

Planning Workgroup for Root River One Watershed One Plan
Friday, February 13, 2015, 9:00 AM
Conservation Building, 912 Houston Street NW, Preston
MEETING NOTES

1. Facilitator for the Day Adam King (Dodge SWCD) called the meeting to order. Following introductions, Mark Deutschman, Houston Engineering, reviewed the agenda with one addition made to add discussion of the public kick off meeting.

2. Summary of Meeting Purpose (Deutschman)

Mark explained that no decisions are needed today. He will provide guidance, but it is up to the local staff to be sure that local issues are included. The organization information in the handout outlined the decision making process from introduction of a topic through subsequent steps over 3-4 meetings until a decision is made.

3. Organizational Roles (Deutschman)

An Operations Team will be established of day-to-day contacts for Mark to run ideas past regarding what needs to go back to the whole group. Conference calls and emails will suffice in most cases.

At their first meeting, the Policy Committee will discuss when they are to be involved in decisions—what their job is. They will be informed about the key issues that should be in the plan and discuss how regulations are addressed. The priority concerns will include something about ag sustainability/resiliency. Urban issues should also be listed.

4. Set Meeting Schedule (All)

The next Policy Committee meeting will be Monday, March 2 at 9 am in Room 108 of the Fillmore County Office Building. Future meeting dates need to be set and could be the first Wednesday of the month, or a Monday or Friday. Meeting notification will likely follow the normal notification process followed each county and SWCD, e.g. websites and other postings.

The public kick off meeting location, time and format should be discussed. Education is one purpose as well as gathering public input, possibly through a survey tool. Mark suggested that if the priority concerns/issues can be identified and then put into a draft matrix, attendees could rank them. This information could be looped back to the Advisory Committee for inclusion in their deliberations. State agency comments are scheduled to be back by March 9th in time for consideration of the priority concerns.

The Advisory Committee is appointed by the Policy Committee which will need to be done at the March 2nd meeting. Mark will draft a stakeholder plan that outlines what the Advisory Committee should do as well as the public (here's where we need your input). He will also develop a big picture schedule to show when the Policy Committee is engaged in input and decisions for the plan.

5. Confirmed Desired Plan Outcomes (All)

What we want is a useable, targeted implementation plan.

6. Information items / needs

Definitions for Priority Resource, Priority Concern and Priority Issue are in the handout. These should be checked against MPCA definitions to be consistent. A resource is an asset or something of value to manage. A concern is a subset of the resource. An issue is something affecting the resource. The draft table should be reviewed and information added. Targeted implementation means targeting an issues tied to a geographic location. We also should determine what the base maps should look like. For example, include insets showing where the HUC-10 is in the watershed and where the watershed is in the region or state. A logo is needed for branding. Mark will contact Shaina Keseley for the Assessment Report and Stressor Identification Report, map

data, and any maps that have already been developed by MPCA. The description of the watershed can be taken from the WRAPS.

7. Relationship to Prioritize, Target and Measure Application (PTMApp) Development

Required inputs for PTMApp are outlined in the handout. The PWG should provide priority locations: stream reaches, trout streams, etc. which are needed to run the tests planned for late March or early April.

8. Plan Related Discussion Items

The plan outline has items in yellow which are required by BWSR and items in blue that are optional for a Priority Concerns Watershed Implementation Plan. Items in Section 5 involve collaboration with other units of government, so list who is responsible. All issues gathered during the input process are kept even if not the responsibility of the LGUs. These are assigned to other groups. Measurable goals will be based on implementation activities, not load allocations given the timeline of the plan. Areas for protection strategies need to be identified. The Landscape Stewardship Plan can be helpful for that.

9. Ideas on Goal Setting

Setting altered hydrology goals: utilize the Stressor ID Report to identify sites where altered hydrology is the stressor, and run this analysis (refer to Table 20 in handout). Soil health improvements and the effect on hydrology can be modeled in PTMApp. Interim 10-year milestones can be based on statewide reduction goals, e.g. Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Show things on maps like sediment yields by location. Exclusions can be applied on suitability maps to rule out areas with reluctant landowners or particular land uses. HUC-10 boundaries are the preliminary plan regions in PTMApp. County boundaries can be put in to retrieve priorities by county.

10. Public Kick Off Meeting

Two sessions are planned for afternoon and evening to accommodate varying schedules. An open house format is suggested with a 10-15 minute presentation on the hour to explain the basics of the planning process. Local staff will be on hand to answer questions one-on-one with attendees. Get feedback from the public at the meeting (stickers on the matrix of priority concerns?) and longer term. The presentation should cover the purpose, what the plan looks like, and draft priority concerns. A handout with contacts for further information or to serve on the Advisory Committee will be developed by the Winona staff. Could also have a postcard to take to return comments or indicate interest in being on the Advisory Committee. Mark will send dates that he and Drew Kessler are available.

For the next meeting:

- Meeting schedule-Mark
- Stakeholder plan-Mark
- Public meeting content-Mark
- Public meeting hadout-Winona staff
- Meeting locations for first week in April-Jennifer?
- Solidify feedback at next meeting

11. Next meeting, facilitator(s), agenda items

March 2nd Policy Committee meeting at 9 am; Policy Work Group meeting to follow-Winona facilitate, Adam bring awesome treats.

March 17th Planning Workgroup meeting at 9 am at the Conservation Building-Winona bring treats