

Meeting of the Policy Committee for Root River One Watershed One Plan
Monday, February 26th, 2024 at 9 AM
Room B of 102L, 101 Fillmore St W (Fillmore County Courthouse), Preston, MN
w/ Zoom Option

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present (in Person): Paul Fruechte, Crooked Creek Watershed District; 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; Polly Glynn, Mower County Commissioner; Jay Soltau, Mower SWCD Supervisor; Gregg Wright, Olmsted County Commissioner; Andy Hart, Olmsted SWCD Supervisor; Marcia Ward, Winona County Commissioner; Tom Scarponcini, Winona County SWCD Supervisor

Members Absent: None.

Others Present (in Person): Adam Beilke, BWSR; Dave Copeland, BWSR; Riley Buley, Fillmore SWCD; Nikki Wheeler, Fillmore SWCD; Dave Walter, Root River SWCD; Dan Wermager, Root River SWCD; Cody Fox, Mower SWCD; Micah Peterson, Mower SWCD; Skip Langer, Olmsted SWCD; Sheila Harmes, Winona County; Richard Roher, MN SCH; Mark G., MN SCH

Others Present (via Zoom): Adam King, Dodge SWCD; Caitlin Meyer, Olmsted SWCD; Wanda Anderson, Winona County SWCD; Amanda Gentry, Winona County SWCD; Beau Kennedy, TSA 7/Goodhue SWCD

Open meeting at 09:07 am.

Meeting opened by Riley Buley.

Roll Call

- a. Fruechte, Peterson, Hahn, Bakke, Tesmer, Johnson, Kruse, Glynn, Soltau, Wright, Hart, Ward, Scarponcini.

Approval of Agenda

- a. Without additions; moved by Ward, seconded by Peterson, carried unanimously.
 - i. Ayes: Fruechte, Peterson, Hahn, Bakke, Tesmer, Johnson, Kruse, Glynn, Soltau, Wright, Hart, Ward, Scarponcini.
 - ii. Nays: None.

Election of Officers

- a. Nomination for Chair by Peterson for Bakke, seconded by Hahn.
 - i. Motion to move for all nominations to cease and cast a unanimous ballot for Bakke for Chair moved by Peterson, seconded by Hahn.
 - a. Ayes: Fruechte, Peterson, Hahn, Tesmer, Johnson, Kruse, Glynn, Soltau, Wright, Hart, Ward, Scarponcini.
 - b. Nays: None.
 - c. Bakke abstained from voting.

- b. Nomination for Vice Chair by Tesmer for Ward, seconded by Johnson.
 - i. Motion to move for all nominations to cease and cast a unanimous ballot for Ward for Vice Chair moved by Peterson, seconded by Hahn.
 - a. Ayes: Fruechte, Peterson, Hahn, Bakke, Tesmer, Johnson, Kruse, Glynn, Soltau, Wright, Hart, Scarponcini.
 - b. Nays: None.
 - c. Ward abstained from voting.

- c. Nomination for Secretary by Ward for Fruechte, seconded by Tesmer.
 - i. Motion to move for all nominations to cease and cast a unanimous ballot for Fruechte for Secretary moved by Peterson, seconded by Hahn.
 - a. Ayes: Peterson, Hahn, Bakke, Tesmer, Johnson, Kruse, Glynn, Soltau, Wright, Hart, Ward, Scarponcini.
 - b. Nays: None.
 - c. Fruechte abstained from voting.

Secretary’s Report

- a. Approval of November 27th, 2023 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
 - i. Without additions; moved by Tesmer, seconded by Glynn, carried unanimously.
 - a. Ayes: Fruechte, Peterson, Hahn, Bakke, Tesmer, Johnson, Kruse, Glynn, Soltau, Wright, Hart, Ward, Scarponcini.
 - b. Nays: None.

Financial Report(s)

- a. Acknowledge Root River 1W1P Financials.
 - i. Motion to acknowledge payables made by Peterson, seconded by Tesmer.
 - a. Ayes: Fruechte, Peterson, Hahn, Bakke, Tesmer, Johnson, Kruse, Glynn, Soltau, Wright, Hart, Ward, Scarponcini.
 - b. Nays: None.

General Business

- a. Consider Fillmore SWCD as the fiscal agent for the Watershed Based Implementation Funding grant agreement.
 - i. Motion to consider Fillmore SWCD as the fiscal agent for the Watershed Based Implementation Funding grant agreements made by Johnson, seconded by Ward, carried unanimously.
 - a. Ayes: Fruechte, Peterson, Hahn, Bakke, Tesmer, Johnson, Kruse, Glynn, Soltau, Wright, Hart, Ward, Scarponcini.
 - b. Nays: None.

- b. Consider Fillmore SWCD as the day-to-day contact for the Watershed Based Implementation Funding grant agreement.
 - i. Motion to consider Fillmore SWCD as the day-to-day contact for the Watershed Based Implementation Funding grant agreements made by Ward, seconded by Glynn, carried unanimously.
 - a. Ayes: Fruechte, Peterson, Hahn, Bakke, Tesmer, Johnson, Kruse, Glynn, Soltau, Wright, Hart, Ward, Scarponcini.
 - b. Nays: None.

- c. Review Root River 1W1P ByLaws.
 - i. Motion to keep RR 1W1P ByLaws the same made by Tesmer, seconded by Glynn, carried unanimously.
 - a. Ayes: Fruechte, Peterson, Hahn, Bakke, Tesmer, Johnson, Kruse, Glynn, Soltau, Wright, Hart, Ward, Scarponcini.
 - b. Nays: None.
- d. Review Root River 1W1P Implementation Policy.
 - i. Ward would like counts of 1-year and 3-year Cover Crop contracts paid for using RR 1W1P funds brought forward at first meeting of 2025.
 - ii. Motion to remove acre cap from non-structural, and make payment cap for non-structural projects \$30,000 moved by Peterson, seconded by Hart, carried unanimously.
 - a. Ayes: Fruechte, Peterson, Hahn, Bakke, Tesmer, Johnson, Kruse, Glynn, Soltau, Wright, Hart, Ward, Scarponcini.
 - b. Nays: None.
 - iii. Motion to accept other Implementation Policy updates as presented moved by Peterson, seconded by Johnson, carried unanimously.
 - a. Ayes: Fruechte, Peterson, Hahn, Bakke, Tesmer, Johnson, Kruse, Glynn, Soltau, Wright, Hart, Ward, Scarponcini.
 - b. Nays: None.
 - iv. Approve one-time CRP incentive payment, Mower County, for a contract that exceeded the 10-acre cap, using RR1W1P funds.
 - a. Motion to approve one-time CRP incentive payment, Mower County, for a contract that exceed the 10-acre cap, using RR1W1P funds made by Peterson, seconded by Johnson, carried unanimously.
 - i. Ayes: Fruechte, Peterson, Hahn, Bakke, Tesmer, Johnson, Kruse, Glynn, Soltau, Wright, Hart, Ward, Scarponcini.
 - ii. Nays: None
- e. Approve 2024-2025 Root River 1W1P Workplan.
 - a. Presentations:
 - i. Job description for Soil Health Outreach Coordinator position funded with RR1W1P & MN Soil Health Coalition – Mark Gutierrez, Richard Roher & Cody Fox.
 - i. Description presented by Mark, Richard & Cody.
 - ii. Presentation from MN SHC on their organizations mission, direction they see the position going, expectations, how the employees’ progress/accomplishments will be tracked/effectiveness determined – Mark Gutierrez & Richard Roher.
 - i. Description presented by Mark & Richard.
 - iii. More information on what data/inputs are required for the Riparian Ranking Analysis process – Sheila Harmes, Winona County.
 - i. Presentation given by Sheila.
 - iv. Discuss utilizing the Beast Spreadsheet – Adam Beilke, BWSR.
 - i. Presentation given by Adam; discussion among PC and Staff.

- b. Motion to approve 2024-2025 RR 1W1P Workplan as presented made by Wright, seconded by Tesmer, carried unanimously.
 - i. Ayes: Fruechte, Peterson, Hahn, Bakke, Tesmer, Johnson, Kruse, Glynn, Soltau, Wright, Hart, Ward, Scarponcini.
 - ii. Nays: None.

- Break called by Chair at 11:00 am. -

- Meeting resumed by Chair at 11:13 am. -

Reports

a. Project Updates:

- i. FY 2020 – Dave Walter, Root River SWCD.
 - i. Presentation given on recent manure storage project.
 - ii. Presentation (with funding sources/amounts) will be sent to PC.

b. Reports from Policy Committee Members:

- i. Crooked Creek WD:
 - i. No updates given.
- ii. Dodge County:
 - i. Presented Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network Long-Term Averages for Dodge County.
 - 1. <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/southeast-minnesota-volunteer-nitrate-monitoring-network>
- iii. Dodge SWCD:
 - i. No updates given.
- iv. Fillmore County & SWCD:
 - i. No updates given.
- v. Houston County & Root River SWCD:
 - i. No updates given.
- vi. Mower County & SWCD:
 - i. No updates given.
- vii. Olmsted County & SWCD:
 - i. No updates given.
- viii. Winona County & SWCD:
 - i. No updates given.

Determine Meeting Schedule for 2024:

- a. May 20th, 2024 @ 9:00am in Room B of 102L, 101 Fillmore St W (Fillmore County Courthouse), Preston, MN 55965 & Zoom.
- b. August 26th, 2024 @ 9:00am in Room 108, 902 Houston St NW, Preston, MN 55965 & Zoom.
- c. November 25th, 2024 @ 9:00am in Room 108, 902 Houston St NW, Preston, MN 55965 & Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 11:49 am by Bakke