

Planning Workgroup for Root River One Watershed One Plan
Monday, November 30, 2015, 12:45 p.m.
Fillmore County Office Building, 902 Houston Street NW, Preston

In attendance: Justin Hanson, Tom Gile, Daryl Buck, Natalie Siderius, Adam King, Dave Walter, Skip Langer, Donna Rasmussen

1. Review maps for the implementation plan: During the conference call with Mark earlier this month, it was decided to only include hard copies of maps in the plan showing the “A” priority resource concerns. The other resource concerns will be mapped and shown at the HUC10 scale in a map book in electronic format only. Staff will have access to the data. Metadata is essential for all the data layers. Printed maps should also show the data source, e.g. private well nitrate data on the draft groundwater map. The hard copy maps are mainly for the public to better understand the characteristics and distribution of the “A” resource concerns. The challenges with showing the drinking water supply information and issues, especially for private wells, were discussed. Pat Bailey, MDH, is assisting with compiling information. Jim Lundy has some maps/data that could also be used related to nitrate vulnerability. Livability is another challenging thing to map. There are many types of livability indices. The EDA contact on the Advisory Committee is researching if/how to map livability. If it can’t be mapped, a narrative may have to suffice. We discussed including a karst map also since karst influences both surface and ground water. There is support for that with adequate explanation even if karst is not an “A” priority.

The capital improvements list to include in the plan was discussed. The consensus remains that it is better to list them even if there are no funding sources to complete any projects at this time. Those funded by PL566 or proposed for PL566 are to be included, plus others* if the Policy Committee approves:

Houston County:	Crooked Creek
	Bear Creek
	Winnebago Creek*
Mower, Olmsted:	North Branch Root River (planned but not funded)
Mower:	Carey’s Creek(PL566?)
Winona:	City of Rushford/Rush-Pine Creek*
Fillmore:	East Willow Creek
	City of Mabel/Riceford Creek*
Fillmore/Houston:	South Fork Root River (planned but not funded)

2. Discussion Item: staff perspective on 1W1P staffing for coordination: The coordination deliverables were refined based on a 0.25 FTE position. Grant writing hours will be included, but tracking and reporting will more likely be a responsibility of the staff in the county in which the projects are completed. The number of meetings discussed for each of the committees was reduced from that in the draft JPA to two per year for the Policy Committee, two per year for the Advisory Committee (one joint meeting with the Policy Committee), and quarterly meetings for the PWG. These recommendations will be presented at the next Policy Committee meeting.
3. Discuss budget revisions: Donna presented proposed changes to the budget to reflect reductions in some tasks and moving those funds to pay for Fillmore SWCD staff coordination hours. The net shift is about \$12,000. The revised budget will be on the Policy Committee agenda for approval in January. Tom will get information about the steps needed to complete the budget changes.

4. Discussion Item: Do we need an education program for the Policy Committee re: how watershed management differs from current structure? A flow chart comparing the two structures would be helpful. Tom will check with Melissa about information that BWSR may have already prepared when presenting to legislators and others. A flow chart showing the governance structure proposed in the draft JPA would also be helpful .

How the JPA affects grant applications and who serves as the fiscal agent and day to day contact were also discussed. If a targeted subwatershed is only in one county, can that county/SWCD apply for the grant without going through the Policy Committee and getting all the signatures by the other boards? It may be better to have the JPA language related to the fiscal agent and day to day contact say that the Policy Committee will appoint them each year rather than going through an amendment process to change the names in the JPA. This could help address the first issue.

5. Next meeting, facilitator(s), agenda items: Monday, January 4th after the Policy Committee meeting. Dave will facilitate. Sheila was volunteered to provide the snacks. The Policy Committee wants comments from the Advisory Committee on the last part of section 3 which was not completed at the Advisory Committee meeting. The consensus was that it will be very difficult to set up an Advisory Committee meeting before January 4th, so an email request should be sent out for any comments on the remainder of section 3 to be submitted before Christmas.