

Meeting of the Policy Committee for Root River One Watershed, One Plan
Monday, December 20, 2021, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Room 108, Fillmore County Office Building, 902 Houston Street NW, Preston, MN

MEETING NOTES

*****NOTE: There was not a quorum present, therefore no motions were made, but discussion occurred among the Policy Committee members present and staff in a more informal setting.**

Members Present: Paul Fruechte, Crooked Creek Watershed District; Rodney Peterson, Dodge County Commissioner; Glenn Hahn, Dodge SWCD Supervisor; Tim Gossman, Fillmore SWCD Supervisor; Glenn Kruse, Root River SWCD Supervisor; Marcia Ward, Winona County Commissioner; Gerry Mueller, Winona County SWCD Supervisor

Members Absent: Duane Bakke, Fillmore County Commissioner; Eric Johnson, Houston County Commissioner; Jeff Baldus, Mower County Commissioner; Jim Kellogg, Mower SWCD Supervisor; Matt Flynn, Olmsted County Commissioner; Steve Connelly, Olmsted SWCD Supervisor

Others Present: Adam Beilke, BWSR; Pete Fryer, SE SWCD Technical Support JPB; Adam King, Dodge SWCD; Laura Christensen, Fillmore SWCD; Nikki Wheeler, Fillmore SWCD; Anne Koliha, Fillmore SWCD; Justin Hanson, Mower SWCD; Jensen Bigelow, Mower SWCD; Skip Langer, Olmsted SWCD; Dan Wermager, Root River SWCD; Sheila Harmes, Winona County; Wanda Anderson, Winona County SWCD;

- 1) Open Meeting @ 09:14 a.m.
 - a. Meeting opened by Mueller.
 - b. **NOTE: There was not a quorum present, therefore no motions were made, but discussion occurred among the Policy Committee members present and staff in a more informal setting.**
- 2) Approval of Agenda:
 - a. No additions were made to the agenda by the Policy Committee due to not having a quorum present; any agenda items that required a movement by Policy Committee members will be brought back to the next Policy Committee meeting.
- 3) Approval of September 20th, 2021 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes:
 - a. Policy Committee members in attendance did not have any issues or requested changes to the September 20, 2021 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes, however, no motion was made due to not having a quorum present.
- 4) Old Business:
 - a. Report from area GreenCorps Member – Jensen Bigelow:
 - i. Jensen gave the Policy Committee an update on recent projects completed as well as ongoing progress; she is currently in the process of creating an Annual Report for the Root River Watershed that highlights projects throughout the watershed in a reader-friendly format.
- 5) New Business:
 - a. Cost-Share Projects – Presentations:
 - i. Winona County SWCD – Pete Fryer:
 1. Pete gave the Policy Committee an overview of a Grade Stabilization Structure completed using 2018-2019 1W1P WBIF funds.
 - ii. Olmsted SWCD – Skip Langer:
 1. Due to technical difficulties, project presentation will be at next meeting.
 - b. 2018-2019 Root River 1W1P Grant C18-5518:
 - i. Acknowledge Financials:
 1. Reviewed by Wanda Anderson.

- ii. Acknowledge Budget:
 - 1. Reviewed by Wanda Anderson.
 - iii. Cost-Share Projects:
 - 1. Reviewed by Wanda Anderson.
 - c. 2020-2021 Root River 1W1P Grant C20-9174:
 - i. Acknowledge Financials:
 - 1. Reviewed by Wanda Anderson.
 - ii. Acknowledge Budget:
 - 1. Reviewed by Wanda Anderson.
 - iii. Cost-Share Projects:
 - 1. Reviewed by Wanda Anderson.
 - d. Prairie Strip incentive – Justin Hanson, Mower SWCD:
 - i. Reported great success of interest and sign-ups for the prairie strips. Looking to allocate more 1W1P WBIF funds towards this project in the upcoming 2022-2023 workplan, if the Policy Committee approves. There was originally anticipation for more landowners to sign-up for 10-year contracts vs. 15-year contracts, however, the majority of landowners have chosen to sign-up for 15-year contracts, and even add in more prairie strips than staff anticipated, causing the initial budget of \$40,000 for the program to be depleted quickly. So far it has been a well-loved and used program by both landowners and staff, and preliminary data has been showing very positive impacts.
 - e. Report from Policy Committee Members Regarding Feedback from Their Respective Boards:
 - i. Water level monitoring investigation report from respective counties:
 - 1. Discussion will be brought back to the next Policy Committee meeting.
 - f. Update from Advisory Committee Meeting – Nikki Wheeler:
- 6) Next Meeting:
 - a. Review plans for upcoming meetings:
 - b. Set next date for Policy Committee meeting:
 - i. March 21st, 2022 at 9:00am at the Fillmore County Office Building, Room 108
 - c. Agenda items:
 - i. Skip Langer, Olmsted SWCD – 2018-2019 1W1P WBIF project video
 - ii. Skip Langer, Olmsted SWCD – 2020-2021 1W1P WBIF project video
 - iii. Approve Workplan for 2022-2023 1W1P WBIF grant
- 7) Adjourn @ 10:46 a.m.
 - a. Meeting adjourned by Mueller.