

REDWOOD RIVER ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN (1W1P)

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

July 8, 2024 – 1:00 PM

Lyon County Government Center – Commissioners’ Room -- Marshall, MN

Members Present:

Tom Andries - Lyon County, Allen Deutz – Lyon SWCD, Jackie Meier – Murray County, Luke Johnson – Pipestone County, Rick Wakefield – Redwood County, Ed Carter – Redwood SWCD, Bob Byrnes – City of Marshall, Doug Anderson - City of Ghent, Gary Crowley – Area II, and Mark Meulebroeck - RCRC.

Others Present: Rachel Olm, Houston Engineering, Mark Hiles and John Shea - BWSR, and Kerry Netzke-RCRCA/Area II.

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and asked for the Pledge of Allegiance to be recited. Introductions were made.

Motion by Wakefield, seconded by Meier, to adopt the Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Wakefield, seconded by Carter, to adopt the Minutes from the May 13, 2024 Policy Committee meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

A financial report for grant expenditures through June 30, 2024 was presented: expenses included \$11,815.00 in consultant fees and \$5,051.62 for administration, totaling \$16,866.62. Motion by Byrnes, seconded by Crowley, to approve the financial report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Introduction to the Planning Process

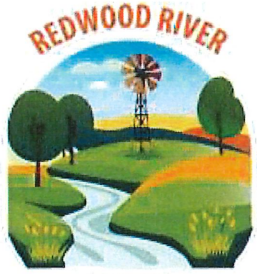
Plan Outline

The planning process will collaborate with local partners, stakeholders and agencies to develop a well-organized plan that is consistent with neighboring watershed plans, and concise and easy to read. Olm presented an outline for seven main sections with details of what is to be included within those sections. Each section will be reviewed/approved as working drafts to eliminate a huge review process at the end. A timeline was presented, as detailed in the BWSR workplan, with estimated dates of the planning process and key milestones. By June-August 2025, we should be reviewing the final draft of the Plan.

Plan Branding & Logo

The style guide of the plan documents with colors, fonts, and sizes have become an important part of the planning effort to easily identify agendas and documents relating to the Redwood River Comprehensive Water Management Plan (CWMP). A layout has been provided with various shades of burnt orange, olive green and aqua blue. The Steering Team suggested a darker color for Heading 4. Consensus of the Policy Committee was to approve the style guide with the Steering Team’s recommendation.

Based on the feedback from the May meeting, the HEI graphics team revised the logo working with a subset of the Steering Team. This morning, the Steering Team asked that one of the fields in the background be row crop to incorporate agriculture, and perhaps add a tractor. Consensus of the Policy Committee was to approve the logo with the added row crop field, but to leave off the tractor.



Comprehensive Watershed
Management Plan

Draft logo presented 7/8/2024.

Public Kickoff Summary

Three kickoff meetings were held: June 25, 2024 in Lake Benton with 24 in attendance, and June 26, 2024 in Marshall with 24 attendees, and in Redwood Falls with 11 present. From the input gained at the resource stations and in the public survey (45 responses to date), the top 5 priority issues that emerged from these discussions were: Reducing Pollutants, a tie between Floodwater Protection and Protection of Drinking Water Sources, Erosion/Streambanks, and another tie for Maintenance/Repair of Aging Infrastructure and Soil Health. The lowest 3 included Stream Habitat, Loss of Wetlands, and Wetland Protection. It isn't that these issues are not important, but not as highly prioritized as the top 5. The Steering Team has asked to keep the online survey open through Friday, July 12 to gather additional information as some were not able to attend the meetings and wish to participate. Plan partners will be posting the link to the survey on their websites and social media pages.

Plan Issues

To aggregate watershed data, HEI compiles existing watershed information utilizing Local Water Management Plans, agency watershed reports, other reports/research, 60-Day Notice comment letters and Steering Team input. This information will be developed into a table format with common ideas lumped together.

This morning, the Steering Team participated in an exercise where they listed issues related to four main resource areas: Groundwater & Drinking Water, Surface Water, Water Quantity & Hydrology, and Urban & Land Use. The sheets upon the walls covered with post-it notes summarize their work with common ideas grouped together. These ideas will be summarized into Issue Statements to capture the concerns.

There are many ways to prioritize issues: High-Medium-Low, A-B-C, Tier 1-Tier 2-Tier 3, Gold-Silver-Bronze, etc. Discussion followed. The Steering Team opted for High-Medium-Low to be consistent with most neighboring watershed plans which the Policy Committee concurred with.

After some discussion of how best to prioritize the issues, the Issues Table will be developed based on the number of times the issues are mentioned in the documents, and a score assigned. If the total score is 7 or above, it will be given a HIGH priority. Scores of 3 to 6 will be considered MEDIUM, and scores of 1 or 2 will be LOW. HIGH scores will be addressed in this 10-year Plan, MEDIUM scored issues will be included in the implementation plan but may need outside funding, and LOW scored issues will be addressed by others without WBIF. The Steering Team will discuss the HIGH/MEDIUM/LOW rankings, lump issues, and adjust scores/rankings at their August meeting. The final Issues Table will be presented to the Policy Committee for consideration or further refinement at the September meeting.

Land and Water Resource Narrative (LWRN)

The LWRN, the 2nd section of the Plan, is in draft form and was shared with the Policy Committee. The committee pointed out areas where corrections or additions are needed including correction of 2020 Census data for the City of Marshall (13,906), add the timeframe for the average precipitation, and replace the photo of the old bridge in Camden Park with the new bridge. HEI will make these revisions for Steering Team review in August. This committee will see the section at the September meeting. The committee requested two weeks to review the document.

Advisory Committee Roster (Technical and Citizen)

A list of potential stakeholders for the Advisory Committee was presented. The Steering Team provided several names of individuals to represent these stakeholder groups. Additional nominees are needed. The Policy Committee is asked to provide names to Netzke by the September meeting as the Advisory Committee will be needed before year-end.

Next Meeting

The next meeting for the Policy Committee will be Monday, September 9 with no August meeting. Looking forward, rescheduled dates for November and December will be needed to avoid Veterans Day and the AMC Annual Convention.

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 1:55 PM.



Jackie Meier, Secretary