



LSRW POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Friday, June 25th, 2021
Time: 8:30-10:30am
Location: Virtual - GoToMeeting

INVITEES

Policy Committee Members: Don Kropp (Freeborn SWCD), Ted Herman (Freeborn Co.), Randy Feist (Faribault, SWCD), Bill Anderson (Faribault SWCD), Tom Loveall (Faribault Co.), Bruce Anderson (Faribault Co.), Larry Muff (Waseca SWCD), Todd Stencil (Waseca, SWCD), De Malterer (Waseca Co.), Brad Krause (Waseca, Co.), Chris Hughes (Blue Earth SWCD), John Shanahan (Blue Earth SWCD), Kevin Paap (Blue Earth Co.), Kip Bruender (Blue Earth County),

Staff: Mark Manderfeld (Blue Earth Co.), Scott Salsbury (Blue Earth Co.), Jerad Bach (Blue Earth SWCD), Mark Schaetzke (Waseca SWCD), Haley Byron (Waseca Co.), Nate Carr (Faribault SWCD), Brandee Douglas (Faribault Co.), Brenda Lageson (Freeborn SWCD), Lindsey Zeitler (Freeborn SWCD), Rachel Wehner (Freeborn Co.), Shaina Keseley (BWSR), Jill Sackett Eberhart (BWSR), Kim Musser (MSU Water Resources Center)

MEETING LOGIN INFORMATION:

Link: <https://www.gotomeet.me/BZabel>

Call-in Number: [+1 \(571\) 317-3122](tel:+15713173122)

Access Code: 696-606-349

BEFORE MEETING PLEASE REVIEW:

- June 4th, 2021 Meeting Minutes
- Civic Engagement – Proposed Scope of Work – Water Resources Center

AGENDA

Item	TOPIC	Presenter	PURPOSE
1	Call to Order		
2	Approval of Agenda		
3	Approval of Minutes		
4	MSU Water Resources Center Proposal	Kim Musser and Mark Schaetzke	<i>Discussion & Decision</i>
5	ISG contracting update	Mark Schaetzke	Discussion
6	Meeting Location Format/location		
7	Updates & Next Steps	Mark Schaetzke	<i>Discussion</i>
8	Adjourn		



Le Sueur River One Watershed One Plan POLICY COMMITTEE

Date: June 4, 2021

Meeting #3

Time: 8:30am

Location: Virtual – GoToMeeting

Attending: *Policy Committee Members:* Don Kropp (Freeborn SWCD), Ted Herman (Freeborn Co.), Randy Feist (Faribault SWCD), Tom Loveall (Faribault Co.), De Malterer (Waseca Co.), Kevin Paap (Blue Earth Co.), Chris Hughes (Blue Earth SWCD), Larry Muff (Waseca SWCD)

Staff: Scott Salsbury (Blue Earth Co.), Mark Schaetzke (Waseca SWCD), Haley Byron (Waseca Co.), Nate Carr (Faribault SWCD), Brandee Douglas (Faribault Co.), Rachel Wehner (Freeborn Co.), Jill Sackett Eberhart (BWSR), Scott Matteson (MDA), Jennifer Ronnenberg (MDH), Brian Zabel (Waseca Co.)

Meeting called to order by De Malterer at 8:34 am via GoToMeeting.

Agenda:

- Motion to approve the agenda, made by Tom Loveall, Seconded by Kevin Papp.

Roll Call: Paap: Yes Hughes: Yes Loveall: Yes Feist: Yes Kropp: Yes Malterer: Yes Muff: Yes

Motion approved.

Minutes:

- Motion to approve the minutes, made by Randy Feist, Seconded by Don Kropp.

- **Roll Call:** Paap: Yes Hughes: Yes Loveall: Yes Feist: Yes Kropp: Yes Malterer: Yes Muff: Yes

Motion approved.

Commissioner Herman arrived after roll call.

State of the Watershed:

MDH: Jennifer Ronnenberg attended to give background information on the groundwater within the watershed.

- GRAPS: Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategies Report. The current GRAPS is in draft form but will be completed in near future. This report will include a watershed overview (wells, hydrogeology, pollution sensitivity, public and private water supplies, groundwater quality), groundwater issues/concerns (nitrates, pesticides, arsenic, radionuclides, contaminant sources), watershed strategies, and regulation agencies/roles.
 - 97% of wells are private, 3% are public.
 - 15 of 18 DWSMAs (Drinking water supply management areas) have a completed well head protection plan. 14 of them have a low or very low areas of assessed vulnerability
 - 2181 private wells with *known* locations. Generally, these wells are from 1980 or newer, leaving many unknown.
 - Minimal karst areas, but should be addressed.
 - Arsenic is an issue that needs to be addressed in this area.
 - Coming soon from MDH: 3D mapping of aquifers in partnership with MGS
 - Blue Earth County and Waseca County have delegated well programs. This allows them to manage private wells only – drilling and sealing.

MDA: Scott Matteson attended to give background info on MDA's priority concerns and resources within the watershed

- MDA regulates pesticides and fertilizers
- Nitrates and pesticides are the priority resource concerns.
 - Le Sueur is the highest yielding watershed for nitrate-nitrogen
 - Surface water monitoring for pesticide. In 2020: 1065 samples from 14 stream sites
 - Acetochlor impairments found in 2008 and was delisted in 2014 for the Le Sueur River and Beauford Ditch
 - Chlorpyrifos impairment on Beauford Ditch. Little Cobb River had 1 detection over 3 years (requires 2 detections to be listed as an impairment at the level it was found)



Le Sueur River One Watershed One Plan POLICY COMMITTEE

Date: June 4, 2021

Meeting #3

- Programs: MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program – voluntary program to accelerate implementation of conservation practices, Discovery Farms MN Program – 1 discovery farm in the Le Sueur, On farm evaluations of BMPs, Nutrient Management Initiative Program – 66 trials within the Le Sueur.
- Data from the Discovery farm site within the Le Sueur can be made available.

Updates:

- Timeline: approve consultant contracts hopefully in July. Kickoff will be pushed back one month to August.
- Notification to plan responses were received from state agencies, Waseca SWCD, Faribault County, and Faribault SWCD
- Byron will be on leave July, August, and September. Rachel Wehner will be taking over day-to-day administration. Policy committee discussion will be led by Mark Schaezke. Policy Committee Minutes will be taken by Scott Salisbury.

Consultant Selection:

- 2 Statements of qualification were submitted – ISG and Wiseth. Interviews were conducted May 27th. Steering committee discussed interviews May 28th, and came up with a recommendation.
- Byron discussed various pros and cons of each consultant.
- Staff recommends ISG as the consultant.
- Questions were raised about our comfort level receiving only 2 SOQs. Byron stated due to ISG's staff experience and enthusiasm for the project, there are no concerns.

Motion to approve ISG as the Le Sueur 1W1P consultant, made by Kevin Papp, seconded by Larry Muff.

Roll Call: Paap: Yes Hughes: Yes Loveall: Yes Feist: Yes Kropp: Yes Malterer: Yes Muff: Yes

Motion approved.

Commissioner Herman was not present for the roll call.

Next Steps:

- Contract negotiations will begin between Waseca SWCD and ISG.
- Water Resources Center will give proposal for the June 25th meeting.
- Begin writing land and water resources narrative.
- Continue to consolidate watershed data.

Meeting schedule: Next meeting will be Friday, June 25th.

Motion to adjourn by Randy Feist, seconded by Kevin Papp.

Roll Call: Paap: Yes Hughes: Yes Loveall: Yes Feist: Yes Kropp: Yes Malterer: Yes Muff: Yes

Motion approved.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:04 am.

Secretary – Commissioner Ted Herman

Submitted by: Rachel Wehner (Freeborn County)

Le Sueur River Watershed: One Watershed One Plan Civic Engagement - Proposed Scope of Work

To: Haley Byron, Waseca County & Mark Schaetzke, Waseca SWCD
From: Kimberly Musser, Water Resources Center, Minnesota State University, Mankato
Date: Draft June 18, 2021

WRC Background Le Sueur River Watershed

Water Resources Center at Minnesota State University, Mankato has been helping to engage citizens in the Le Sueur River Watershed since 2012. We have a long history of working with conservation partners and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to engage citizens as part of the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) Development. As an outgrowth of that effort, a group of citizen leaders and conservation partners formed the Le Sueur River Watershed Network. The WRC has been providing support to this group since it formed in 2013. WRC has hosted meetings in all regions of the watershed and is grounded in community concerns, watershed issues, and citizen-led solution strategies for watershed improvement. Learn more about the Le Sueur River Watershed Network:
<https://lesueurriverwaters.wixsite.com/network>

Overall BWSR Civic Engagement Goals (Excerpt from BWSR Guiding Principles)

Managing and protecting the environment while providing a high quality of life for people is a complex process that is most successful when governing bodies, community members, and experts in various fields are true partners in the planning process.

- Pull parties together in every aspect of the water arena in a way that goes beyond the interests of any one government agency or stakeholder and in a way that has never been done before.
- Identify and prioritize multi-benefit projects provide benefits to more than one group or interest and address more than one environmental resource within a watershed.
- Find locally supported and funded technical, administration, support, and outreach activities that leverage funding from the State will be key to ensuring sustainable local government capabilities and long-term success on both the local level and watershed scale.

WRC Civic Engagement Approach

- Our civic engagement strategy will be developed and refined in close collaboration with One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) consultant, local partners and associated planning work groups.
- We assume that we want citizens to help define watershed problems and suggest workable solutions to help solve the problems that concern them.
- To help inform citizens about the 1W1P effort and process and to obtain meaningful input from diverse stakeholder perspectives.
- To provide a transparent process and give citizens an opportunity to meaningfully contribute to plan development.
- To obtain advice and feedback that is grounded in what citizens think is possible to do on their own properties and in their communities.
- To help to clarify what roles citizens can play for watershed improvement.

Public Kick-off Meeting & Online Survey

When: Early in process, to meet the requirements 1W1P planning process
Location: If in person, in a central watershed location (e.g. Pemberton Main Street Plaza)
Covid alternative would be online, likely zoom webinar with breakout rooms for small group discussion
Target Audience: General public, any interested citizens

Desired Outcomes:

- Develop an interested party database
- Publicize beginning of the One Watershed One Planning (1W1P) process
- Explain the 1W1P process, who does what, clarify what roles citizens can play
- Provide an overview of existing research to raise awareness about watershed issues
- Seek input: Identify citizen concerns about watershed issues and problems
- Seek input: Identify citizen-based strategies for watershed improvement

Database Development

Assist in developing an interested party database. We already have a database from historic civic engagement efforts in the watershed. We will integrate, update and expand other audiences that the planning group would like to target watershed-wide (e.g. new elected officials, community groups, nonprofits etc.)

Kickoff Meeting

WRC will develop, plan and facilitate a kickoff meeting in collaboration with local partners and consultant. The meeting will likely begin with an overview of the 1W1P process, followed by facilitated small group conversations where participants will provide input on the following themes:

1. What do you value and care about when it comes to your community and the natural environment? What would you like to preserve for future generations?
2. What concerns do you have about area natural resources and community?
3. What strategies would you suggest to improve watershed health and community vitality?

Online Survey Development, Administration and Analysis

An online survey will be available to encourage input from stakeholders that cannot attend the kickoff meeting. WRC will develop an online survey to gain citizen input about watershed issues and priority resources. The survey will convey the same questions asked to frame input at the kickoff meeting. The survey will include both open and closed-ended questions to gain general input about citizen perspectives. By using open-ended questions, we hope to receive a wide range of comments from diverse stakeholders that will be thematically coded. Survey results will be analyzed and summarized and reported back to the planning team.

Record, Compile and Summarize Input

WRC will record, compile and summarize citizen feedback in a document for use in plan development.

Cost Estimate: \$6,000. Costs could vary depending on scope of work and expectations for material development and media outreach.

1W1P Plan Update Meeting

When: Mid-point (TBD by planning partners)

Location: If in person, in a central location (e.g. Pemberton Main Street Plaza)
Covid alternative would be online, likely zoom webinar with online mapping tool

Target Audience: General public, any interested citizens

Desired Outcomes

- To provide a 1W1P planning update for those who participated in the kick-off meeting and other interested parties
- To provide an overview of priority issues and goals
- To provide citizens an opportunity to review the plan and provide input before the 60-day public review process
- To provide citizens with an opportunity to weigh in on plan priorities and priority area targeting
- Seek input: Citizens prioritizing and providing general feedback
- Seek Input: Ground-truthing - what approaches have the most promise for adoption in the region?
- Seek Input: Mapping important resources and targeting priority areas

Plan Update Meeting

WRC will develop, plan and facilitate a mid-point update meeting in collaboration with local partners and consultant. The meeting format and timing will be determined in consultation with planning consultant and local partners. The broad goal will enable citizens to pour over recommendations made by committees and weigh in on watershed-wide priorities. Citizens will have the opportunity to provide input about priority actions, and ground the plan in what actions people would be more willing to adopt in the watershed. The meeting will be designed to foster small group conversations and allow opportunities for citizens to get questions answered, and to provide timely input on plan development. We suggest including an optional potluck or meal before the meeting to draw attendees and give people an opportunity to informally network.

Format

We will work collaboratively with local partners and the consultant to decide on desirable format for the meeting. Two potential format approaches have been discussed to date:

- 1) Facilitated small group discussions, where citizens can provide input and reflect on plan progress and pour over maps to discuss priority issues and areas. There are a number of online mapping tools that we can utilize to display issues and capture citizen feedback.
- 2) An Open House format with issue tables where citizens can get updates about particular issues of interest to them. At each table, planning partners and staff will be available to summarize a particular priority issue, to discuss related plan progress, and to answer questions. Partners would record input and comments. We can also structure the open house format to include facilitated small group discussions to more formally capture public input.

Priority Area Mapping

Local partners have discussed some potential approaches to capture spatial data using various online mapping tools.

Record, Compile and Summarize Input

WRC will record, compile and summarize citizen feedback in a document for use in plan development.

Cost Estimate: \$6,000. Costs could vary depending on scope of work and expectations for material development and media outreach.