

Planning Work Group for Root River One Watershed One Plan
Wednesday, August 29, 2018, 9:00 am
Olmsted SWCD Conference Room A, 2122 Campus Drive SE, Rochester

In attendance: Caleb Fischer, Andrea Plevan, Kaitlyn Taylor, Justin Watkins, Skip Langer, Adam King, Tim Ruzek, Sheila Harmes, Adam Beilke, Dan Wermager, Donna Rasmussen, Shaina Keseley, Daryl Buck.

Progress Report on projects for 1W1P through implementation funds

- Chatfield DWSMA: Kernza field day was held August 22 with about 35 people in attendance. Skip also reported that some structural practices are being looked at (basins) for gullyheads on cropland owned by Schoenfelder near Chatfield plus upland treatment. The SWCD has a terrace rehab in Mill Creek watershed that will utilize 1W1P cost share funds to get to 90% cost share.
- Rush-Pine Creek watershed: John Bruihler would like to call a meeting of the Farmer Led Council about how they want to use the 1W1P funds. He had talked with Neil Broadwater, former Extension educator, about doing outreach, but Neil declined.
- Trout Unlimited projects: A contractor meeting would be a good idea to go over the projects planned so they are aware of the potential funding available. A list of habitat projects from TU would be helpful. Some that are known are near Stewartville and Rushford and in Vesta Creek and Trout Run Creek.
- Crooked Creek structure(s): Dave, Gary and Jason (JPB) have met with TSPs and G-Cubed. There were some minor design changes. Final estimate is \$300,000-\$350,000. They have signed up for 2019 EQIP. If not approved, we should include it in the RCPP priorities.
- Riceford Creek/South Fork PTMApp: Bridgette Timm will be getting the data to begin the PTMApp analysis in Riceford Creek upstream of Mabel. The status of the hydroconditioning will determine how long it takes to complete. LiDAR will be used to identify the location of existing structures.
- Nutrient Management Planner: Sara West was hired in April by the Fillmore SWCD. 1W1P grant funds will cover 80% of the position while the MDA N BMP Outreach Grant will cover 20% through 2019. She completed the MPCA Manure Management Planning training in March and has picked up on the software quickly. She is doing some training with Paul Trcka at CPS on nutrient management planning.
- Willis Goll has been hired by the Fillmore SWCD on a short-term basis with tentative plans to continue the position. He would be available for engineering assistance in the watershed.

Funding updates:

- RCPP-EQIP update: BWSR is still waiting to finalize the agreement with NRCS at the Washington level. They need a Local Work Group to set priorities. Brenda Tomm is the NRCS contact who is getting all five RCPP pilots together. The new State Conservationist is supportive of two sign-ups/year. The total available is \$2.5 million with \$500,000 for NRCS TA leaving about \$400,000-500,000 per watershed over four years.
- 319 Grant update: The Root was one of 40 who submitted letters of interest, and one of 19 that were selected for an on-site interview. That is scheduled for September 11th in Preston. The final 10 watersheds to receive funding should be selected by early October.
- EPA Grant possible further funding: EPA has funds available to address pollution contributing to the Dead Zone in the Gulf of Mexico. The grant applications are due Sept. 12th. The focus is to support farmer-led or farm-focused organizations in the Gulf of Mexico watershed. Just four applications are expected to be funded. Due to time constraints for developing an application and the low possibility of getting funded, the consensus was not to apply.

Upper Iowa WRAPS – Justin Watkins, MPCA: This is now in the work planning phase which provides the PWG an opportunity for input. TetraTech has been awarded the master contract for vendor services to develop the WRAPS. The HSPF model is already completed/built through 2015 for the entire planning area. The first model

only included the Root River. There are not many impairments in the Upper Iowa portion. Because the watershed plan is already completed, there isn't much experience with developing a WRAPS at this stage. They don't want it to be a separate project, but do it under the same umbrella. The contents of the WRAPS will be modeled after the Zumbro's which is the most recently completed: basic summary of the assessments, BMP spreadsheets to work towards reduction goals (examples, not a recipe), and maps (DNR and baseline). RC&D report on the Upper Iowa is incorporated. Bee Creek is listed for protection because it is classified as exceptional use; the fish and bug scores are almost as high as they can be. The goal is to complete the WRAPS by the end of 2019. A five-year review will be included with hope that it will add value to 1W1P. BMP inventories by WSU is a separate project using LiDAR and aerial photos and calculations of contributing watersheds. There was discussion about various groups and organizations in the watershed who would have an interest in the WRAPS (e.g. individual producers within the Upper Iowa-Travis Willford, Jim Kellogg- who could be farmer leaders; Friends of the Root River, Friends of Lake Louise, Townships, Bear Creek watershed, Crooked Creek WD, Bee/Duck Creek group). Tell them this is what the plan says, here are the funded activities, and how the WRAPS can add to the 1W1P. Updates will be provided at future PWG meetings. BMP scenarios will be run at the HUC10 scale.

Conservation Planning Initiative update: Dan Wermager will be doing the conservation planning for the Root. He attended the NRCS Conservation Planning Course July 31-August 3. NRCS is getting a computer station. Dan has been working on doing updates for some of the 2019 EQIP folders.

Next meetings

- Planning Work Group meeting: October 23rd at 9 am in Preston for a progress report and to plan the Advisory and Policy committee meetings.
- Advisory Committee meeting: November 13th 9 am in Preston to report on progress and review the work plan in relation to partner projects and to get their input on the work plan. It would be helpful to get DNR and TU stream habitat projects ahead of the meeting.
- Policy Committee meeting: November 28th 9am in Preston to review an annual report and look at the work plan for 2019.

The meeting adjourned about 12:15 pm.