

Policy Committee for Root River, One Watershed One Plan
Monday, July 6, 2015
Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Tim Gabrielson, Glen Hahn, Dana Kjome, Jerry Mueller, Steve Connelly, Marcia Ward, Duane Bakke, Matt Flynn, Richard Gehling

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair Bakke at 9:06 a.m.
2. Approve Agenda: Tim Gabrielson moved to approve the agenda with the addition of item h. under New Business, an action item to approve payment of the invoice from Winona SWCD for \$307.25; seconded by Matt Flynn; motion passed unanimously.
3. Approve minutes of the 6/3/2015 meeting: Marcia Ward moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Steve Connelly; motion passed unanimously.
4. Old Business
Status update:
Mark Deutschman, HEI, reported that the draft plan will likely be available to the Policy Committee in September. A draft was delivered to the Planning Work Group (PWG) on Wednesday. It is about 75% done without PWG review. Time will be taken at this point for a thorough review.

There is still work being done on the protection strategy to be consistent with state definitions. Implementation functions in the plan include determining how to implement the plan either with existing staff or with dedicated staff to do daily operations, fiscal management, etc. The roles for the committees as they are drafted now assume that implementation will be done with existing staff. It is anticipated that an annual work plan and budget will be approved by the Policy Committee with recommendations from the PWG. Next meeting's governance discussion with the Winona County Attorney should consider things such as competitive grants, consistency (e.g. ordinances), landowner expectations, efficiency, central administration/ fiscal responsibilities/ reporting, and capital projects. Drivers include funding needs and capital improvements.

The plan review process will start with the PWG, then go to the Advisory Committee, the Policy Committee, and the public. There was lengthy discussion about the review process and how and when the Policy Committee and members of the public will review the draft so that there is still opportunity for input.

Mark went through the sections of the plan. A key decision was identifying the priority resource concerns. Measurable goals were completed by HEI last week. He showed an example of the relationship between goals, strategies and actions. The actions will go into a table that identifies them as either protection or restoration, the metric and amount, the location, funding, responsible party and the timeline. The table is a tool for the PWG to do the annual work plans. There are two ordinances that could be a focus watershed-wide: soil loss and sinkholes. Sediment is an issue affecting a resource concern (rivers and streams), and sinkholes are a direct conduit to groundwater. Five of the six counties have a soil erosion ordinance. Although different, they could be modified to be more consistent. A sinkhole ordinance would relate to setbacks and buffers. Capital projects are not required in the plan but may want to be included. Examples are repairing flood control structures, constructing more larger storage structures, larger streambank projects, or projects in entire tributaries.

There was discussion about the Advisory Committee and PWG meetings and the need for the Policy Committee to have more information about those meeting discussions. Copies of those meeting notes will be sent to the Policy Committee.

The August meeting for the Policy Committee will include discussions about governance and money related to how existing budgets are linked to the initiatives.

5. New Business

Action Item: Approve payment of HEI Inc. invoice #0025135, dated June 01, 2015 for \$23,411.50: Moved by Matt Flynn to approve payment; seconded by Dana Kjome; passed unanimously.

Action Item: Approve payment of Fillmore SWCD invoice #8637, dated June 29, 2015, for \$11,298.81 for expenses from January 21 to June 19, 2015: Moved by Steve Connelly to approve payment; seconded by Matt Flynn; passed unanimously.

Action Item: Approve June 29, 2015 Financial Report: Moved by Matt Flynn to approve the June Financial Report; seconded by Glen Hahn; passed unanimously.

Action Item: Approve payment of Winona SWCD invoice #2015-87 for \$307.25: Moved by Tim Gabrielson to approve payment; seconded by Jerry Mueller; passed unanimously.

Update on Advisory Committee Meeting: The Advisory Committee meeting was held last Tuesday, June 30. It was mostly agency representatives in attendance. Business and producer groups were missing. Every attempt is being made to include these groups which will be documented. There was discussion about identifying specific areas where Advisory Committee help is needed, e.g. financial incentives and where they can contribute either technical or financial assistance. The Advisory Committee discussed the method for communicating with the Policy Committee with the consensus still to communicate through the PWG rather than directly with the Policy Committee. One attendee did point out the differences between the Advisory Committee and others who had input into the priority resource concerns.

6. Next meeting

Review dates for upcoming meetings: There is a conflict for the September 14th meeting, so that meeting is moved to August 31st.

Agenda items: Governance discussion with Winona County Attorney; money and estimating budgets linked to initiatives.

The committee is encouraged to view the websites for the other pilot projects.

Dodge SWCD distributed information for a field day about saturated buffers on July 21 at Kasson.

7. Adjourn: Moved by Marcia Ward to adjourn; seconded by Glen Hahn; passed unanimously.

Marcia Ward, Secretary

Upcoming Meetings of the Policy Committee:

August 5, 2015: Policy Committee meeting **NOTE CHANGE TO WEDNESDAY**

~~September 14, 2015~~ **August 31, 2015:** 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