

Meeting of the Policy Committee for Root River, One Watershed One Plan
Monday, March 2, 2015, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Fillmore County Office Building

In attendance: Tim Gabrielson (Mower Co.), Glen Hahn (Dodge SWCD), Dana Kjome (Houston Co.), Jerry Mueller (Winona SWCD), Duane Bakke (Fillmore Co.), Leonard Leutink (Fillmore SWCD), Marcia Ward (Winona Co.), Bob Meirau (Crooked Creek WD), Jim Kellogg (Mower SWCD)

1. Open Meeting: Meeting was called to order by Chair Bakke at 9:08 am followed by introductions.
2. Approve Agenda: Moved by Jerry Mueller to approve the agenda; second by Tim Gabrielson; motion carried unanimously.
3. Approve minutes of the 1/21/15 meeting: Move by Tim Gabrielson to approve the minutes; second by Dana Kjome; motion carried unanimously.
4. Schedules
 - a. Choose a new meeting day of the month to use on an ongoing basis: After a short discussion, Jerry Mueller moved to set the first Monday of every month as the meeting date for the Policy Committee at the Fillmore County Office Building; second by Bob Meirau; motion carried unanimously. (Later discussion revealed conflicts for the first Monday in June and September, so June 3 and September 14 were selected as alternates. September 14 may have a conflict with SE MN Water Resources Board; another date will be selected later if that is the case.)
5. Introduction to Houston Engineering Inc.: Jennifer Ronnenberg introduced Mark Deutschman of Houston Engineering.
 - a. Presentation by HEI – Mark Deutschman covered the following topics. (A copy of the entire presentation is available.)
 - i. Consultant Introduction: Other staff assisting with the Root River plan are Drew Kessler and Larry Kramka. HEI is only working on the Root River pilot.
 - ii. What is One Watershed One Plan (1W1P): The concept began from discussions in the Local Government Round Table to reduce the number of plans related to water. The Clean Water Accountability Act of 2013 requires prioritization, targeting and measurability for better implementation for the money spent.
 - iii. Policy Committee Role: The role of the committee is to make final decisions and to review and approve the draft plan outline, information about the priority resources, concerns and issues, targeting implementation, and the final version of the plan. Constructive discussion and consensus direction are needed on plan development to guide the Planning Workgroup; also approve an Advisory Committee with a good variety of representation, and fulfill the requirements in the MOA.
 - iv. Probable Schedule for Plan Completion: Draft completed by the end of 2015; final plan completed after public hearings in spring 2016.
 - v. Draft Stakeholder Plan: Provides guidance regarding committee roles and conduct of the Advisory Committee who “are expected to act in a professional, constructive or contributory manner.”
 - vi. Thoughts on Process for Identifying Priority Concerns: The prioritization process will involve various entities and venues. It is very important for the Policy Committee and others to communicate expectations for the plan. A measure of success will be the projects implemented on the ground; measuring water quality changes could take longer than ten years.
 - vii. Draft Plan Outline: The yellow items are required elements to meet BWSR statutory content requirements; blue items are optional additions.
 - viii. Opportunities for Policy Committee Input

Questions were asked regarding pond cleanouts (link to a concern and determine the effect and cost), economic sustainability (needed to make implementation feasible), diverse geography (issues related to local geography will be incorporated into the plan—need to report to the state how priorities are set), relationship of the Root River plan to other state and federal plans (federal Clean Water Act is addressed in the plan with regard to WRAPS and TMDLs; measureable goals will be identified along with strategies

to reach those goals). This is a ten-year plan that is a living document which can be changed to meet challenges and opportunities that arise in that timeframe. An annual planning process will be built in. There will be a need to determine how to organize post-planning to address how implementation will happen. Letters from the state agencies are due by March 9th, and their concerns will be incorporated into the Priority Resources/Concerns/Issues table by HEI. Those letters will be scanned and emailed to the Policy Committee.

6. Discuss plans for the Public Kick-off Event – Planning Workgroup & HEI will advise
 - a. Choose date (middle of April at the latest) and location: Wednesday, April 8 was chosen. Staff will check on the availability of the Lanesboro Community Center; alternate sites are Fountain Community Center or Tri-County Electric in Rushford (may be too far for Mower residents).
 - b. Decide format: structured presentation vs. open house with hourly shorter presentations: The time will be from 4-8 pm with an open house format and hourly presentations by HEI to provide a formal introduction to the planning process. A survey will be developed that can be filled out at the open house or online or published in newspapers. Sheila Harms provided an example of a layout for an open house. Since this is mainly an event to get the word out about the planning process, contacting and involving the media is very important, including the TV stations (KTTC, KAAL, and LaCrosse-WKBT or WXOW), as well as press releases, radio, links on county and SWCD websites.
 - c. Review logo ideas and online survey options – Planning Workgroup staff will present
 - i. To see the Red Lake 1W1P survey example go to the website at: <http://www.redlakewatershed.org/> and click the link for the “One Watershed, One Plan Survey” on the top right of the webpage. Sheila also had a sample handout with logo and information about One Watershed, One Plan and a postcard for returning comments at the meeting or to be mailed in later.. It was suggested that comments or a survey could be filled out on a computer at the open house, and also that a list of options be provided for people to choose from similar to the Red Lake WD online survey.

Jim Kellogg moved to use the Root River One Watershed, One Plan logo with some modifications to allow it to be printed in a smaller format; second by Jerry Mueller; motion carried unanimously.

7. Action Item: Consider approval of the Advisory Committee members
 - a. Refer to list created by Planning Workgroup: There was lengthy discussion about the number of people on the list, especially from DNR and other state agencies. The role of the Advisory Committee is to provide input to and help rank priorities with the Policy Committee. Suggestions were to divide the committee into two subcommittees, such as one technical and the other non-technical, or utilizing the existing local citizen groups, which have members that represent many of the stakeholder groups on the list. The Advisory Committee should be active in April to begin providing input for setting priorities. Staff will modify the list based on the suggestions made and send it out via email for review to be ready for adoption in April.

Marcia Ward moved to bring Item #7 back to the next meeting; second by Bob Meirau; motion carried unanimously.

8. Next meeting
 - a. Location, date and time: Monday, April 6th at 9 am at the Fillmore County Office Building
 - b. Agenda items: Item #7, begin work on setting priorities.

9. Adjourn: Motion by Leonard Leutink to adjourn—passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Ward, Secretary