

Planning Workgroup for Root River One Watershed, One Plan
December 9th, 2022 @ 9:30 AM
Location: Zoom & Conservation Building (912 Houston St NW, Preston)

NOTES

Meeting Attendees: Adam Beilke, BWSR; Shaina Keseley, BWSR; Jeff Weiss, MN DNR; Emily Zanon, MPCA; Adam King, Dodge SWCD; Riley Buley, Fillmore SWCD; Nikki Wheeler, Fillmore SWCD; Skip Langer, Olmsted SWCD; Caitlin Meyer, Olmsted SWCD; Sheila Harmes, Winona County; Wanda Anderson, Winona County SWCD; Amanda Gentry, Winona County SWCD

1. Review & Rank RR 1W1P 5-Year Assessment Proposals from Consultants:
 - a. Houston Engineering Inc.
 - i. PWG recommends HEI's proposal at the current time. There will be an interview on 12/16/2022 to ask questions to HEI.
 - ii. HEI's proposal follows along with BWSR's 5-Year Assessment guidance; BWSR does not have any concerns with HEI's proposal, looks very thorough and on track.

2. Determine Time & Location for Consultant Interviews on Friday, December 16th, 2022:
 - a. Consultant interviews will occur on Friday, December 16th, 2022 at 9:30am via Zoom. The PWG will gather and compile questions for HEI and send the questions to HEI by the end of the day Tuesday (12/13/2022).
 - b. Anyone in the PWG with questions to send to HEI, send to Nikki ASAP. Nikki will be available Monday (12/12) afternoon at the MASWCD Convention to get together and compile questions in person.
 - c. Current questions:
 - i. How can they [HEI] guide us [the Partnership] to incorporate us in the process and get the needed information from us?
 - ii. Is the May 22nd, 2023 RR 1W1P PC meeting too late for HEI to give the PC an update; would an earlier date work better for HEI to update RR 1W1P PC?
 - d. Does HEI see involving the Advisory Committee through the process, if yes, how?
 - e. Interview will be held virtually via Zoom at 9:30am on Friday, December 16th, 2022

3. Discussion of Friends of the Root River Request for \$2,000 in Education/Outreach Funds from RR 1W1P for 2023 Events:
 - a. Ask FORR for a brief presentation on how their 2022 events went, ask if they have a brief tentative workplan for 2023 events that they are seeking funds for.

- b. Give the PC an update on FORR 2022 events and outcomes, and planned 2023 events
 - c. Potential to provide content for Root River FB page?
4. Partner Updates:
- a. Dodge SWCD:
 - i. No updates within the Root River Watershed
 - b. Olmsted SWCD:
 - i. Hopefully new full-time hire in 2023
 - 1. Education/Outreach, working with producers, technical work. Focused in on soil health (ARPA funds focus)
 - ii. Plans for seasonal staff
 - iii. Tap-In winding down on funding, potential for more funding for it from MDH as was a pilot
 - 1. Arc Hub; video, informational, etc
 - c. Winona SWCD:
 - i. Admin Assistant resigned, currently redistributing capacity within existing staff, plans to re-hire after grant reporting season is over.
 - d. Winona County:
 - i. Received a quote for the kiosks, per sign \$6,000-\$8,000, anti-graffiti signs. With that price, maybe would not plan to put in all the signs, but one or two signs at each site. New signs at each site would match existing kiosks (wood frame vs metal frame).
 - e. Fillmore SWCD:
 - i. Applied for 6-month CCM, emphasis in education/outreach
 - f. BWSR:
 - i. Next week BWSR Board Meeting; Mid-Point Planning Grant
 - 1. Funds to assist with evaluation, assessment, or amendment of plan
 - 2. Non-competitive, can request up to \$50,000
 - a. Entire proposal from HEI is acceptable use of funds
 - 3. Funds mainly from returned planning grants/unused WBIF funds
 - 4. Not for developing tracking tool/purchasing tracking system
 - ii. RCPP renewed, \$500,000 for projects on the ground
 - 1. Working on grant agreement with NRCS and MASWCD, likely 2024 will be the earliest for funds to be used
 - g. MN DNR:
 - i. LCCMR grant project plan submitted for legislature review
 - h. MPCA:
 - i. WRAPS Cycle II

1. Finish drafting report, give update to PWG before goes to final version
- ii. BALMM Dec 21st, 2022, in person @ Rochester MPCA office
- iii. Two new hires in MPCA Rochester office

5. Next Meetings:

- a. Advisory Committee Meeting:
 - i. Have an Advisory Committee meeting before HEI starts working on the 5-Year Assessment for any input from Advisory Committee
- b. Policy Committee Meeting:
 - i. January 30th, 2023
 - ii. Have HEI present to PC before the PC votes
 - iii. Any PC ideas they want us to do for outreach/education?
 1. Annual report
- c. Planning Workgroup Meeting:
 - i. Meet after HEI presentation on 12/16/2022 to discuss their presentation
- d. RR 1W1P 5-YR Assessment Consultant Interviews:
 - i. Friday, December 16th, 2022 @ 9:30am via Zoom

6. Other:

7. Adjourn:

- a. Meeting ended at 10:34 am