



Le Sueur River One Watershed One Plan POLICY COMMITTEE

Date: July 23, 2021

Meeting #5

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Waseca County East Annex and Virtual GoToMeeting

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

Staff: Brenda Lageson (Freeborn SWCD), Scott Salsbury (Blue Earth Co.), Mark Schaetzke (Waseca SWCD), Nate Carr (Faribault SWCD), Brian Zabel (Waseca Co.), Jill Sackett Eberhart (BWSR), Shaina Keseley (BWSR), Ed Lenz (BWSR)

Meeting called to order by De Malterer at 10:00 AM.

Agenda:

Mr. Schaetzke stated that there was one change to the agenda in that Scott Salsbury would be working through an exercise for the policy member check in and watershed priorities since Mark was only able to join the meeting virtually.

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

Motion approved.

Minutes:

- Motion to approve the minutes, made by Randy Feist, Seconded by Ted Herman

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

Motion approved.

Financial Report

- Mark Schaetzke presented the financial report. He stated that he would like the Policy Committee to approve the format of the report that was in the meeting packet and also the frequency for the items in the report itself. Mark also added that there likely would not be additional invoices submitted from Waseca County until Haley Byron returns from leave.
- Motion to approve the format of the financial report was made by Don Kropp, Seconded by Ted Herman
Roll Call: Kropp: Yes Herman: Yes Loveall: Yes Feist: Yes Hughes: Yes Muff: Yes Malterer: Yes
Motion approved.
- Mark Schaetzke stated that he was proposing to update the financial report monthly to reflect invoices from the consultants and twice a year for the invoices from staff.
- The policy committee had a lengthy discussion regarding how often they would like to review all elements of the financial report. They discussed the frequency of the financial reports from other committees and organizations.
- Motion made by Larry Muff to have monthly updates in the financial report to show the consultants invoices and quarterly updates for staff.
- The Policy Committee had more discussion on the importance of staying on budget and the financial reporting processes the individual members are accustomed to.



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- Amended motion to approve the format of the financial report was made by Randy Feist to have monthly updates from staff invoices and the consultants' invoices in the financial report, Seconded by Larry Muff.

Roll Call on the Amended Motion Approval: Kropp: Yes Herman: Yes Loveall: Yes Feist: Yes Hughes: Yes Muff: Yes Malterer: Yes

Roll Call on the Motion Itself: Kropp: Yes Herman: Yes Loveall: Yes Feist: Yes Hughes: Yes Muff: Yes Malterer: Yes

Motion approved.

ISG Contract Update:

- Mark Schaetzke stated that the contract with ISG has been approved by the Waseca County SWCD and that there was a reduction in the total cost by about \$3800 from the last version that the Policy Committee had reviewed. He added that the existing studies and plans for the Le Sueur River Watershed had been handed off to ISG

MSU Water Resources Center Contract Update:

- Mark Schaetzke stated that the contract negotiations with the Water Resources Center for the citizen involvement/civic engagement was ready the policy committee to take action. He added that with the contract with ISG, the contract with the MSU Water Resources Center would require \$4,000 to be used from the contingency fund that was budgeted for overages. Mark also stated that there was \$21,000 in the budget for contingencies.
- Several of the policy members discussed the importance of public engagement and how citizen involvement is crucial to not only the development of the plan but also for implementation.
- Motion to approve moving forward with a contract with MSU Water Resources Center and using \$4,000 of the contingency portion of the budget was made by Randy Feist, Seconded by Larry Muff

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

Motion approved.

Policy Member Check In – Watershed Priorities & Concerns

- Scott Salsbury summarized the speakers that had presented on the state of the watershed and asked if there were other speakers that the Committee would like to hear from at future meetings.
- Chris Hughes talked about the number of research and scientific studies that were done on the Le Sueur River Watershed in the past, and that he would find it helpful to have some of the scientists talk about past and current research regarding the watershed.
- Tom Loveall talked about having a speaker talk about drainage management and sustainable drainage management. He talked about the role of their drainage authority and how he thought it would be beneficial to have discussions with the other counties in the watershed and also hear from experts in drainage management.
- Scott Salsbury stated that the watershed planning process was just starting, and that Mark Schaetzke had prepared a brief exercise to get discussion started with identifying watershed priorities from the perspective of each of the local units of government in the watershed. He passed out note cards for each jurisdiction to identify one to five issues in the watershed that they thought were a priority and asked that each member discuss one item. Scott explained that the issue identification process was an important starting point for the



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foundation of the plan and that the plan would eventually prioritize issues that are identified with the Policy Committee and the public engagement process.

- De Malterer discussed the importance of the drainage authority being able to work cooperatively with the agricultural community while also addressing water related issues. She also discussed stormwater management and flooding as being concerns for Waseca County.
- Larry Muff discussed the prevention of erosion and soil into water systems from cropland. He added that cover crops are important but that with cropland on steep slopes, other best management practices are more effective.
- Tom Loveall talked about the importance of coordinated and sustainable drainage management and the importance of the plan addressing the role of the drainage authority. He also talked about soil health as being an important issue for Faribault County.
- Randy Feist talked about ditch banks and erosion. He also discussed the importance of soil health.
- Chris Hughes talked about altered hydrology, soil health, and sediment in waterways. He also talked about the importance of having measurable targets and goals, and about using successful projects and plans like Rice Lake/Rice Creek as a guide for future implementation.
- Ted Herman talked about the importance of ditch management and water runoff to the lakes and waterways in Freeborn County.
- Don Kropp talked about the multiple One Watershed Plans that Freeborn County has been involved in and that he was looking forward to hearing from the experts and consultants about the problem areas and priorities for implementation in the watershed. He stated that a lot of work has been done in the watershed but there are still water quality concerns. Don Kropp also brought up funding sources to implement the plan.
- Note cards from the Policy Committee's priorities are attached.
- The Policy Committee had a lengthy discussion about funding, implementation, and the Clean Water Fund.

Meeting schedule: Next meeting will be at 10:00 AM on August 27, 2021 at location to be determined by staff.

- Motion to adjourn by Randy Feist, seconded by Larry Muff.

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

Motion approved.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:10 PM.

Secretary – Commissioner Ted Herman

Submitted by: Scott Salsbury (Blue Earth County)