

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

Monday, June 27, 2022, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Room 108, Fillmore County Office Building, 902 Houston St NW, Preston, MN

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: 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; Glenn Kruse, Root River SWCD Supervisor; Jim Kellogg, Mower SWCD Supervisor; Matt Flynn, Olmsted County Commissioner; Gerry Mueller, Winona County SWCD Supervisor

Members Absent: Paul Fruechte, Crooked Creek Watershed District; Jeff Baldus, Mower County Commissioner; Steve Connelly, Olmsted SWCD Supervisor; Marcia Ward, Winona County Commissioner

Others Present: Adam Beilke, BWSR; John DeGeorge, Fillmore County; Jason Harmening, Fillmore County; Nikki Wheeler, Fillmore SWCD; Sara West, Fillmore SWCD; Maggie Windingstad, Fillmore SWCD; Dave Walter, Root River SWCD; Dan Wermager, Root River SWCD; James Fett, Mower SWCD; Skip Langer, Olmsted SWCD; Sheila Harmes, Winona County; Amanda Gentry, Winona County SWCD

1) Open meeting @ 09:03 am.

- a) Meeting opened by Duane Bakke.

2) Approval of Agenda:

- a) Without additions; moved by Peterson, seconded by Kellogg, carried unanimously.
 - i) Yays: Peterson, Hahn, Bakke, Tesmer, Johnson, Kruse, Kellogg, Flynn, Mueller.
 - ii) Nays: None

3) Secretary's Report:

- a) Approval of March 21, 2022 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes:
 - i) Without additions; moved by Tesmer, seconded by Kellogg, carried unanimously.
 - (1) Yays: Peterson, Hahn, Bakke, Tesmer, Johnson, Kruse, Kellogg, Flynn, Mueller.
 - (2) Nays: None.

4) Financial Report(s):

- a) Acknowledge Root River 1W1P WBIF Financials:
 - i) Motion to accept the financials as presented moved by Peterson, seconded by Kellogg, carried unanimously.
 - (1) Yays: Peterson, Hahn, Bakke, Tesmer, Johnson, Kruse, Kellogg, Flynn, Mueller.
 - (2) Nays: None.

5) Roll Call:

- a) 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; Glenn Kruse, Root River SWCD Supervisor; Jim Kellogg, Mower SWCD Supervisor; Matt Flynn, Olmsted County Commissioner; Gerry Mueller, Winona County SWCD Supervisor.

6) Reports:

- a) Report from Fillmore County Sheriff and Emergency Management team on Emergency Management Protocol – Sheriff DeGeorge and Deputy Harmening:
 - i) Fillmore County Emergency Management uses multiple sources for information during inclement and/or threatening weather to determine the best course of action, as well as who to notify depending on where the weather will be. There is limited cell phone reception as well as limited radio capabilities in portions of the county, so in places where that form of communication is limited, the County Sheriffs Department, with assistance from local city Police Departments, Volunteer Fire Departments, city Fire Departments, weather spotters, etc., will go out and notify impacted people and businesses in person. Municipalities will also be notified.
 - ii) Local internet providers have really been working to increase access to broadband internet in rural parts of the county; this is especially helpful in places where cell phone reception is limited. Many newer cell phones have Wi-Fi calling and texting capabilities, so if close enough to Wi-Fi reception, emergency alerts can still be received via cell phones.
 - iii) Fillmore County provides a service called Code Red for emergency weather alerts; visit <https://www.co.fillmore.mn.us/> for more information.
 - iv) **If any person wants to alert the Sheriffs Department of threatening weather, travel impacts, flood impacts, or other situations in which property or human safety is at risk, CALL 911.**
- b) Other Reports from Policy Committee Members:
 - i) Dodge:
(1) None.
 - ii) Houston:
(1) None.
 - iii) Mower:
(1) None.
 - iv) Olmsted:
(1) None.
 - v) Winona:
(1) None.
- c) Prairie Strip Program – James Fett, Mower SWCD:
 - i) Overview of how program has been going; program is currently going very well and has been a very successful conservation practice.
 - ii) Video of prairie strips watched: <https://youtu.be/xON6ruZs724>
(1) *** Nikki Wheeler will contact Kevin Kuehner to have prairie strip soil and nutrient runoff impact data sent to the Policy Committee.
- d) Highlight of Events:
 - i) Soil Health Event in Spring Valley – Nikki Wheeler, Fillmore SWCD:
(1) PowerPoint Presentation of pictures shown; 88 people were in attendance, many positive things said from attendees.
 - ii) Friends of the Root River Science Sundays:
(1) Have been going well; last Science Sunday of 2022 will be held July 24th in Chatfield, MN and will be a float down the Root River, followed by a river study at Parsley Bridge.

7) General Business:

a) General Business:

i) Review Root River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Implementation Policy:

(1) Reviewed, moved to accept with the following changes:

(a) Under Non-Structural Financial Assistance, under CRP: CP43 Prairie Strip – removal of the first bullet point that states, “Pilot in the Headwaters of Middle & South Branch – Mower County; \$40,000 maximum budget.” This action ends this program as a pilot, and opens it up to the rest of the Root River 1W1P plan area, as well as eliminates the budget cap for CP43 for Mower SWCD. Each SWCD that uses RR1W1P funds to cost-share on CP43 practices will use funds from their allocated ‘Ag Practices’ budget line item.

(b) Motion to accept the Root River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Implementation Policy based on the above changes moved by Peterson, seconded by Johnson, carried unanimously.

(i) Yays: Peterson, Hahn, Bakke, Tesmer, Johnson, Kruse, Kellogg, Flynn, Mueller.

(ii) Nays: None.

ii) Discussion on 5-year plan assessment:

(1) The RR 1W1P Planning Work Group will bring an update on progress to the September RR 1W1P Policy Committee meeting, and at that meeting will determine if it will be ready to present the final deliverables at the January RR 1W1P PC meeting, or at the April RR 1W1P PC meeting.

iii) Schedule next Policy Committee Meeting date:

(1) September 26th, 2022 at 9:00am at Fillmore County Building, Room 108.

➤ **Peterson left the room at 10:39am and returned at 10:44am.**

8) Adjourn @ 10:45 am.

a) Motion to adjourn moved by Peterson, seconded by Kellogg, moved unanimously.

i) Yays: Peterson, Hahn, Bakke, Tesmer, Johnson, Kruse, Kellogg, Flynn, Mueller.

ii) Nays: None.