



Le Sueur River One Watershed One Plan POLICY COMMITTEE

Date: February 25, 2022

Meeting #10

Time: 10:00 am

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

Attending: *Policy Committee Members:* Randy Feist (Faribault SWCD), De Malterer (Waseca Co.), Kevin Paap (Blue Earth Co.), Larry Muff (Waseca SWCD), Tom Loveall (Faribault Co), Brad Krause (Waseca Co), John Shanahan (Staff/Other: Rachel Wehner (Freeborn Co.), Mark Schaetzke (Waseca SWCD), Haley Byron (Waseca Co) - virtual, Julie Blackburn (ISG) , Shaina Keesley (BWSR) – virtual, Nate Carr (Faribault SWCD), Brandee Douglas (Faribault Co), Bailey Griffin (ISG), Scott Salisbury (Blue Earth Co), Brenda Lageson (Freeborn SWCD) - virtual

Meeting called to order by De Malterer at 10:03 am, beginning with introductions and ice breaker.

Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda as changed made by Kevin Paap, Seconded by Larry Muff.

Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes:

Motion to approve the minutes, made by Randy Feist, Seconded by John Shanahan.

Motion passed unanimously

Financial Report

Mark Schaetzke presented the financial report for expenses. Malterer noticed a correction needed to calculations on the halftime meeting and kick off meeting. Mark will correct.

Motion to recommend Waseca SWCD to pay bills as presented with correction to one budget line, made by Tom Loveall, Seconded by Kevin Paap.

Motion passed unanimously

Desired Future Conditions, Measurable Outcomes, and Priority Resources

Bailey Griffin from ISG presented on work completed so far. The focus was on desired future conditions, measurable outcomes, and priority issues. All items were initially created by ISG, reviewed by steering committee, then moved to the TAC committee for review, and back to steering committee before coming to policy committee. Local input from kickoff and surveys were also considered when creating this. Shanahan brought up a concern about flooding and how this will be addressed. Griffin stated that water quality and quantity/flooding are being addressed and as things progress specific implementation items will be added to address these issues.

Muff asked about soil health practices and how that will play into reducing erosion and bluffs with possible armoring practices. Griffin stated they are looking at a tool that looks at sediment and cost. This will allow us to do a cost benefit analysis on those reduced sediment loads. We do have stabilization practices listed. All policy members reiterated the need to focus on flow with increased storm events.

It was questioned the high emphasis on wetlands and whether the focus should be elsewhere. Blackburn explained a lot of managing wetlands comes down to getting the message out of what's available for funding, banking, restorations, etc. Overall, the value is there. Wetlands are not a top priority in the plan but are still a priority. Overall, public input and local plans do not have wetlands as a high priority either. Lower priority but still important and relevant to the plan, especially if an opportunity came up.



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Regarding bacteria and manure management plants, the question was posed if this would create new regulations. No, any new manure management plans would be to incentivize farmers to participate and have one made. Not to create new ordinance or rules. SSTS ordinances will be compared to see differences between counties. This is not intended to change county ordinances but more as an opportunity to learn what others are doing.

Paap questioned why drinking water and ground water protection was such a low priority. Griffin stated this area actually has minimal concerns for groundwater so while we do need to address it, largely for arsenic, we don't need to make this as high of a priority.

Randy Feist recommended storm water be addressed more. Lovell recommending wordsmithing certain terms like "management" to "incentivize" to insure we are not regulating.

Motion to approve the desired future conditions, measurable outcomes, and priority resources with wordsmithing changes allowed made by Kevin Paap, Seconded by Larry Muff.

Motion passed unanimously

Next steps:

Schaetzke presented about the midpoint public meeting. The hope is to host this possibly outdoors in April in the evening. This would be similar to how the kickoff meeting was ran with a survey for those that cannot attend. Outdoor is being considered due to MSU restrictions with covid. Location possibilities: St Olaf Lake, Madison Lake, Le Sueur outlet, Farm America. Policy members requested the meeting be prior to April 11th due to planting season. AMC is March 30, 31, and April 1 – avoid these dates. Prefer to keep it outside of the city of Mankato.

Motion to work within the budget to have a food option for mid-point public meeting, if allowed, made by Tom Lovell, Seconded by John Shanahan.

Motion passed unanimously

Next meeting date: March 25th in Mankato.

Motion to adjourn made by Kevin Paap, seconded by Randy Feist.

Motion passed unanimously

Meeting Adjourned at 12:46pm.

Secretary – Commissioner Ted Herman

Submitted by: Rachel Wehner (Freeborn County)