

COTTONWOOD-MIDDLE MINNESOTA ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN (1W1P)

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 18, 2023 – 2:00 PM

Springfield Community Center – Springfield, MN

****joined virtually**



Committee Members Present:

Larry Anderson – Area II, Jeff Veerkamp – Brown County, Mark Wellner** - Brown SWCD, Tom Appel - Cottonwood County, Rick Anderson - Lyon County, Mona Henkels – Murray SWCD, Rick Wakefield – Redwood County, Ed Carter – Redwood SWCD, Bill Eckstein - RCRCA, and Nick Klitsch - City of Springfield.

Steering Team Present:

Tessa Klabunde and Allison Kletscher - Brown County, Melanie Krueger - Brown SWCD, Kay Gross – Cottonwood SWCD, Kerry Netzke - RCRCA/Area II, and Mark Hiles** and John Shea** - BWSR.

Others Present: Rachel Olm, Houston Engineering Inc.

Chairman Anderson welcomed everyone and asked for introductions to be made.

The agenda, minutes from the August 16, 2023 meeting, and financial report through October 17, 2023 were provided. Expenses included \$3,548.27 for administration/meetings, and \$19,741.87 for consultant services; total grant expenditure to date of \$41,684.58. Motion by Veerkamp, seconded by Carter, to approve the agenda, minutes and financial report as presented. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Advisory Committee (AC) Roster

Netzke distributed an updated membership roster for the AC. The only remaining void is for a representative for livestock producers; Glen Graff from Cottonwood County was recommended to contact. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Wakefield, to approve the AC roster as presented and for Netzke to contact Glen Graff for his availability. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

This first meeting will be held November 15, 2023; our normal meeting day. Olm envisions starting at 10:00 AM and covering the Plan process in a similar fashion to the Kickoff meetings. She'll recap the accomplishments thus far including the identification and prioritization of issues and resources. The revised maps will be presented with feedback requested from this group. The draft Measurable Goals will then be presented, to determine whether these goals are realistic and achievable, and what actions should be taken to reach these goals. A break will be taken at noon for a meal, and conversation will continue after lunch. The meeting will wrap up by 2:00 PM. No PC meeting will be held in November. Results of the AC meeting will be presented to the PC on December 20, 2023.

Priority Issues Plan Section

Olm recapped the BWSR Content Requirements as it applies to this section of the Plan. The Steering Team recommended changes as follows: 1) change the Environmental Justice map to a white background with a black hatching, 2) list all the towns/cities within the planning region instead of a few, and 3) include the Jeffers Petroglyphs as an important cultural/historical resource within the planning region description. A discussion of Altered Hydrology and Drainage Management followed to define each as related to this Plan. Motion by Carter, seconded by Wakefield, to approve the Priority Issues

Plan Section as a working draft document. Motion carried by roll call vote with Henkels abstaining as she missed the discussion.

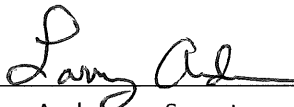
Measurable Goals

To aid in developing measurable goals, a set of 9 maps were developed for the Steering Team to edit using professional judgment. The committee was reminded that implementation does not always occur where the problems exist. Priority issues have been lumped together with “heat maps” generated to reveal the subwatersheds where actions should be focused. These 9 maps were reviewed, and Steering Team changes were explained. With this information, Houston Engineering will use PTMApp to calculate the existing loads, then the reduction percentage can be applied to calculate the reduction in terms of tons/year or lbs/year. From those results, the Advisory Committee (which includes the Steering Team) can apply professional judgment to decide whether that goal is achievable or if an adjustment is necessary.

Action Items and Next Meeting

No meeting will be held in November due to the Advisory Committee meeting scheduled. The next meeting for the Policy Committee will be Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 2:00 PM at the Springfield Community Center. This meeting will be hybrid with a virtual TEAMS connection.

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 2:56 PM.



Larry Anderson, Secretary
Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota Partnership