

Meeting of the Advisory Committee for Root River, One Watershed One Plan

June 30, 2015, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Meeting Notes

In attendance: Donna Rasmussen, Mark Deutschman, Nicole Lehman, Daryl Buck, Sheila Harmes, David Schmidt, Tim Connolly, Rich Enochs, Pat Bailey, Jeff Hastings, Melissa Lewis, Tom Gile, Justin Hanson, Jennifer Ronnenberg, Dave Walter,

1. Open meeting: Donna Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.
2. Introductions were made.
3. Approve Agenda: no changes made to the agenda.
4. New Business
 - a. Update on Planning Process Status: Mark Deutschman reported on the status of the planning process. A working draft of the plan will be ready for the Planning Work Group (PWG) to begin reviewing this week. It is anticipated that the plan will be ready for outside review by early fall. The Policy Committee is discussing the governance structure; they made a decision at their last meeting to continue to work together on plan implementation but still need to decide on the structure. Things will slow down to allow time for the PWG to thoroughly review the plan. Mark explained the process for prioritizing the resource concerns. The concerns come from the priorities identified by the state agencies and in local water management plans; no concerns are being eliminated. Some, like those in the “C” category, may not be implemented by local government but by other agencies or groups. Due to the interconnectedness of the resource concerns, addressing “A” concerns may serve to address others.. A series of concerns maps will be in the plan to help identify where implementation will start on the landscape. Goals and the targeted implementation schedule in the plan define the desired outcome and what has to happen in the environment to achieve the desired outcome. Measurable goals have two parts: what we measure and an amount. Actions outline the what, who, when, where, how much money and funding sources. Plan components include: General Operations, Statutory Obligations, Local Ordinances, Financial Incentive Programs, Education/Outreach/Data, and Capital Projects. Common protection definitions are those of the MCPA, DNR, and MDH. State, federal and local funding will be cross-referenced. The governance issue may take several months to work through. Considerations include funding, consistency of education/outreach, landowner expectations, efficiency, central administration/fiscal/reporting duties, and capital projects.
 - b. Open Forum: A key question is how the Advisory Committee communicates with the Policy Committee either through the PWG or through an appointed representative. At the last meeting, it was decided to go through the PWG. However the Policy Committee may wish to hear from others besides the usual staff. Maybe subcommittees could be established to work on specific concerns. It was suggested that the Advisory Committee can sometimes reach consensus but may not. They may also have the role of identifying where there is lack of agreement and potential unintended consequences. After lengthy discussion, it was the consensus to continue to meet as a group and have more specific topics on future agendas so all those who are interested will participate. To get the most valuable input from the Advisory Committee, break the plan into segments for review. Their input is needed before the plan goes public. There will be a draft within a month to react to and provide input. A record will be maintained of the comments and the response/incorporation into the plan.
5. Next meeting of the Advisory Committee will be in early August with more frequent meetings thereafter. By August, the plan may be ready to break out pieces to focus on. Send out a meeting date as soon as possible. The future meeting dates may need to be adjusted to allow enough time for review. The PWG will discuss this more next week. The meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

July 6, 2015: Policy Committee meeting: review of Goals/Preparation for Implementation Schedule

August 3-5, 2015: Policy Committee meeting

September 14, 2015: Possible Policy Committee meeting: Review of Draft Implementation Schedule

October 5, 2015: Policy Committee meeting

November 2, 2015: Review/Approval of Draft Plan Document and Reassess the Formal Agreement

February 15-March 1, 2016: Public Hearing Meetings and Response to Summary of Public Comments

June 2016: Approval of Final Plan Document and Submission to BWSR