

Planning Work Group for Root River One Watershed One Plan

Date: September 14, 2021 @ 9:00am

Location: 912 Houston Street NW, Preston MN

w/ Zoom option

MEETING NOTES

1. Meeting Start @ 09:04 a.m.

2. MPCA Update:

- a. Cycle 2 TMDL & WRAPS Reports:
 - i. Overall – nothing formal yet. Draft reports will begin this winter, hopeful to have them done Summer 2022.
 1. TMDL: 13 impairments for 9 sections of streams will likely get TMDLs, and 8 additional nitrate TMDLs may also happen for 8 sections of streams upstream of existing nitrate TMDLs.
 2. WPARS: MPCA still working out how the Cycle 2 WRAPS reports will look, will be greatly reduced in length. Plan to start meeting Oct/Nov to start conversations with local partners on content.

3. Interpretive Kiosks review and discussion:

- a. Sheila received a USB drive with file info and sizes for signs at the interpretive kiosk stations. They were created by the U of M Center for Changing Landscapes and MPCA, with 6 to be located in Stewartville, 5 in Preston and 5 in Hokah. They are 27 inches x 36 inches. Estimated to run \$16,000-\$19,000 in total, to print the signs and have them installed; a list of companies has been reached out to for quotes. Because of our finding sources, if the group decides to use these signs, the Clean Water, Land & Legacy logo will need to be added, and potentially the RR 1W1P logo and SWCD logos.

4. Advisory Committee Meeting Preparation/Agenda:

- a. Monday, October 18th, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
 - i. Welcome & introductions, review purpose of the Advisory Committee, updates, outreach efforts, and what input we as PWG look for from AC.

5. GreenCorp Update, Mower SWCD:

- a. Jensen Bigelow has accepted the position and will start on Monday, September 20th, 2021. Workplan is being finished up. She is from Grand Rapids, Michigan, just graduated from Grand Valley State, hopes to move around and see and learn, interested in hands-on field work.
 - i. Workplan ideas: 6th grade day (Houston, Fillmore?); Prairie Walk; working with Cedar, Root & Zumbro 1W1Ps & MASWCD, highlighting landowner and staff stories.

6. Review FY18-19 WBIF Financials/Discuss Sub-Agreement Amendments:

- a. \$40,000 is left in the 18-19 FY grant, must be spent by October 31st, 2021.

7. Discuss FY22-23 WBIF budget and grant strategies:

- a. Are we keeping the allocations the same? Prairie Strip incentives? Same targeted watersheds? Keeping conservation planning initiative rolling?
- b. There will not be funding for the Crooked Creek Structure in this round of funding as the project will be completed, therefore potential to redistribute a large amount of funds accordingly. Workplan to be complete late Nov/Dec. Plan to meet November 30th to begin workplan, and December 7th to button it up.

8. Next meetings:

- a. Advisory Committee meeting:
 - i. Monday, October 18th, 2021 @ 9:30 a.m., hybrid
- b. Policy Committee meeting:
 - i. September 20th, 2021 @ 9:00 a.m., hybrid.
 - 1. Crooked Creek structure presentation, plus another in December once the project is complete.
 - 2. Wrapping up existing budget, discussing next budget.
 - 3. Prairie Strips.
- c. Planning Work Group meeting:
 - i. November 30th, 2021 @ 9:00 a.m., hybrid.
 - 1. Start budgeting

9. Meeting End @ 10:28 a.m.

Attendees:

Wanda Anderson – Winona County SWCD
Nikki Wheeler – Fillmore SWCD
Laura Christensen – Fillmore SWCD
Sheila Harmes – Winona County
Adam Beilke – BWSR
Dan Wermager – Root River SWCD
Dave Walter – Root River SWCD
Tim Ruzek – Cedar River Watershed District
Justin Hanson – Mower SWCD
Skip Langer – Olmsted SWCD