



## LSRW POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Friday, August 27, 2021

Time: 10:00am

Location: Ag Center – 415 South Grove St, Blue Earth, MN

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### Attendees

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

*Staff:* Scott Salsbury (Blue Earth Co.), Mark Schaetzke (Waseca SWCD), Nate Carr (Faribault SWCD), Brandee Douglas (Faribault Co.), Brenda Lageson (Freeborn SWCD), Shaina Keseley (BWSR), Jill Sackett Eberhart (BWSR), Dustin Anderson (Faribault Co)

*Others:* Carrie Jennings (Freshwater), Chuck Brandel (ISG)

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Meeting called to order by De Malterer at 10am

### Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda made by Randy Feist, seconded by Larry Muff.

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

**Motion approved**

### Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes made by Tom Lovall, seconded by Randy Feist

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

**Motion approved**

### Financial Report:

Mark Schaetzke presented the financial report for expenses from July noting that Waseca County will be providing a bill later.

Motion to recommend Waseca SWCD, Fiscal Agent, to pay bills as presented made by Larry Muff, seconded by Randy Feist.

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

**Motion approved**

### MCIT Open Meeting Requirements:

Mark Schaetzke presented an informational sheet from MCIT on open meeting law requirements and changes in regards to policy members attending virtually.

### Watershed Based Implementation Funding and Timeline

Jill Sackett Eberhart provided information about Watershed Based Implementation Funds (WBIF) expected after the completion of this planning process. WBIF have a 10% match requirement and need

to have a water quality focus. WBIF have a base amount of \$250,000 and additional funds are added based on acres of private land (90%) and miles of public water (10%). Le Sueur Watershed has 711,000 acres and is estimated to get \$800-850,000 in a 2 year appropriation.

The plan needs to be BWSR Board approved after receiving a recommendation from the southern regional committee. Local agencies need to approve the plan within 120 days of BWSR approval. Grant budget request, timeline, and work plan all need to be created locally and approved by BWSR. The end of March is generally the deadline for the allocation. Start of 2024 would be the estimated time that implementation funds would be available for the Le Sueur Watershed.

### **Le Sueur Geology/Soils/Rivers**

Carrie Jennings - Le Sueur has a large watershed due in part to the bend in the MN River. This is an area of the richest drought tolerant soils in the world formed over the last 14,000 years of wetland and prairie. Early and ongoing drainage decreased erosion but increased surface water in streams. Rivers are widening and meandering with changes in rainfall and intensity not helping matters. MN River formed in a geologic instant and landscape is still adjusting to it. "Unzipping" or ravines and nickpoints moving upslope occur naturally but is happening faster now. 3-10 meters per year for long term nickpoint horizontal movement. There are vast differences in pre-settlement vegetation and water cycle.

There is a unique archive of sediment in Lake Pepin since the last glacier. MN River has 38% of the watershed but 85-90% of the sediment. MN River will be cloudier than Mississippi due to soils and watershed characteristics. Lake Pepin is filling in 9 times faster than it used to.

Tile and ditches increase water transport to surface water and contribute to flashy rivers. The MN River Watershed loses 80 acres of land a year due to bluff loss. MN River is largest exporter of nutrients to the Gulf of Mexico.

### **Le Sueur Drainage**

Chuck Brandel – Drainage is present and staying. Systems are failing and this is an opportunity. Old mentality included water is the enemy, health concerns, flooding, and 0.1 – 0.25" drainage coefficient. Modern design includes larger equipment, more intense rainfall, pattern tiling and 0.5" drainage coefficient. Multipurpose Drainage Management (MDM) includes preventative, control, and treatment practices. Water Quality projects start with the right attitude and approach of Drainage Authority, Boards, ditch inspector, landowners, contractors, and SWCDs. Challenges include converting productive land, wetland expense, and storage amount. Solutions include being creative, wetlands on private land, and obvious sites.

Use XP SWIMM model to visualize storage and compare to a standard approach. If part of a public ditch system, the system needs to show benefit. Provided several examples of projects including partnering with RIM, GBERBA, private wetland banking, and others. Coordination, uniform permitting standards and review, monitoring, outreach, and education are all program elements that could support the drainage implementation efforts. 1W1P can be a framework for practices that can address this critical resource (drainage) issue via implementation and programs.

### **Kickoff Meeting**

Mark Schaetzke noted that the Kickoff meeting is scheduled for Sept 16 at St. Olaf Park near New Richland. Park was chosen due to size of pavilion, relatively central to watershed, parking, and Covid 19/Delta concerns. Brief presentations by WRC, DNR, and MPCA are planned with small group table discussions afterward. The commissioners noted that there is an annual Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) meeting that day that all the commissioners would be at. Policy members stressed that staff need to communicate more with Policy members to ensure this does not happen again.

**Adjourn**

Next Meeting to be held at Blue Earth county, exact location to be determined by staff and availability.

Motion to adjourn by Randy Feist, Seconded by Tom Loveall.

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

**Motion approved**

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm

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Secretary – Commissioner Ted Herman

*Submitted by: Mark Schaetzke (Waseca SWCD)*