



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 Schaetzke. 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)