

**Planning Workgroup for Root River One Watershed One Plan**  
**Monday, May 22, 2017**  
**9:00 am**  
**Conservation Building, 912 Houston Street NW, Preston**

**Meeting Notes**

In attendance: Caleb Fischer, Adam Beilke, Dan Wermager, Daryl Buck, Madeline Snyder, Scott Christenson, Kevin Kuehner, Sheila Harmes, Hayden Booms, Skip Langer, Donna Rasmussen

1. Education and Civic Engagement

- a. Gather ideas for 1-2 page plan summary/review of sample materials: The audience is the general public and elected officials. Include a map of the planning area with state context, and possibly a land use map. List the four "A" priority Resource Concerns and what we want to accomplish in the next ten years in general terms, such as nitrate, bacteria, and groundwater recharge. Include the website for more information. Include a mix of pictures showing scenery and problem areas, maybe a before and after of a BMP, and how people use the river for recreation. The subcommittee made up of Sheila, Donna, Tim Ruzek and Shaina Keseley will take these ideas to begin drafting the summary. Of the examples we looked at, most liked the format of the Marengo River handout the best for the general public. The other examples might serve well for a summary that is a little longer with more technical information.
- b. Root River Field to Stream Partnership postcards and other outreach (Fishers and Farmers grant): Kevin Kuehner, MDA project coordinator, showed a summary of seven years of data collected from the FSP monitoring sites. A Fishers and Farmers grant was received to use to distribute information from the project to farmers and the public. One portion of the funds is in a contract with a public relations company to develop a video while another portion of the grant has more flexibility in how it can be used. The first of a series of postcards was shown addressing the need for practices that mitigate runoff during May and June when over 80% of sediment loss occurs. The grant will pay for printing the half page postcards and the postage. MDA GIS staff have devised a method for developing a mailing list overlaying county parcel data with cropland data. We should provide them with the updated parcel data. The list can be sorted by county, township and HUC-12 or HUC-10 watershed. Fields could be filtered out by size to get a list that takes out small hobby farms. The storm picture is quite dark and could be lightened. Replace "diversions" with strip cropping and ponds (instead of water and sediment control structures). Remove "Try not..." from the fifth bullet and make a stronger statement. Include a bullet about soil health practices (cover crops, no till, etc.) to encourage better water infiltration. Verbage in the last paragraph will be shortened. Not all the SWCD logos will be on the bottom, only the one for the office doing the mailing. Add another statement for landowners to share with their renters. We should try to get this out in the next 7-10 days when the rain is fresh in people's minds. Try utilizing Facebook targeting such as what was used for the public hearings. Include verbage so the postcard is returned if it is an incorrect address so we can correct the list before the next mailing. Future themes could be nutrient management and/or soil health.
- c. Discuss how to begin developing a civic engagement plan: It was the consensus to have the subcommittee developing the 1-2 page summary also begin drafting an outline for the civic engagement plan.

2. "Other Waters" process

- a. Brief progress update from each county: Olmsted is doing a descriptive inventory rather than developing a list of map. The descriptive inventory includes perennial and seasonal streams on the soil survey maps, streams that originate or pass through sensitive areas (Decorah shale or wellhead protection areas), and others identified by SWCD and County staff during onsite visits. They will be acting on this at Thursday's SWCD Board meeting. The county has indicated support for this approach. Winona SWCD is mapping streams in the Decorah shale and disappearing streams. Dave Walter from Root River has mapped streams with year round base flow. Fillmore SWCD has mapped streams with defined channels that can be seen on aerial photos.

- b. Coordination of next steps: SWCD Boards will adopt their “Other Waters” along with a resolution and must present these to their County Boards before July 1<sup>st</sup>. The County Boards have one year to notify the same LGUs required for water plan notification. It is at the five year update of the watershed plan when the plan is amended to include the “Other Waters”. Action is needed by county boards and or 1W1P Policy Committee to determine if any action is to be taken to address buffer needs along “Other Waters”.
3. Review Root River Intensive Watershed Monitoring site list: Caleb and Donna provided MPCA with additional sites for monitoring based on the discussion at the Advisory Committee meeting. Adam noted that in their monitoring discussion with MPCA, the Yellow Medicine had wanted to do their own monitoring to fill in data gaps. Although it is late to pull together a plan with MPCA, is this something we want to think about for the future? We could consider some interim monitoring closer to our five-year plan update to assess how well BMPs that have been implemented are working.
4. Funding
  - a. Status (if known): The budget is supposed to be passed by Monday night. The House has passed budgets for Environment and Natural Resources and for Legacy funds. The Legacy budget still includes funds for 1W1P implementation; \$10-11/two years for 1W1P pilots and seven metro WMOs.
  - b. BWSR: Pilot performance based watershed implementation funding program: The Legacy funds will be distributed as performance grants based on watershed needs.
  - c. Discuss process for setting implementation priorities for 2018 and beyond: see meeting agenda topics below.
5. Next meetings, facilitator(s), agenda items
  - a. Advisory Committee meeting: Meet after the next Planning Work Group meeting and before the Policy Committee meeting. Send out a save the date for July 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. Policy Committee meeting (postponed from June 19<sup>th</sup> to week of July 10<sup>th</sup>): July 10<sup>th</sup> conflicts with the SE MN Water Resources Board meeting. Due to the need to have both a Planning Work Group and Advisory Committee meeting before the next Policy Committee meeting, it was the consensus of the group to move the Policy Committee meeting to August 7<sup>th</sup>. This allows enough time to get information from BWSR regarding funding levels and to set priorities for the 2018 work plan. Donna will confirm the date with the Chair and send out a save the date right away.
  - c. Next PWG meeting: Meet on July 10<sup>th</sup> to draft a work plan and budget for the performance-based grants.
6. Other
  - a. PTMApp training-May 31<sup>st</sup>: There is still one or two spaces. Each county present is planning to send at least one staff person. When a training is held for the desktop version, we should consider sending someone with strong GIS skills. Winona County GIS staff have attended past trainings. Maybe an arrangement could be made to provide support to the county for a GIS staff person who could provide services for running the application for our watershed needs.
7. Adjourn: meeting adjourned at noon.