

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

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MAY 17, 2023 – 2:00 PM

Springfield Community Center – Springfield, MN

Committee Members Present:

Mark Wellner - Brown SWCD, Norm Holmen -Cottonwood County, Clark Lingbeek - Cottonwood SWCD, Rick Anderson - Lyon County, John Lanoue - Lyon SWCD, Lori Gunnink - Murray County, Rick Wakefield - Redwood County, Ed Carter – Redwood SWCD, Larry Anderson - Area II, Bill Eckstein - RCRCA, and Nick Klisch - City of Springfield.

Steering Team Present:

Nick Brozek - Redwood County/SWCD, Melanie Krueger - Brown SWCD, Kerry Netzke-RCRCA/Area II, and Courtney Snyder-Lyon County/SWCD.

BWSR: John Shea

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

The agenda was adopted as presented. Motion by L. Anderson, seconded by Klisch, to adopt the Minutes from the April 11, 2023 Policy Committee meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Updated Committee List

A revised list of Policy Committee members was distributed as a few changes were made: Daryl Tasler was added at the Cottonwood SWCD delegate, Mona Henkels is the delegate from Murray SWCD, and the City of Springfield is now represented by Nick Klisch, delegate and John Ryan, alternate.

Review and Adopt Bylaws

The latest version of the Bylaws for the Policy Committee was edited by the Murray County Attorney. No other comments or changes were received. Edits recommended by the Policy Committee include: 1) Article III, 4. add “or Plan Coordinator.” at the end of the clause, and 2) Article V, 1. reference the Open Meeting statute (Chapter 13D). Motion by Klisch, seconded by Wellner, to adopt the Bylaws as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Plan Consultant RFQs

RFQs were requested from Houston Engineering, ISG and Bolton & Menk and were received from Houston Engineering and ISG. The Executive Committee and Steering Team met virtually on May 12 to discuss the RFQs and form a recommendation to the Policy Committee. Netzke presented Minutes from that meeting and the discussion held.

Netzke added that she just received the contract from Houston Engineering in the amount of \$159,200. The budgeted amount for consulting was \$169,500. The Selection Committee recommends the hire of Houston Engineering, Inc. with Rachel Olm as the project lead. Motion by Carter, seconded by Holmen, to recommend the hire of Houston Engineering and for RCRCA to enter into the contract for \$159,200. Motion carried unanimously. The RCRCA Board of Directors will meet on June 1, 2023.

Public Kickoff Meetings

Discussion was held on the best means of advertising these meetings. It was felt that flyers posted in public places are effective, as well as announcements on county websites and social media sites. Courtney Snyder, Lyon SWCD volunteered to create the flyer. The digital version will be provided to the partners for them to post, print and share. Press releases and radio public service announcements were also mentioned.

The Kickoff meetings are scheduled for Thursday, June 1, 2023 at the Springfield Community Center from 5-7 PM (light supper served) and Friday, June 2, 2023 at the Walnut Grove Community Center from 10 AM to Noon (light lunch served). Netzke will be planning the meeting format with Rachel Olm tomorrow. Local caterers were discussed to provide the meals which Netzke will arrange.

60-Day Notice of Intent to Plan

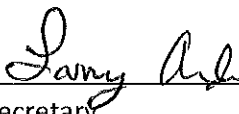
Netzke distributed the 60-Day Notice on April 21 to the State agencies, as well as key stakeholders including all the townships within the watershed boundary, the plan partners, and agriculture and producer groups. The letter served as the invitation to the "Kickoff Meetings" scheduled for June 1 and June 2 and where to submit written comments by June 20 if they cannot attend a meeting. The letter also asked for volunteers to serve on the Advisory Committee that will meet periodically through the planning process (Summer 2023 thru Summer 2024).

One comment letter has been received to date from the MN DNR; copies were provided. Members felt the DNR letter addressed many similar concerns as submitted in other planning watersheds.

Next Meeting

The next meeting for the Policy Committee will be Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 2:00 PM at the Springfield Community Center. The Steering Team will likely meet earlier that day at a time to be determined by Houston Engineering.

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 2:38 PM.



Secretary

Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota Partnership