

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

Monday, August 28th, 2023 at 9 AM

Room 108, 908 Houston St NW, Preston MN 55965

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present (in Person): Duane Bakke, Fillmore County Commissioner; Eric Johnson, Houston County Commissioner; Polly Glynn, Mower County Commissioner; Brian Mueller, Olmsted County Commissioner; Marcia Ward, Winona County Commissioner, Glenn Hahn, Dodge SWCD Supervisor; Tom Scarponcini, Winona County SWCD Supervisor.

Members Present (via Zoom): Rodney Peterson, Dodge County Commissioner

Members Absent: Steve Connelly, Olmsted SWCD Supervisor; Glenn Kruse, Root River SWCD Supervisor; Matt Feldmeier, Root River SWCD Supervisor; Paul Fruechte, Crooked Creek Watershed District; Kathy Tesmer, Fillmore SWCD Supervisor; Jim Kellogg, Mower SWCD Supervisor; Andy Kronebusch, Winona County SWCD Supervisor.

Others Present (in Person): Adam Beilke, BWSR; Emily Zanon, MPCA; Riley Buley, Fillmore SWCD; Denice Corbin, Fillmore SWCD; Dan Wermager, Root River SWCD; Cody Fox, Mower SWCD; Sheila Harmes, Winona County; Amanda Gentry, Winona County SWCD; Wanda Anderson, Winona County SWCD

Others Present (via Zoom): Rachel Olm, HEI; Adam King, Dodge SWCD; Skip Langer, Olmsted SWCD; Caitlin Meyer, Olmsted SWCD

1. Open Meeting at 9:06 a.m.

- a. *Meeting opened by Bakke.*

2. Roll Call

- a. *Peterson, Bakke, Johnson, Glynn, Mueller, Ward, Scarponcini.*

3. Approval of Agenda

- a. *Removal of Pivot Bio presentation.*
- b. *With above additions; moved by Ward, seconded by Glynn, carried unanimously.*
 - i. *Ayes: R. Peterson, Bakke, Johnson, Glynn, Mueller, Ward., Scarponcini.*
 - ii. *Nays: None.*

4. Secretary's Report

- a) Approval of May 22nd, 2023 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes.
 - i. *Without additions; moved by Ward, seconded by Glynn, carried unanimously.*
 - 1. *Ayes: Peterson, Bakke, Johnson, Glynn, Mueller, Ward, Scarponcini.*
 - 2. *Nays: None.*

5. Financial Report(s)

Presented by Riley Buley

- a) Acknowledge Root River 1W1P Financials
 - i. *Motion to acknowledge payables made by Johnson, seconded by Hahn, carried unanimously.*
 - 1. *Ayes: Peterson, Bakke, Johnson, Glynn, Mueller, Ward, Scarponcini.*
 - 2. *Nays: None.*

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6. General Business

- a. RR 1W1P 5-Year Assessment Progress Update – Rachel Olm, Houston Engineering Inc.
 - a. Slideshow presented to Policy Committee by Rachel Olm.
 - b. Slideshow will be sent out to Policy Committee members.

Presentation provided by Rachel Olm

- b. Future RR1W1P Workplan Update:
 - a. Funding and Workload Estimate
Discussion regarding future increased WBIF funding.
 - b. Workplan Project Ideas
Discussion regarding utilizing funding.
 - c. Staffing Needs Recap
Discussion regarding shared staffing between districts.
 - d. Training Needs
Discussion.
 - e. Policy Committee Suggestions and Discussion

Presentation Provided by Riley Buley

- c. Review and Sign PRAP Response Letter
 - a. *Motion for approval to sign the PRAP Response Letter made by Johnson, seconded by Hahn, carried unanimously.*
 - i. *Ayes: Peterson, Bakke, Johnson, Glynn, Mueller, Ward, Scarponcini.*
 - ii. *Nays: None*
- d. Consider Conservation Reserve Program State Incentives Pilot Program Grant Opportunity
 - a. *Motion to approve Conservation Reserve Program State Incentives Pilot Program Grant Opportunity based on existing policy made by Glynn, seconded by Hahn, carried unanimously.*
 - i. *Ayes: Peterson, Bakke, Johnson, Glynn, Mueller, Ward, Scarponcini.*
 - ii. *Nays: None.*
- e. Consider Soil Health Tech. Outreach Position Jointly Funded with the Soil Health Coalition, \$20,000 Contribution
 - a. *Motion to approve Soil Health Tech Outreach Position Jointly Funded with the Soil Health Coalition, \$20,000 Contribution made by Hahn, seconded by Glynn, carried unanimously.*
 - i. *Ayes: Peterson, Bakke, Johnson, Glynn, Mueller, Ward, Scarponcini.*
 - ii. *Nays: None.*

7. Reports

- a) Review Root River 1W1P 2020-2021 & 2022-2023 Cost-Share Projects
Overview of projects paid since May 22, 2023 Policy Committee meeting presented.
- b) Reports from Policy Committee Members
 - a. Crooked Creek WD:
No update given.

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- b. Dodge County & SWCD:
No updated given.
 - c. Fillmore County & SWCD:
No update given.
 - d. Houston County & Root River SWCD:
No update given.
 - e. Mower County & SWCD:
No update given.
 - f. Olmsted County & SWCD:
No update given.
 - g. Winona County & SWCD:
Josh Elsing was elected as new commissioner so will need to be replaced on Winona County SWCD Board.
- c) Next Policy Committee Meeting:
- a. November 27th, 2023 @ 9:00 am in Preston, MN

8. Adjournment at 12:24 pm.