

**REDWOOD RIVER**  
**COMPREHENSIVE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES  
LYON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER – COMMISSIONERS’ ROOM  
NOVEMBER 10, 2025 – 1:00 PM



Policy Committee (PC) Present: Gary Crowley-Area II, Larry Anderson-RCRCA, Tom Andries-Lyon County, Allen Deutz-Lyon SWCD, Jackie Meier-Murray County, Luke Johnson-Pipestone County, Michael Fruechte-Pipestone SWCD, Ed Carter-Redwood SWCD, Bob Byrnes-City of Marshall, and Larry Arentson-City of Redwood Falls.

Steering Team (ST) Present: Dale Sterzinger-Lincoln County, Courtney Williams-RCRCA, Nick Brozek-Redwood SWCD/County, Kerry Netzke-RCRCA/Area II, and John Shea-BWSR.

Consultant: Rachel Olm, Houston Engineering Inc.

Others: Rae Runck-Brown SWCD.

Kerry Netzke welcomed everyone and extended her appreciation of Rachel Olm and the efforts of the Steering Team, Advisory Committee and Policy Committee for their contributions to the development of the plan.

Netzke provided opening comments. A proposal was submitted on June 15, 2023 to BWSR requesting funding to begin planning for a comprehensive watershed management plan (CWMP) for the Redwood River. That effort would combine data and goals from the existing county water plans based on county boundaries, with more recent water quality data contained in the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies document, to create a comprehensive plan based on the watershed boundary, that will **prioritize** the resources and issues, **target** the implementation to have the most impact on water quality, and reasonably **measure** the results. Planning grant funds were awarded on August 24, 2023 and the Memorandum of Agreement for Planning was fully executed on February 26, 2024. This MOA allowed five counties, four SWCDs, two joint powers organizations, and three city governments to join forces and create the Redwood CWMP. Over the past 18 months, the Steering Team, Advisory Committee and Policy Committee have worked diligently, alongside Rachel Olm, our Project Manager from Houston Engineering Inc., who has facilitated this effort from start to finish. The Policy Committee members were introduced and the meeting turned over to Luke Johnson, Chairman of the Policy Committee.

Johnson asked for a motion to open the public hearing. Motion by Deutz, seconded by Meier, to open the public hearing at 1:05 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Johnson introduced Rachel Olm, Houston Engineering. Olm presented a PowerPoint overviewing the One Watershed, One Plan program – what it is, and what it isn’t. The plan does not create another layer of government, is not a regulatory program, and is not a technical report regurgitating data. It is a public-facing document that summarizes the prioritized resources in the watershed, targets where implementation efforts will be most effective, with results that can be measured for success. Watershed Based Implementation Funds (WBIF) of approximately \$550,000 per year, in addition to other existing local and federal funding, will be available for cost-share of the implemented practices. Highlights of the Redwood River CWMP were reviewed including the priority resources, priority areas, and the measurable goals. Public input was important throughout the development of the Plan beginning with three informational meetings held in Lake Benton, Marshall and Redwood Falls on June 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of

2024 to gather the concerns and issues regarding the watershed. The 60-Day Formal Review ran from August 1 through September with comments received from MPCA, MDH, MDA, BWSR and DNR which were supportive in nature with some editorial comments. A Comment Response Table was provided to the audience detailing the comments made and the response. Olm concluded by stating that the Plan and the WBIF grants will be implemented through the existing joint powers agreement of the Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area.

Chairman Johnson asked for any questions or comments from the floor. No comments were received. Olm added that the Comment Response table will be considered final and will now become an appendix to the Plan.

Motion by Meier, seconded by Arentson, to close the public hearing at 1:23 PM.

The Chairman declared this meeting adjourned at 1:23 PM.



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Jackie Meier, Secretary