

**Meeting of the Policy Committee for Root River One Watershed One Plan
Monday, January 30th, 2023 at 9 AM
Room 108, Fillmore County Office Building, 902 Houston St NW, Preston, MN**

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Paul Fruechte, Crooked Creek Watershed District; Rodney Peterson, Dodge County Commissioner; Duane Bakke, Fillmore County Commissioner; Kathy Tesmer, Fillmore SWCD Supervisor; Glenn Kruse, Root River SWCD Supervisor; Jim Kellogg, Mower SWCD Supervisor; Brian Mueller, Olmsted County Commissioner; Steve Connelly, Olmsted SWCD Supervisor; Marcia Ward, Winona County Commissioner; Andy Kronebusch, Winona County SWCD Supervisor

Members Absent: Glenn Hahn, Dodge SWCD Supervisor; Eric Johnson, Houston County Commissioner; Polly Glynn, Mower County Commissioner

Others Present (in Person): Adam Beilke, BWSR; Riley Buley, Fillmore SWCD; Nikki Wheeler, Fillmore SWCD; Dave Walter, Root River SWCD; Dan Wermager, Root River SWCD; Cody Fox, Mower SWCD; Skip Langer, Olmsted SWCD; Sheila Harmes, Winona County; Wanda Anderson, Winona County SWCD; Amanda Gentry, Winona County SWCD

Others Present (via Zoom): Jenny Mocol-Johnson, BWSR; Rachel Olm, HEI; Shaina Keseley, BWSR;

- I. **Open Meeting at 09:03 am.**
 - a. Meeting opened by Nikki Wheeler.

- II. **Roll Call:**
 - a. Fruechte, Peterson, Bakke, Tesmer, Kruse, Kellogg, Mueller, Connelly, Ward.

- III. **Approval of Agenda:**
 - a. Without additions; moved by Peterson, seconded by Ward, carried unanimously.
 - i. Ayes: Fruechte, Peterson, Bakke, Tesmer, Kruse, Kellogg, Mueller, Connelly, Ward.
 - ii. Nays: None.

- IV. **Overview of Root River 1W1P Committees, their roles, and the RR 1W1P for new Policy Committee members – Nikki Wheeler, Fillmore SWCD & Adam Beilke, BWSR:**
 - a. Slideshow presented to Policy Committee.
 - b. Policy Committee requested digital copy of presentation be sent out via e-mail to PC members following meeting.

- Shaina Keseley, BWSR entered meeting via Zoom at 09:08am -

- Andy Kronebusch, Winona County SWCD entered meeting at 09:11am -

V. Election of Officers:

- a. Nomination for Chair by Ward for Bakke, seconded by Peterson.
 - i. Motion to move for all nominations to cease and cast a unanimous ballot for Bakke for Chair moved by Ward, seconded by Peterson.
 1. Ayes: Fruechte, Peterson, Bakke, Tesmer, Kruse, Kellogg, Mueller, Connelly, Ward, Kronebusch.
 2. Nays: None
- b. Nomination for Vice Chair by Connelly for Ward, seconded by Kronebusch.
 - i. Motion to move for all nominations cease and cast a unanimous ballot for Ward for Vice Chair moved by Kellogg, seconded by Peterson.
 1. Ayes: Fruechte, Peterson, Bakke, Tesmer, Kruse, Kellogg, Mueller, Connelly, Ward, Kronebusch.
 2. Nays: None.
- c. Nomination for Secretary by Ward for Fruechte, seconded by Peterson.
 - i. Motion to move for all nominations cease and cast a unanimous ballot for Fruechte for Secretary moved by Kellogg, seconded by Peterson.
 1. Ayes: Fruechte, Peterson, Bakke, Tesmer, Kruse, Kellogg, Mueller, Connelly, Ward, Kronebusch.
 2. Nays: None.

VI. Secretary's Report:

1. Approval of September 26th, 2022 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes:
 - a. Without additions; moved by Kellogg, seconded by Peterson, carried unanimously.
 - i. Ayes: Fruechte, Peterson, Bakke, Tesmer, Kruse, Kellogg, Mueller, Connelly, Ward, Kronebusch.
 - ii. Nays: None.

VII. Financial Report(s):

1. Acknowledge Root River 1W1P Financials:
 - a. Motion to acknowledge payables made by Ward, seconded by Kellogg.
 - i. Ayes: Fruechte, Peterson, Bakke, Tesmer, Kruse, Kellogg, Mueller, Connelly, Ward, Kronebusch.
 - ii. Nays: None.

2. Acknowledge Independent Auditor's Report for 2021:
 - a. Motion to acknowledge Independent Auditor's Report for 2021 made by Peterson, seconded by Tesmer.
 - i. Ayes: Fruechte, Peterson, Bakke, Tesmer, Kruse, Kellogg, Mueller, Connelly, Ward, Kronebusch.
 - ii. Nays: None.

VIII. General Business:

1. Root River Watershed PRAP Presentation – Jenny Mocol-Johnson, BWSR:
 - a. Slideshow presented to Policy Committee.
 - b. Survey will be emailed today to the Policy committee, Advisory Committee and Planning Workgroup. Survey responses are due by February 13th, 2023.
 - c. Policy Committee requested digital copy of PRAP Fact Sheet be sent out via e-mail to PC members following meeting.
2. BWSR Mid-Point Grant Opportunity – Adam Beilke, BWSR:
 - a. Presentation given to Policy Committee on Mid-Point Grant opportunity offered by BWSR for financial assistance to complete the 5-Year Assessment. Grant request is capped at \$50,000; non-competitive funds, given on a first-come, first-served basis.
 - b. Recommend Fillmore SWCD to apply for the BWSR Mid-Point Grant on behalf of RR 1W1P
 - i. Recommendation for Fillmore SWCD to apply for the BWSR Mid-Point Grant on behalf of RR 1W1P made by Kellogg, seconded by Peterson.
 1. Ayes: Fruechte, Peterson, Bakke, Tesmer, Kruse, Kellogg, Mueller, Connelly, Ward, Kronebusch.
 2. Nays: None.
3. Proposal for 5-Year Assessment – Rachel Olm, Houston Engineering Inc.:
 - a. Slideshow presented to Policy Committee.
 - b. Discussed.
4. Consider Houston Engineering Inc. as Consultant for the RR 1W1P 5-Year Assessment work:
 - a. Motion to approve Houston Engineering Inc. as Consultant for the RR 1W1P Five-Year Assessment made by Peterson, seconded by Connelly.
 - i. Ayes: Fruechte, Peterson, Bakke, Tesmer, Kruse, Kellogg, Mueller, Connelly, Ward, Kronebusch.
 - ii. Nays: None.

- Break at 10:44 am -

- Steve Connelly, Olmsted SWCD, left meeting at 10:50 am -

- Meeting resumed at 10:57 am -

IX. Reports:

1. Project Updates:

a. FY 2020 – Fillmore SWCD

- i. Nikki Wheeler presented recently completed Grade Stabilization project completed by Fillmore SWCD staff in 2022 utilizing RR 1W1P 2020-2021 cost-share funds.

b. FY 2022 – Root River SWCD

- i. Dan Wermager presented cover crop cost-share contracts for 9 landowners in Houston County in the amount of 350 acres, utilizing 2022-2023 RR 1W1P funds.
- ii. Dave Walter presented a recent streambank restoration project in Houston County utilizing cost-share funds from the 2022-2023 RR 1W1P funds.

2. Civic Engagement: Friends of the Root River 2022 Review & 2023 Events – Nikki Wheeler, Fillmore SWCD

- a. Update given on outcomes of 2022 events and Friends of the Root River plans for 2023 events.

- Duane Bakke, Fillmore County, left meeting at 11:42 am -

3. Reports from Policy Committee Members:

a. Crooked Creek WD:

- i. Crooked Creek structure completed.
- ii. Discussed bus tour of structure at May 22, 2023 Policy Committee meeting.

b. Dodge County:

- i. Dodge County has Root, Cedar and Zumbro 1W1Ps; heavily involved in Zumbro due to how much of the county is in the watershed.

c. Dodge SWCD:

- i. Not present.

d. Fillmore County:

- i. None.

- e. Filmore SWCD:
 - i. None.
- f. Houston County:
 - i. Not present.
- g. Root River SWCD:
 - i. Had a very busy construction year, lots of projects lined up. One new supervisor on the SWCD board, a lot of projects lined up and landowner interest in projects for 2023 construction season. Kudos to Winona County & Winona County SWCD staff work on WinLac.
- h. Mower County:
 - i. Not present.
- i. Mower SWCD:
 - i. New manager working well. Prairie strip program really catching on, seeing a lot of landowner participation. First SWCD in the State to have a Co-op as 'Conservationist of the Year'.
- j. Olmsted County:
 - i. None.
- k. Olmsted SWCD:
 - i. Projects in North Branch of the Root River, as well as Mill Creek.
- l. Winona County:
 - i. Free public event for private well testing (nitrates) in St. Charles, MN on Thursday. City of Utica received ARPA funds to assist with installing new city well.
- m. Winona County SWCD:
 - i. 2 new supervisors, in the last year also hired a new District Manager and Conservation Technician; going well.

X. Next Policy Committee Meeting:

- a. May 22nd, 2023 at 9:00 am, potentially at Hokah, MN Fire Hall.

XI. Adjournment:

- a. Motion to adjourn meeting moved by Peterson, seconded by Kellogg.
 - i. Ayes: Fruechte, Peterson, Tesmer, Kruse, Kellogg, Mueller, Ward, Kronebusch.
 - ii. Nays: None.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 11:53 am.