

Root River 1 Watershed 1 Plan

Planning Workgroup Meeting

June 3, 2015 Meeting Notes

In attendance: Donna Rasmussen, Jennifer Ronnenberg, Sheila Harmes, Dean Schrandt, Tom Gile, Nicole Lehman, Daryl Buck, Dan Wermager, Dave Walter, Shaina Keseley, Skip Langer, Mark Deutschman, Larry Kramka

1. Review and Approval of Meeting Agenda: Daryl Buck facilitated the meeting which was called to order at 12:47 p.m. Donna announced that MDA has invited the PWG to a presentation about preliminary results for the Root River Sediment Budget tentatively scheduled for June 25th at 9 am in Preston at the Conservation Building.
2. Confirm meeting dates / potential conflicts: Next meetings will be July 6th and August 5th. We will have a conference call before the July 6th meeting which Mark will schedule.
3. Old Business
 - a. Potential Resources of Concern / Issues Matrix – Results and Priority Recommendations to Policy Committee were approved at the Policy Committee meeting. The recommendations will be posted on the website. A letter will be sent to the state agencies about the priorities. A news release will direct people to the website and will provide information about submitting additional input through online questionnaires on other issues, such as flooding. Measureable goals will be set at the resource concern level. Strategies will have metrics to measure progress toward a goal.
 - b. Protection Strategy Recommendation and Consensus: The protection definition was developed in cooperation with MPCA and DNR to protect truly exceptional, state-recognized resources and also those that are close to becoming impaired; in the case of groundwater and drinking water, those public water supply systems that meet drinking water standards. There may also be springs to identify for protection. There was a long discussion about measuring results in karst, especially nitrate reductions. BWSR does not define “measure” so we can do that in the plan. Mark has a meeting set up with MDH to work on the groundwater protection strategy.
4. New Business

Mark reviewed the plan draft which includes sections on the watershed background (working on), planning regions (HUC10), 1W1P formation and agreement, process to identify resource concerns and priorities plus the table, the A,B,C categories, and emerging issues related to science/technology and policy, (science/technology issues include climate change, endocrine disrupters, water movement in karst, improving soil health, buffers for rivers and streams, invasive species; policy issues include governance, funding for plan implementation, land asset management (easements, etc.), integration between WRAPS and IW1P, and data gaps), measurable goals, targeted implementation schedule, implementation programs (link initiatives to funding needs and resources), annual planning, reprioritization process, self-assessment, reporting to BWSR, amending the plan, types of assistance, capital improvements, ordinances, education/outreach, monitoring, GIS and data management, and research. Sheila mentioned the need for a communication plan to determine what goes out to the public and when. The Policy Committee and Planning Work Group decide when information is posted publicly and when public input is needed. The Advisory Committee will first review the recommendations, then provide input on initiatives, measurable goals, and the draft plan at specified times.

 - a. Data Needs for Plan Development

- i. Information from MPCA for estimated annual loads for sediment, N and P is available now and load allocations (TMDL) should be ready next week. Mark will also use the WRAPS and shapefiles for IBI scores.
 - ii. Information from DNR for monitoring locations for surface water and groundwater (DNR observation well network) was sent to HEI.
 - iii. Resources of Potential Concern Maps & relationship to PTMApp Data
 - iv. Information from MDH includes safe drinking water standards, protection strategies and on groundwater mining.
 - v. Other: Decorah shale GIS layer is needed. MnDOT culvert database has been provided.
 - b. Measurable Goals
 - c. Structure for the Targeted Implementation Plan: Mark reviewed drafts for the measurable goals and strategies and for the initiatives. He would like information from the PWG on the types of initiatives, cost share and caps. He also needs the ordinance information completed by each county.
 - d. Public Input Process
 - i. Flood prone map is being developed using DNR data.
 - ii. Questionnaires for online public input will be made available on topics determined by the PWG. Consensus is to develop the questionnaires for the A priorities plus flooding, since that is already done. They will be posted on the HEI server for easier access and analysis by them. A suggestion for the next time that priorities are set is to have every resource concern get a ranking of 1,2, or 3 instead of the two-dot system which resulted in many resource concerns not getting any votes.
 - e. Planning next Advisory Committee meeting : The next meeting of the Advisory Committee will be June 30th at 9 a.m. Mark will draft the agenda with these topics: priorities, structure of the plan, protection strategy, schedule for input by the Advisory Committee, and implementation programs for the initiatives including NGO programs. Need to determine practices, cost share percentage and maximums for each practice. Another public meeting will be held in September/October to show what has been done to date to get feedback before the public hearings next year.
5. Summary of Meeting Decisions: Next meeting facilitator will be Sheila; Daryl will bring snacks.
6. Adjourn