

Planning Work Group for Root River One Watershed One Plan

February 1, 2021 @ 9:00am

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Adam Beilke, BWSR; Shaina Keseley, BWSR; Jeff Weiss, MN DNR; Emily Zanon, MPCA; Adam King, Dodge SWCD; Laura Christensen, Fillmore SWCD; Nikki Wheeler Fillmore SWCD; Justin Hanson, Mower SWCD; Skip Langer, Olmsted SWCD; Dave Walter, Root River SWCD; Daniel Wermager, Root River SWCD; Megen Kabele, Winona County; Sheila Harmes, Winona County; Daryl Buck, Winona County SWCD; Andy Robertson, St. Mary's University; Kevin Benck, St. Mary's University; Kevin Stark, St. Mary's University; Dylan Blumentritt, Winona State University; Megan Otten, Winona State University

- **Meeting Start: 09:00 am.**
- **GIS Update – Kevin Stark, St. Mary's University:**
 - Completed modeling that removes 'digital dams' to correct actual surface water flow – adding culverts under roads, etc.
 - Entire Root River watershed has been completed.
 - Working on running ACPF across all HUC12 catchments within the Root River watershed.
 - Questions about the future use and presentation of the data were asked by the group, and discussion between Stark, Benck, and the group helped assure the group of quality data with good opportunities of future use and ease of use by the public.
- **5-Year Plan Evaluation Discussion – Adam Beilke, BWSR:**
 - Guidance given to the group for the Root River Watershed One Watershed, One Plan 5-Year Plan Evaluation.
 - Discussion among PWG and BWSR.
- **Root River BMP Mapping Project – WSU:**
 - Project background: MPCA has contracted with WSU for the last ~1.5 years.
 - 1st goal: Map all WASCObS and pond dams within the Root River Watershed, and each individual contributing watershed area per WASCOb/pond dam.
 - 2nd goal: Target one subwatershed – Rush Creek was chosen – to map structural BMPs using aerial imagery, LiDAR, DEM, etc.
 - MPCA proposed the question of if the group would be interested in WSU doing another subwatershed.
- **Discuss Support of Conservation Planner Position Using Watershed Based Funding Grant:**
 - Update: 133 conservation plans, 5 outreach events; grant expires at end of 2021; across the state, less whole-farm plans, more plans based in EQIP.
 - Discussion of potential hiring of Dan and using the position more SWCD based rather than EQIP plan based.
- **Policy Committee Meeting Preparation/Agenda:**
 - Discussed and outlined.

- **Next meetings:**
 - Advisory Committee Meeting:
 - TBD
 - Policy Committee Meeting:
 - 02/22/2021
 - Planning Work Group Meeting:
 - TBD
- **Other:**
 - Stewartville Kiosk – City of Stewartville
 - Improvements to Bear Cave Park -> educational kiosk relating river/landscape/history within the park, for public review/use.
 - Nitrate/TSS Reduction Scenarios
 - Email will be sent to the group to further discussion.
- **Meeting End: 11:30 am.**