

Meeting of the Policy Committee for Root River One Watershed One Plan
Monday, August 26th, 2024 at 9 AM
Room 108, 902 Houston St NW (Fillmore County Office Building, across from the Jail), Preston, MN
w/ Zoom Option

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present (in Person): Paul Fruechte, Crooked Creek Watershed District; Glenn Hahn, Dodge SWCD Supervisor; Duane Bakke, Fillmore County Commissioner; Tim Gossman, Fillmore SWCD Supervisor; Glenn Kruse, Root River SWCD Supervisor; Eric Johnson, Houston County Commissioner; Andy Hart, Olmsted SWCD Supervisor; Tom Scarponcini, Winona County SWCD Supervisor; Marcia Ward, Winona County Commissioner

Members Absent: Rodney Peterson, Dodge County Commissioner; Polly Glynn, Mower County Commissioner; Jim Kellogg, Mower SWCD Supervisor; Gregg Wright, Olmsted County Commissioner

Others Present (in Person): Jeremy Maul, BWSR; Dave Copeland, BWSR; Adam King, Dodge SWCD; Riley Buley, Fillmore SWCD; Nikki Wheeler, Fillmore SWCD; Peter Mitchell, CCM/Fillmore SWCD; Dan Wermager, Root River SWCD; Cody Fox, Mower SWCD

Others Present (via Zoom): Justin Watkins, MPCA; Dave Walter, Root River SWCD; Skip Langer, Olmsted SWCD; Wanda Anderson, Winona County SWCD; Amanda Gentry, Winona County SWCD; Sheila Harmes, Winona County

Open meeting at 09:05 am.

- a. Meeting opened by Bakke.

Roll Call:

- a. Fruechte, Hahn, Bakke, Kruse, Johnson, Hart, Scarponcini.

Approval of Agenda:

- a. Without additions; motioned by Kruse, seconded by Hahn motion carried unanimously.
 - i. Yays: Fruechte, Hahn, Bakke, Kruse, Johnson, Hart, Scarponcini.
 - ii. Nays: None.

Secretary's Report:

- a. Approval of May 20th, 2024 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes:
 - i. Without additions; moved by Scarponcini, seconded by Hart carried unanimously.
 - a. Yays: Fruechte, Hahn, Bakke, Kruse, Johnson, Hart, Scarponcini.
 - b. Nays: None.

– Tim Gossman entered meeting at 09:07 am. –

Financial Report(s):

- a. Acknowledge Root River 1W1P Financials:
 - i. Motion to acknowledge payables made by Hahn, seconded by Ward, carried unanimously.
 - a. Yays: Fruechte, Hahn, Bakke, Gossman, Kruse, Johnson, Hart, Scarponcini, Ward.
 - b. Nays: None.

– Marcia Ward entered meeting at 09:08 am. –

General Business:

- a. Review BWSR Non-compliance Letter:
 - i. Update given by Riley Buley.
 - ii. Discussion by Policy Committee.
- b. BWSR Update:
 - i. Review RR1W1P WBIF funding sources, entities, legislative directives, etc.
 - i. Update given by Dave Copeland.
 - ii. Discussion among Policy Committee and staff.
- c. Review RR1W1P CD, cash flow, etc.:
 - i. Update given by Riley Buley.
 - ii. Discussion among Policy Committee and staff.
- d. Follow up: Root River BEAST Spreadsheet Deliverable:
 - i. Update given by Riley Buley.
 - ii. Discussion among Policy Committee and staff.

Reports:

- a. Project Updates:
 - i. Olmsted SWCD – Skip Langer
 - a. Grade Stabilization Structure
 - i. Brought project to 90% cost-share using WBIF funding, Mill Creek subwatershed (Priority Area).
 - ii. Video of drone footage of the project shown.
 - b. Well Sealing Projects (3 wells)
 - i. Near Chatfield, MN; 2 wells in Fillmore (32 and 64 ft), 1 in Olmsted (42 ft)
 - i. All three wells located in current cropland. All three poorly construction, pre-well code.
 - ii. Cost-share at 75%, used Local Capacity funds, not RR 1W1P, but the benefit will be seen within Root River 1W1P groundwater protection.
- a. Reports from Policy Committee Members:
 - i. Crooked Creek WD:
 - a. No update given.
 - i. Dodge County & SWCD:
 - a. SWCD recently hired two technicians; cover crop technician and admin assistant.
 - i. Fillmore County & SWCD:
 - a. 4R meeting at JRA was well attended and many farmers were pleased with the meeting, felt there were good discussions among local landowners and staff from various agencies, LGU's and other organizations.
 - b. Climate Smart Alliance Grant update.
 - i. Houston County & Root River SWCD:
 - a. Houston County recently hired.
 - i. Mower County & SWCD:
 - a. No update given.
 - i. Olmsted County & SWCD:
 - a. No additional update given.

- i. Winona County & SWCD:
 - a. Greden field day was well attended, even after large overnight storm.

Next Meetings:

- a. November 25th, 2024 @ 9:00am – Room 108, 902 Houston St NW, Preston, MN 55965 & Zoom
 - i. Kevin Kuehner – Edge of Field/SE MN Nitrate Trends Update
 - ii. Set meeting schedule for 2025?
 - a. Counts of 1-year and 3-year Cover Crop contracts paid for using RR1W1P funds in 2024 brought forward at first meeting of 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 10:33 am.

- a. Motion for meeting to adjourn moved by Hahn, seconded by Fruechte, carried unanimously.
 - i. Yays: Fruechte, Hahn, Bakke, Gossman, Kruse, Johnson, Hart, Scarponcini, Ward.
 - ii. Nays: None.