

Planning Work Group for Root River One Watershed One Plan

February 20, 2020

9:30am

Conservation Building, 912 Houston St. NW, Preston, MN 55965

MEETING NOTES

- Meeting started at 9:34 am.
- WCPI Update – Dan Wermager, RR SWCD
 - 60 plans completed out of a total of 100 plans required to complete by the end of 2021. To fulfill grant requirements, has to speak at two events per year, one being this meeting, and one at a floodplain restoration site in Hokah, MN, at a Friends of the Root River event on April 19th, 2020(as the presentations must be held before the end of June).
 - Spoke with Houston County Feedlot Officer, who is putting on a feedlot conference in March, 2020, in Rushford, MN, who wants Dan to speak at that event.
 - Houston County resident working with RR SWCD tried some inter-seeding practices this year, did not work as planned due to overly hydrated soils, planning on trying again for 2021 and will have as a soil health event for RR SWCD and public; Dan will speak at this event as well.
 - Not very good response on letters sent in fall, get better response in March/April as is the 'slow time'.
 - Two Winona County walkovers
 - 51% through updating the mailing list.
 - 1W1P & WCPI priority areas match/align.
- Outreach Efforts Status & Direction Discussion – RR 1W1P Education/Outreach
 - Viewed U of M results of focus group study to help to determine both the drivers and constraints of conservation.
 - 33 people were studied, meeting attendees discussed that there may be some bias presented as 12/33 have either a Masters or Doctorate degree.
 - Discussed Tim from Mower SWCD helping to send out media releases and gain more public participation – Facebook posts, newsletters, newspapers, TV/Radio, etc, to help us better reach the public.
 - Discussed how to better use storytelling to tell not only our stories as SWCD's, but also landowner stories and conservation success stories to help inform the public on how conservation practices positively impact the landscape.
 - Discussed goals of public participation, potential need or use of a GreenCorps member watershed-wide.

- Funding Updates:
 - Watershed-Based Funding Grant Update – Daryl Buck, Winona SWCD
 - \$298,250.37 remaining in 1st half of RR 1W1P grant disbursement.
 - Included breakdown of staff time \$\$ and on the ground \$\$ to help better show where funding is going.
- RCPP – Adam Bielke, BWSR
 - Root River watershed is being allocated a total of \$313,736 for this year, with \$200,000 being our 2020 allocation, and the extra \$113,736 being carryover from 2019.
 - If there are other watersheds who do not use/need all of their funding and the Root has a need, it can be pulled if proper need is shown.
- Review and Discuss Root River 1W1P JPA & By-Laws
 - Discussed the following:
 - Discrepancies between the JPA and By-Laws with special regard to section IX.5 of the By-Laws.
 - Transition of Policy Committee (PC) role from planning stages to implementation phase not reflected in By-Laws.
 - The number of signatures on the Agreement differ from the number of signatures on the By-Laws; this was brought up at the last PC meeting. After investigation, it was determined that the difference is because while ALL members signed the Agreement, the signatures on the By-Laws reflect those members that were in attendance at the meeting when those By-Laws were signed.
- Next Meetings
 - Advisory Committee Meeting – TBD
 - Policy Committee Meeting – February 24th, 2020
 - Planning Work Group Meeting – TBD
- Meeting ended at 12:12pm.