

One Watershed, One Plan: Minnesota River –Mankato
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
February 26, 2024

The One Watershed, One Plan: Minnesota River – Mankato Policy Committee met at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, February 26, 2024 at the Nicollet County Government Center. Present at the meeting for Nicollet County: Kenny Famakinwa, Kurt Zins, Marie Dranttel, and Crystal Madden; Nicollet County S.W.C.D.: Don Hermanson and Eric Annexstad; City of North Mankato: Kevin McCann and Scott Carlson; City of Mankato: Mike Laven; Blue Earth County: Scott Salsbury and Kevin Paap; Blue Earth County S.W.C.D.: Jacob Quade; Le Sueur County: Steven “Gump” Rohlfing; City of Lake Crystal: Gina Cooper; B.W.S.R.: Jeremy Maul and Julie Westerlund.

Appointment of Temporary Chair

A motion was made, and seconded, electing Marie Dranttel as Temporary Chair of the meeting. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Meeting Agenda and Policy Committee Member Expectations

The meeting agenda was reviewed, and the Policy Committee Ground Rules and Expectations were agreed upon.

Policy Committee Ground Rules and Expectations

In addition to following the requirements of the Memorandum of Agreement and bylaws, Policy Committee Members will:

1. Actively prepare for, attend, and participate in all scheduled meetings of the Policy Committee.
2. Actively engage in the decision-making process for watershed-based planning with the understanding that goals, objectives, and action items of the water plan must be prioritized, targeted, and measurable.
3. Initiate and/or assist with providing opportunities for constituents to be appraised of updated progress of the watershed-based planning process.
4. Regularly update their respective Boards on the progress of the watershed planning process.
5. Utilize the technical resources of their respective entities to assist and inform their decisions in the water planning process.

Policy Committee Meeting Schedule

Committee members discussed and agreed upon a monthly meeting, occurring at 3:00 p.m. on the second Monday of the month, for future Policy Committee meetings. The meeting’s expected duration is two (2) hours. The next meeting will occur on Monday, March 11th and will be held at the Nicollet County Government Center – in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). A request was made by members that future meetings to be shared over Zoom for administrative support staff to listen in.

Review and adopt Policy Committee By-Laws

A motion was made, and seconded, to adopt the Policy Committee By-Laws as recommended by the Steering Team. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Appoint Chair and Officers

A motion was made, and seconded, to appoint Marie Dranttel as the Policy Committee Chair. Motion carried with all voting in favor. A motion was made, and seconded, to appoint Mike Laven as the Policy Committee Vice Chair. Motion carried with all voting in favor. A motion was made, and seconded, to appoint Gump Rohlfig as the meeting Secretary. Motion carried with all in favor.

Overview of One Watershed, One Plan

Julie Westerlund with the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) presented a historic and current overview of the One Watershed, One Plan programming, and referenced *Minnesota State Statute Section 103B.801 – Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program* as the basis of the program's standards. Westerlund encouraged committee members visit the BWSR One Watershed, One Plan website to review additional program training resources found here: bwsr.state.mn.us/one-watershed-one-plan-videos. Westerlund spoke about planning funding, potential bi-annual funding amounts once the program is implemented, agency interactions, program timelines, and answered committee questions.

Agency Notification & Kick-Off Meeting

A discussion took place concerning agency plan review notification, and program feedback. Notification will be sent to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health, as well as the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). It was decided that the following additional agencies will be included in the agency notification: Brown County & SWCD; Renville County & SWCD; Sibley County & SWCD; and Watonwan County & SWCD. Once noticed, agencies are allowed sixty (60) days to provide comment. A public Kick-Off Meeting may be scheduled once the 60-day notice period for agency response has ended.

It was decided that the public Kick-Off Meeting particulars would be discussed at a future meeting. The Kick-Off Meeting is meant gain feedback from the public, agencies, and special interest groups, which projects they would like to see given priority. Feedback will be used to establish a shared vision and specific goals. It was suggested that only one kick-off meeting take place. Agencies interested in hosting additional informational meetings more specific to their areas or watershed concerns are welcome to schedule additional meetings themselves.

An online survey may be sent out to receive public comment from citizens unable to make the meeting.

Review & Approve Process for Hiring Consultant

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) was reviewed and edits were made to the RFQ Schedule.

An advisory subcommittee consisting of one county member, one city member, and one SWCD member from both the Policy Committee and the Steering Team will view consultant presentations and proposals. This subcommittee will provide a recommendation to the Policy Committee, who will then review and negotiate the consultant's contract. The Policy Committee will submit their recommendation and contract to the Nicollet County Board of Commissioners for final approval.

Lastly, Nicollet County must approve and submit the signed Grant Agreement to BWSR. The consultant may be hired once the grant funding is approved and available to Nicollet County.

Next Steps

Policy Committee members are to gain the approval of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) by their respective boards. Nicollet County will submit the final MOA along with the work plan and budget to BWSR for review and grant approval. The Steering Team is allowed to reach out to consultants using the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) in the meantime.

The final copy of the Policy Committee By-Laws document will be provided to the Chair for signature at the next Policy Committee meeting on March 11, 2024.

A suggestion was made to consider creating a Joint Powers Committee in the future, which will allow representatives to make decisions on behalf of their respective boards.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.



MIKE LAVEN, Policy Committee Vice Chair
1W1P MN River – Mankato

04/08/2024

Date