



Le Sueur River One Watershed One Plan POLICY COMMITTEE

Date: April 23, 2021

Meeting #2

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). Todd Stencel (Waseca SWCD)

Staff: Scott Salsbury (Blue Earth Co.), Mark Schaezke (Waseca SWCD), Haley Byron (Waseca Co.), Nate Carr (Faribault SWCD), Brandee Douglas (Faribault Co.), Rachel Wehner (Freeborn Co.), Brenda Lageson (Freeborn SWCD), Shaina Keseley (BWSR), Jill Sackett Eberhart (BWSR), Paul Davis (MPCA), Scott Matteson (MDA), Dan Girolamo (DNR), Brooke Hacker (DNR), Julie Westerlund (BWSR), Merissa Lore (Faribault Co)

Meeting called to order by De Malterer at 8:32 am via GoToMeeting.

Agenda:

- Motion to approve the agenda made by Randy Feist, Seconded by Kevin Paap.
Roll Call: Paap: Yes Loveall: Yes Feist: Yes Herman: Yes Kropp: Yes Malterer: Yes
Motion approved.

Minutes:

- Motion to approve the minutes made by Don Kropp, Seconded by Randy Feist.
Roll Call: Paap: Yes Loveall: Yes Feist: Yes Herman: Yes Kropp: Yes Malterer: Yes
Motion approved.

Updates:

- Haley stated notices have gone out for the 60 day comment period. Comments are due back from agencies May 30th.

State of the Watershed:

- **MPCA:** Paul Davis gave update on the monitoring and assessments, and WRAPS (watershed restoration and protection strategies).
 - Monitoring is to assess if water is swimmable and fishable. Lakes monitored for phosphorus; rivers for e coli for “swimmable”. “Fishable” lakes scored by IBI (index of biologic integrity). Chemical monitoring for sediment, nitrates, and bacteria.
 - Following monitoring, results are compared to the standards for assessment.
 - Impairments: All impaired waters must have a TMDL (total maximum daily load).
 - WRAPS is used as a starting point/ guidance for practices to use in 1W1P as implementation.
- **DNR:** Brooke Hacker gave update on field work within the watershed focusing on evaluating flows and climate and channel conditions
 - Most streams/rivers in the Le Sueur lack channel stability. Flooding has had major impacts.
 - Precipitation and temperature has increased. Precipitation is up 21% and high flows are up 91% since 1990.
 - Channel assessment sites: most channels lack adequate floodplains and with instability and erosion causing down cutting and channel straightening.

Request for Qualifications:

- Haley Byron reviewed RFQ. RFQ was based off BWSR model plus other watersheds and modified to suit our needs. This is a qualifications based selection. Price will be negotiated with the selected consultant.



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One consultant will be chosen but for the kickoff we would like to include the MSU Water Resources Center with minor involvement by the consultant. This is due to the vast experience MSU-WRC has in the watershed and facilitation experience. 40 meetings are being proposed for the consultant to attend. This number will be negotiated once a consultant is selected. A specific format is requested back from consultants with proposals. This is for an ease of review and to assess their attention to detail and directions. Relevant experience in the watershed and other 1W1Ps is a large focus. Earn value management system and tracking process is requested. This is to ensure the best value for the effort and that they have a process to meet deadlines.

- Malterer stated the RFQ shows a level of experience in dealing with other 1W1Ps of what works and what doesn't.

RFQ Evaluation and Scoring Form:

- Four Sections to Scoring. Experience, Personnel, management approach, and formatting/ spelling/ grammar. Formatting, spelling, and grammar was given a high point ranking. Staffs previous experience knows the time it can take to fix errors that a consultant should be taking care of. Goal is a clean and polished plan at the end.
- Herman stated this appears to be a very thorough approach.
- Loveall posed the question about experience vs good experience. How will we differentiate? Byron stated that they will submit references, talk to other planning partnerships, and we will review other plans. Staff has experience with a number of these consultants.
- Malterer stated the scoring rubric will definitely assist in this decision.

Consultants:

- List of 9 consultants is being proposed to send RFQ to. They were chosen based on local options, experience in 1w1p, and experience by staff.
- Loveall asked if this list is invite only or open to public for all consultants. Eberhart stated it can be however we decide.
- Paap asked how other watersheds chosen their list? Eberhart and Keesley both stated it is a variety. Most send to a selected list, but some just choose a consultant and others open it to any and all consultants.
- Malterer expressed a concern at opening the list any larger due to the lengthy reviewal process.

Motion to approve consultant list as invite only made by Chris Hughes, seconded by Kevin Paap.

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

Stencel: Yes

Motion approved.

Motion to approve RFQ, RFQ Scoring Sheet, and RFQ distribution to the selected consultants made by Ted Herman, seconded by Chris Hughes.

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

Stencel: Yes

Motion approved.

Next Steps:

- Invite consultants to respond to RFQ
- Staff recommendation for a consultant at next policy meeting, hopefully, but process won't be rushed.
- Propose partnership plans with WRC for public kickoff and "halftime".



Le Sueur River One Watershed One Plan POLICY COMMITTEE

Date: March 8, 2021

Meeting #1

Meeting schedule: Next meeting will be Friday, April 23rd at 8:30. Regular meetings will be 4th Friday at 8:30am.

Next steps: submit work plan, begin RFQ process, state of the watershed presentations, 60 day public notifications

Motion to adjourn by Randy Feist, seconded by Ted Herman.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 3:12pm.

Submitted by: Rachel Wehner (Freeborn County)

Secretary – Commissioner Ted Herman

