

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

June 22, 2020, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Zoom/Call-In

DRAFT NOTES

Members Present: Glenn Hahn, Dodge SWCD Supervisor; Duane Bakke, Fillmore County Commissioner; Eric Johnson, Houston County Commissioner; Tim Gabrielson, Mower County Commissioner; Jim Kellogg, Mower SWCD Supervisor; Steve Connelly, Olmsted SWCD Supervisor; Jerry Mueller, Winona SWCD Supervisor; Marcia Ward, Winona County Commissioner

Members Absent: Rodney Peterson, Dodge County Commissioner; Brian Hazel, Fillmore SWCD Supervisor; Glenn Kruse, Root River SWCD Supervisor; Matt Flynn, Olmsted County Commissioner; Paul Fruechete, Crooked Creek Watershed District

Others Present: Adam Beilke, BWSR; Kevin Kuehner, MDA; Adam King, Dodge SWCD; Laura Christensen, Fillmore SWCD; Nikki Shaw, Fillmore SWCD; Justin Hanson, Mower SWCD; Paul Hunter, Mower SWCD; Skip Langer, Olmsted SWCD; Dave Walter, Root River SWCD; Sheila Harmes, Winona County; Daryl Buck, Winona SWCD

1. **Open meeting @ 09:07 AM:**
 - a. Meeting opened by Duane Bakke.
2. **Approval of agenda:**
 - a. With additions; moved by Mueller, seconded by Ward, carried unanimously.
 - i. Jeff Broberg, MN Well Owners Organization, was not present, presentation stricken from agenda.
3. **Approval of February 24, 2020 Policy Committee meeting minutes:**
 - a. Without changes; moved by Mueller, seconded by Ward, carried unanimously.
4. **Old Business:**
 - a. Project updates:
 - ~~i. Jeff Broberg – MNWOO:~~
 - ii. Olmsted SWCD – Skip Langer:
 1. Ferrier Terrace Project
 2. Landowner was interested in a terrace rehabilitation project; assisted by NRCS and SWCD. \$3.50/ft estimated cost, or \$37,252.50, for 1.95 miles of terrace. EQIP covered 33% (\$11,126.25), Root River 1W1P covered 42% (14,270.63), landowner paid 25% (8,465.62), total project was over two years. Landowner original plan was to spread the project over three years, but after being able to use RR 1W1P funding the project was able to be completed in two years.
 - iii. Mower SWCD – Paul Hunter:
 1. Grassed waterways; Grand Meadow, Clayton, and Bennington Townships in Eastern Mower County (Middle Branch & South Branch of the Root River).
 2. Cost share is at 90%, all 1W1P funding. Planning to get all of the following projects done this summer, weather dependent.
 - a. Sprau, Clayton Township, Middle Branch Root River:
 - i. Two WASCObS constructed 20+ years ago; are past lifetime and in need of repair. Gullyng occurring over the top of the existing basins.
 - ii. Is currently farming east-west, would like option to farm north-south.
 - iii. ~ 500 feet of waterway
 - iv. Total cost estimate: \$3,300
 - b. Gehling/Stier, Clayton Township, Middle Branch Root River:

- i. Waterway will split the two properties, crossing the property line, weaving back and forth to best manage the water.
- ii. Total cost estimate: \$19,600
- c. Carpenter, Grand Meadow Township, Middle Branch Root River:
 - i. ~1.6 miles of waterway, three different branches of waterway; treating ~400 acres.
 - 1. Total cost estimate: \$58,400, final cost will likely be under.
- d. Brincks/Carpenter, Bennington Township, South Branch Root River:
 - i. 2100 feet of waterway
 - 1. Total cost estimate: \$15,500

5. New Business:

- a. 2018-19 & 2020-21 Watershed Based Funding:
 - i. 2018-19 Grant:
 - 1. Approve Financials (Bills Payable):
 - a. Moved by Mueller, seconded by Johnson, carried.
 - i. 8 Ayes: Hahn, Bakke, Johnson, Gabrielson, Kellogg, Connelly, Mueller, Ward.
 - 2. Acknowledge Budget and Cost-Share Requests:
 - a. Acknowledged; discussion between Root River 1W1P Policy Committee and Staff for clarifications.
 - 3. Approve Exhibit A – Amendment 6:
 - a. Moved by Mueller, seconded by Connelly, carried.
 - i. 8 Ayes: Hahn, Bakke, Johnson, Gabrielson, Kellogg, Connelly, Mueller, Ward.
 - ii. 2020-21 Grant:
 - 1. Approve Financials (Bills Payable):
 - a. Moved by Mueller, seconded by Ward, carried.
 - i. 8 Ayes: Hahn, Bakke, Johnson, Gabrielson, Kellogg, Connelly, Mueller, Ward.
 - 2. Acknowledge Budget and Cost-Share Requests:
 - a. Acknowledged; discussion between Root River 1W1P Policy Committee and Staff for clarifications.
- b. Approve funding total project cost for the Crooked Creek Structure:
 - i. Dave Walter, Root River SWCD, mentioned that due to some engineering difficulties, the Root River 1W1P Policy Committee can push back a decision on this project until fall or winter in order to have a proper discussion. Policy Committee concurred. No action taken.
- c. Review Community Assessment and Engagement in the Root River Watershed, Minnesota draft document:
 - i. Discussion among Root River 1W1P Policy Committee and staff, opened for comments or questions.
 - 1. Overall comments made on the make-up of the groups who were surveyed, considering lack of ties to the land to overall survey volunteers. Comments already made by SWCD staff were in line with comments by the Policy Committee, no additional formal comments were made by the Policy Committee.
- d. Discuss including Incentive Payments using 20-21 Watershed-Based Funding – Justin Hanson, Mower SWCD:
 - i. Field Buffer Project, Prairie Strips in the glacial till landscape of the Root River 1W1P:
 - 1. Partners:
 - a. MN Dept. of Ag., Mower SWCD, Fillmore SWCD, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Nature Conservancy, MN Ag. Water Resources Center.
 - ii. **Example of the proposed project:**
 - a. A farm is four acres of buffer;
 - b. CRP pays \$180/acre;
 - c. Incentive program pays \$80/acre (Root River 1W1P funding);
 - d. Total CRP rate of \$260/acre;
 - 2. Landowner would get: \$260/acre from federal and state incentive;

3. 1W1P payment would be paid out in lump sum after establishment:
 - a. 4 acres X \$80/acre = \$320/year X 10 year program contract = \$3,200
4. Partnership Contribution:
 - a. MN Dept. of Ag. - \$50,000
 - b. Fishers & Farmers (US Fish & Wildlife) - \$40,000
 - c. US Dept. of Ag. Farm Program - \$90,000
 - d. Requesting: Root River 1W1P Funding – about \$40,000
- iii. Discussion among Root River 1W1P Policy Committee, BWSR, and SWCD staff.
- iv. Moved by Mueller, seconded by Hahn, that the Policy Committee supports the effort of this project, with no set funding amount yet tied to the 1W1P portion of the potential project.
 1. 8 Ayes: Hahn, Bakke, Johnson, Gabrielson, Kellogg, Connelly, Mueller, Ward.

6. Next meeting:

- a. Review plans for upcoming meetings:
 - i. Discussed.
- b. Set next date for Policy Committee meeting:
 - i. August 24th, 2020
- c. Agenda items:
 - i. Discussed.

7. Adjourn @ 11:14 AM:

- a. Moved by Johnson, seconded by Mueller, carried unanimously.

Encls: February 24, 2020 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
Budget – Root River 1W1P 2018-19 Grant
Budget – Root River 1W1P 2020-21 Grant
Cost-Share Requests – Root River 1W1P 2018-19 Grant
Cost-Share Requests – Root River 1W1P 2020-2021 Grant
Exhibit A – Amendment 6 Draft
Financials – Root River 1W1P 2018-19 Grant
Financials – Root River 1W1P 2020-21 Grant
Community Assessment and Engagement in the Root River Watershed, MN Draft