

Meeting of the Policy Committee for Root River One Watershed One Plan
Monday, November 27th, 2023 at 9 AM
Room 108, 908 Houston St NW, Preston MN 55965

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present (in Person): Paul Fruechte, Crooked Creek Watershed District; Rodney Peterson, Dodge County Commissioner; Glenn Hahn, Dodge SWCD Supervisor; Duane Bakke, Fillmore County Commissioner; Kathy Tesmer, Fillmore SWCD Supervisor; Eric Johnson, Houston County Commissioner; Jim Kellogg, Mower SWCD Supervisor; James Rentz, Olmsted SWCD Supervisor; Marcia Ward, Winona County Commissioner; Tom Scarponcini, Winona County SWCD Supervisor

Members Present (via Zoom): Polly Glynn, Mower County Commissioner

Members Absent: Matt Feldmeier, Root River SWCD Supervisor; Glenn Kruse, Root River SWCD Supervisor; Brian Mueller, Olmsted County Commissioner

Others Present (in Person): Adam Beilke, BWSR; Riley Buley, Fillmore SWCD; Nikki Wheeler, Fillmore SWCD; Dean Thomas, Fillmore SWCD; Dan Wermager, Root River SWCD; Cody Fox, Mower SWCD

Others Present (via Zoom): Dave Copeland, BWSR; Emily Zanon, MPCA; Adam King, Dodge SWCD; Beau Kennedy, Goodhue SWCD; Skip Langer, Olmsted SWCD; Caitlin Meyer, Olmsted SWCD; Sheila Harmes, Winona County; Wanda Anderson, Winona County SWCD; Amanda Gentry, Winona County SWCD; Jim McKay, Winona County SWCD; Abby Hoffman, Winona County SWCD; Rachel Olm, HEI

1. Open Meeting at 09:05 am.

- a. Meeting opened by Bakke.

2. Roll Call:

- a. Fruechte, Peterson, Hahn, Bakke, Tesmer, Johnson, Glynn, Kellogg, Scarponcini.

– **Marcia Ward entered meeting at 09:10 am.** –

3. Approval of Agenda:

- a. With the addition of changing item b. in Reports to b. in General Business, moved by Peterson, seconded by Tesmer, carried unanimously.
 - i. Ayes: Fruechte, Peterson, Hahn, Bakke, Tesmer, Johnson, Glynn, Kellogg, Ward, Scarponcini.
 - ii. Nays: None.

4. Secretary's Report:

- a. Approval of August 28th, 2023 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes:
 - i. Without additions; moved by Ward, seconded by Peterson, carried unanimously.
 - a. Ayes: Fruechte, Peterson, Hahn, Bakke, Tesmer, Johnson, Glynn, Kellogg, Ward, Scarponcini.
 - b. Nays: None.

– **James Rentz entered meeting at 09:16 am** –

5. Financial Report(s):

- a. Acknowledge Root River 1W1P Financials:
 - i. Discussion on future potential for more focus on groundwater/private wells, treatment.
 - a. **NOTE:** BWSR funds (RR1W1P funds) can be used for well sealing, but cannot be used for Reverse Osmosis systems or other treatment of drinking water.
 - ii. Motion to acknowledge payables made by Kellogg, seconded by Ward, carried unanimously.
 - a. Ayes: Fruechte, Peterson, Hahn, Bakke, Tesmer, Johnson, Glynn, Rentz, Kellogg, Ward, Scarponcini.
 - b. Nays: None.

6. General Business:

- a. RR 1W1P 5-Year Assessment Progress Update – Rachel Olm, Houston Engineering Inc.
 - i. With addition of specifying no trend for SURFACE WATER nitrate concentrations, with more data pending, 5-YA documents are ready for public distribution. HEI will send updated documents to Fillmore SWCD, Fillmore SWCD will disburse 5-YA documents to PWG, AC, PC, and post them on RR1W1P webpage on Fillmore SWCD website.
 - a. Motion to approve 5-Year Assessment documents presented by HEI, with suggested changes, moved by Ward, seconded by Johnson, approved unanimously.
 - 1. Ayes: Fruechte, Peterson, Hahn, Bakke, Tesmer, Johnson, Glynn, Rentz, Kellogg, Ward, Scarponcini.
 - 2. Nays: None.
- b. Fillmore SWCD Grazing Project Presentation – Dean Thomas, Fillmore SWCD:
 - i. Presentation provided.

– BREAK called by Chair at 10:43 am –

– Meeting resumed by Chair at 10:51 am –

- c. Approve 2024-2025 RR1W1P Workplan:
 - i. Discussion:
 - a. PC would like the following information presented at the next PC meeting for further clarification prior to approving the current draft of the 2024-2025 RR1W1P Workplan:
 - 1. Job description for Soil Health Outreach Coordinator position funded with RR1W1P & MN Soil Health Coalition (MN SHC);
 - 2. Job description for RR1W1P Technical Outreach Coordinator position funded with RR1W1P & The Nature Conservancy (TNC);
 - 3. Presentation from MN SHC on their organizations mission, direction they see the position going, expectations, how the employees' progress/accomplishments will be tracked/effectiveness determined;
 - 4. Presentation from TNC on their organizations mission, direction they see the position going, expectations, how the employees' progress/accomplishments will be tracked/effectiveness determined;
 - 5. More information on Hokah Streambank Restoration proposed project, and;
 - 6. More information on what data/inputs are required for the Riparian Ranking Analysis process.
 - ii. PWG will bring requested information to February 26th, 2024 RR1W1P PC meeting for PC to approve 2024-2025 RR1W1P Workplan.

- Rodney Peterson left meeting at 11:39 am –
- Rodney Peterson returned to meeting at 11:41 am –
- Kathy Tesmer left meeting at 11:48 am and did not return –
- Rodney Peterson left meeting at 11:58 am and did not return –

7. Reports:

- a. Review Root River 1W1P 2020-2021 & 2022-2023 Cost-Share Projects:
 - i. RR1W1P 2020-2021 Cost-Share Payables Update.
 - ii. RR1W1P 2022-2023 Cost-Share Payables Update.
- b. Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC) project Root River Watershed Feature <https://bit.ly/WQ-StoryMap>
 - i. Link will be sent out to PC, and also posted on Fillmore SWCD website.
- c. Reports from Policy Committee Members:
 - i. Crooked Creek WD:
 - a. No update provided.
 - ii. Dodge County & SWCD:
 - a. No update provided.
 - iii. Fillmore County & SWCD:
 - a. No update provided.
 - iv. Houston County & SWCD:
 - a. No update provided.
 - v. Mower County & SWCD:
 - a. Prairie Strips and Strip Till programs have had overwhelming interest and success this year.
 - vi. Olmsted County & SWCD:
 - a. No update provided.
 - vii. Winona County & SWCD:
 - a. No update provided.
- d. Next Policy Committee Meeting:
 - i. Monday, February 26th, 2024 @ 9:00am in Room 108, 902 Houston St NW, Preston, MN 55965 with virtual option.

8. Adjournment at 12:13 pm:

- a. Motion to adjourn meeting moved by Ward, seconded by Johnson.
 - i. Ayes: Fruechte, Peterson, Hahn, Bakke, Tesmer, Johnson, Glynn, Rentz, Kellogg, Ward, Scarponcini.
 - ii. Nays: None.