

Planning Work Group for Root River One Watershed One Plan

June 15, 2020 @ 9:00am

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Adam Beilke, BWSR; Mary Peterson, BWSR; Shaina Keseley, BWSR; Emily Zanon, MPCA; Sheila Harmes, Winona County; Adam King, Dodge SWCD; Laura Christensen, Fillmore SWCD; Nikki Shaw, Fillmore SWCD; Justin Hanson, Mower SWCD; Skip Langer, Olmsted SWCD; Dan Wermager, Root River SWCD; Daryl Buck, Winona County SWCD; Kevin Benck, St. Mary's GeoSpatial Services; Kevin Stark, St. Mary's GeoSpatial Services

- Meeting Start @ 9:00
- Hydroconditioning (South Fork Watershed) GIS Discussion – Kevin Stark & Kevin Benck, St. Mary's University:
 - Landscape Specific Adaptations of the ACPF – Jessica Nelson, University of Minnesota
 - Document talks about the parameters that determine how management practices will be affected within the ACPF tool, and shows how a change will cascade down the line through the ACPF.
 - Emily Zanon brought up possibility of MPCA funding ACPF work.
 - Toured different types of story maps and web maps to give ideas of ways to display information about the Root River to the public in a very understandable, accessible, and user-friendly way.
 - Questions were asked about time & upkeep put into a story map or web map of this caliber; discussion was facilitated between Kevin Stark & RR 1W1P PWG.
 - Web/story maps looked at as examples during virtual meeting can be found here:
 - Wetland Restoration Projects Implemented by the Stockbridge-Munsee Community Water Program:
 - <https://www.stockbridge-munsee-water-resources-program.org/wetland-restoration-projects>
 - Exploring the Ecological History of Winona, MN:
 - <https://smumn.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=f4b08c0722ea4ee98c585efdd05fd21e>
 - Modeling Federally Protected Waters and Wetlands:
 - <http://www.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=f3de6b30c0454c15ac9d3d881f18ae33>
 - NHDES Web Application:
 - <https://smumn.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=f1782ad933aa4685b370e32bc9c5d021>
- Ideas for WCPI Watershed Prioritization – Dan Wermager, Root River SWCD:
 - Start in the South Fork – Riceford Creek? New priority area for outreach; this would reach out into a couple counties versus just one.
 - RR 1W1P PWG agreed that Dan shifting focus to South Fork Root River Watershed as the next priority area for outreach with WCPI program would work well.
- Finalize Community Assessment document compiled by the Regional Sustainable Development Partnership:
 - Option to take another look at the document and make comments was brought up; comments can be sent to Laura or to Amit Pradhananga.

- Discuss including Pre-Construction cover using Watershed-Based Funding:
 - Discussion among SWCD Managers in including Pre-Construction cover to enable summer construction of projects. Decided having the option is helpful.
 - This addition would have to be made to the 20-21 Watershed-Based funding as all 18-19 Watershed-Based project funds are currently encumbered.
 - Will need to update local policy of 1W1P, with assistance of PWG subcommittee and RR 1W1P PC. Defining parameters of use of Pre-Construction funds; remain consistent with the state guidelines for acres planted and rates.
- Discuss including Incentive Payments using Watershed-Based Funding:
 - Prairie strips/CRP strips
 - Accelerate Prairie Strip Demonstrate Sties in Targeted Sub-Watersheds of the Root River Watershed – Kevin Kuehner – 3.24.2020
 - Bringing to RR 1W1P PC to discuss before going further with program potential.
- Discuss Watershed-Based Funding amendment(s) – Daryl Buck, Winona SWCD:
 - Looked at budget and amendments; discussed current and near future projects.
- Next meetings:
 - Advisory Committee meeting:
 - 08/25/2020 – likely on Zoom, will re-evaluate as time comes closer.
 - Policy Committee meeting – June 22, 2020 – consider draft agenda
 - Planning Work Group meeting – TBD
- Other – MPCA items, Emily Zanon:
 - Discussed/reviewed MPCA Root River Assessment meeting; RR 1W1P PWG discussed the value of volunteer monitoring within the watershed.
 - Next WRAPS Cycle 2 meeting – RR 1W1P PWG discussed having a joint PWG/MPCA WRAPS meeting.
- Adjourn @ 10:53