

Planning Work Group for Root River One Watershed One Plan
Thursday, July 18, 2019 9:00am
Conservation Building Meeting Room, Preston, MN

Meeting Notes

In attendance: Dan Wermager, Daryl Buck, Mary Peterson, Adam Beilke, Shaina Keseley, Sheila Harmes, Justin Hanson, Skip Langer, Susan Hult, Laura Christensen

Progress report on Watershed Conservation Planning Initiative – Dan Wermager, Root River SWCD, and the Watershed Conservation Partners Team: Dan reported that his deliverables had been met this past reporting period, completing 33 conservation plans for landowners in the Root River Watershed. He spoke at three soil health events and is planning to present at another this fall. From spring until present, he has been making follow up phone calls to landowners in the targeted watersheds of Money and Torkleson Creek. He will be sending out a second flush of letters to landowners in late August/early September to drum up more interest. He is also proactively working to complete his Conservation Planner Certification.

MPCA/WRAPs update: A handout provided by Emily Bartusek was distributed. To save on time, discussion was not had over MPCA update. Any questions on MPCA's update will be provided to Laura Christensen in which she will forward to Emily or Justin. Otherwise the questions will be submitted to MPCA directly.

Dan and Mary informed the planning work group of money that is to be available from the Watershed Conservation Planning Initiative (WCPI) for engineering purposes. This money can be used for I&E, design, and construction check-outs for projects that are a result of Dan's conservation planning efforts. \$213,000 will be split among 7 WCPI watersheds (including the Root River Watershed). However, these funds will not be divided equally. These funds will be available to use from mid-September 2019 through 2021. It was suggested that Dan keep these funds to use, himself. This is under the assumption that he will then be using fewer funds from the Root River 1W1P budget.

RCP-1W1P update – Adam Beilke, Board of Water and Soil Resources: Adam informed the group that with estimated carryover from this year, we are looking at roughly \$310,000 available for sign up in 2020.

Watershed-Based Funding grant update - Daryl Buck, Winona Soil and Water Conservation District: Daryl informed the group that the Utica DWSMA will be tied into St. Charles or Lewiston. That begs the question if we would still like to use the designated funds in this area. The group discussed moving Crooked Creek funds to RCP and/or South Fork and Riceford Creek categories as the Crooked Creek funds will not be spent by the end of the year. It was stated that the project in Crooked Creek is planned to be implemented in 2020, so the \$170,150 (or more, as the project may come in higher than previously predicted) would need to be available in 2020.

Discussion was had regarding PTMapp. Sheila will speak with graduate students/faculty at St. Mary's University to check and see of the feasibility of completing this task.

Shaina mentioned the DNR did a culvert inventory in the Root River Watershed roughly five years ago. It was stated that this data can be found in Fillmore SWCD's shared drive.

Daryl presented two documents that gave updates of our current expenditures and remaining budgets.

Watershed-Based Funding program update and discussion – Adam Beilke and Shaina Keseley, BWSR and Justin Hanson: Discussion was had regarding the four assurance categories, which are planned to be phased in over a period of time.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:00pm.