

One Watershed, One Plan: Minnesota River – Mankato
PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
May 13, 2024

The One Watershed, One Plan: Minnesota River – Mankato Policy Committee met at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, May 13, 2024 at the St. Peter Community Center Senior Center Room #219. Present at the in-person meeting: Blue Earth SWCD – Jacob Quade; City of Lake Crystal – Gina Cooper; City of Mankato – Mike Laven, *Vice Chair*; City of North Mankato – Scott Carlson; City of Saint Peter – Darrell Pettis; Le Sueur County – Steven Rohlffing, *Secretary*; Le Sueur SWCD – Earle Traxler; Nicollet County – Marie Dranttel, *Chair*; Nicollet SWCD – Don Hermanson; Facilitator: Kenny Famakinwa; and Recording Secretary: Crystal Madden. Policy Committee staff present virtually: Blue Earth County – Kevin Paap.

Steering Team members present: Blue Earth County – Scott Salsbury; City of Saint Peter – Curtis Thompson; Le Sueur County – Holly Bushman; and Le Sueur SWCD – Mike Schultz, as well as Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) – Jeremy Maul.

Approval Agenda

A motion was made by Vice Chair Laven and seconded by Hermanson to approve the meeting agenda. All voted in favor of the motion, and the motion passed.

Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Secretary Rohlffing and seconded by Vice Chair Laven to approve the April 8, 2024 meeting minutes. All voted in favor of the motion, and the motion passed.

Review & Approve Selection Committee Recommendation

Famakinwa presented the final scores from the Consultant Interview Committee. Secretary Rohlffing asked Maul if the interview candidates data collection methods match BWSR's plan content requirements. Maul stated he has worked with all the candidates in the past, and that he has no concerns about their methods of collecting data. A motion was made by Traxler and seconded by Vice Chair Laven to nominate Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI) as the plan consultant. All voted in favor of the motion, and the motion passed.

60-Day Notice Update

Famakinwa reported that the sixty-day Intent to Plan notice period has passed, and that responses were received from the Minnesota: Department of Health, Department of Natural Resources, Pollution Control Agency, and Board of Water & Soil Resources.

Advisory Committee Member Update

Famakinwa reported that the Advisory Committee member list is still being compiled, and he requested that Policy Committee members provide their Steering Team representatives additional contact information for anyone else they would like added to the list. Salsbury with Blue Earth County suggested that the cities consider adding their drainage management staff to the list.

Kick-Off Meeting Location Reservation

Famakinwa reported that the first public meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 23rd from 4:00 – 7:00 P.M. at the Nicollet Conservation Club, and the second meeting will be held Tuesday, July 30th from 4:00 – 7:00 P.M. at the Land of Memories Park: Floyd Roberts Jr. Pavilion. Famakinwa will confirm HEI's availability and ensure they are able to lead both of the public meetings. Famakinwa explained that MSU's Water Resource Center pulled out from leading the public kick-off meeting due to staffing, and that he has already been in conversation with the interview consultants about the change in the Request for Qualifications.

Maul with BWSR asked about the process is for approving the consultant contract. Famakinwa responded that the Policy Committee recommendation will go in front of the Nicollet County Board of Commissioners for final approval possibly on May 28th, but more likely at the June 10th meeting. Bushman with Le Sueur County, advised Famakinwa to discuss the deliverable contract attachment during the upcoming contract negotiations.

Famakinwa stated that the level of public engagement will be discussed at the next meeting.

Grant & Timeline Update

Famakinwa reported that BWSR approved the grant request, and that he received an executed grant agreement. Maul with BWSR, said that he would find out where the funding is at in the distribution process. Famakinwa further explained that the public kick-off meeting dates were decided upon with the upcoming summer city and county fairs in mind, and that he hopes to have the consultant on board with a one-month window before the first public meeting. Famakinwa stated that the groups are currently on track with the timeline.

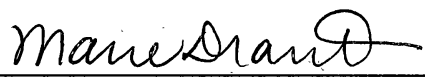
Secretary Rohlfing asked Maul how things were going with the timeline. Maul answered that things are going fine, and explained that continuing to move forward with the public meetings was a good decision. Additionally, Maul explained that BWSR understood getting a Memorandum of Agreement signed by this group would take time, and that BWSR intended to let another local watershed plan get further along than this one for timing purposes. Vice Chair Laven shared his hope that when this group is farther along in the planning process it's expected the cities will need some additional assistance.

Schedule Next Meeting

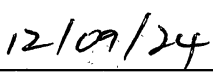
Famakinwa confirmed Policy Committee meetings will continue to be held at the Saint Peter Community Center through the month of July due to the Nicollet County Government Center remodel. A motion was made by Vice Chair Laven and seconded by Traxler to schedule the next Policy Committee meeting for Monday, June 10th. All voted in favor of the motion, and the motion passed.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Secretary Rohlfing and seconded by Traxler to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor of the motion, and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.



Marie Dranttel, Policy Committee Chair
One Watershed, One Plan: Minnesota River - Mankato



Date