C, and 103D will govern.

**ARTICLE X – CERTIFICATION**

1. These By-laws were adopted by a vote of seven ayes and zero nays by the members of the Policy Committee on March 8, 2021.

  
(Secretary signature & organization)

