

Root River One Watershed, One Plan Planning Workgroup Meeting

June 6th, 2022

Location: Conservation Building Conference Room (912 Houston St NW, Preston, MN)

DRAFT NOTES

In-Person Attendees: Shaina Keseley, BWSR; Jeff Weiss, MN DNR; Adam King, Dodge SWCD; Anne Koliha, Fillmore SWCD; Nikki Wheeler, Fillmore SWCD; Tim Ruzek, Mower SWCD; Maddie Merten, Mower SWCD; Dave Walter, Root River SWCD; Dan Wermager, Root River SWCD; Sheila Harmes, Winona County; Wanda Anderson, Winona County SWCD

Zoom Attendees: Emily Zanon, MPCA; Skip Langer, Olmsted SWCD; Caitlin Brady, Olmsted SWCD

- Start Meeting at: 09:03 AM
- Discussion About Five-Year Plan Assessment (Shaina K, BWSR):
 - Discussion; see attachment
 - Ranking spreadsheet
- Update on Interpretive Kiosks (Sheila Harmes, Winona County):
 - We have all of the kiosk files for the Preston, MN location, but have been unable to locate all of the kiosk files for the Stewartville and Hokah locations. Will continue to reach out to current and former Minnesota Center for Changing Landscapes employees, as well as current and former BWSR and MPCA employees.
- Review of Root River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Implementation Policy:
 - Do we need updates/changes? Updates/changes will be brought to the RR1W1P Policy Committee meeting on June 27th.
 - Prairie strip contract length
 - \$40,000 max budget increased/eliminate the cap
 - Cover crop contract length, sign-up period, acreage cap (up to 50), using EQIP \$\$ amount for payment VS \$30 rate, add repeat if they're going above and beyond what they did the first 3 years (single to multi species, decrease in tillage/change in application)
 - List of items/documents needed before payment by fiscal agent
 - Remove RCPP line item
- Discuss Use of Civic Engagement Funds for I-90 Soil Health Tour (Dan Wermager, Root River SWCD):
 - \$2,000 for I-90 Soil Health tour in February, 2023, using 2022-2023 Civic Engagement funds.

- Review of 2020-2021 WBIF Financials:
 - 2018-2019 funds spent, grant closed out
 - Over 50% way through spending 2020-2021 funds

- Discuss Use of Interest Funds Earned on RR1W1P Account:
 - Meeting of PWG, PC and AC all together? Two meetings?
 - Fund a consultant for the five-year assessment?
 - Bring the annual report to life; targeted ads on social media; townsquare media - civic engagement?

- Update on 2022-2023 WBIF Grant Funds:
 - We got 'em. Start spending.

- Review RR1W1P Policy Committee Agenda:
 - Discussed.
 - Add plan for interest money
 - Talk about prairie strip budget increase
 - Ray Archuleta Soil Health Day, Science Sundays
 - Dave to present at September/October meeting
 - Skip might have an update for September/October meeting
 - Paul Hunter (Mower SWCD) to get drone footage for September meeting from projects around the watershed

- Next Meetings:
 - Advisory Committee Meeting
 - Policy Committee Meeting:
 - June 27th, 2022 at 9:00am in Preston (County Building, Room 108)
 - Planning Workgroup Meeting

- Other:
 - Science Sunday @ Stewartville June 12th, 2022
 - Competitive Clean Water Funds from BWSR opening

- End Meeting at 11:09 AM