

COTTONWOOD-MIDDLE MINNESOTA ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN
POLICY COMMITTEE – VIRTUAL* & IN-PERSON
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 18, 2025 – 1:00 PM



Policy Committee (PC) Present: Larry Anderson-Area II, Jeff Veerkamp-Brown County, Daryl Tasler-Cottonwood SWCD, Rick Anderson-Lyon County, Mona Henkel-Murray SWCD, and Ed Carter-Redwood SWCD.

Steering Team (ST) Present: Kay Clark & Becky Buchholz-Cottonwood SWCD/County, *Sarah Soderholm-Murray County, *Nick Brozek-Redwood SWCD/County, and Kerry Netzke-RCRCA/Area II.

Chairman Rick Anderson called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM and introductions were made.

HEI Amendment #1 Deliverables

With remaining planning grant funds, HEI was contracted to provide the development of the BEAST (Benefits Estimator and Summary Tool) Spreadsheet, MS4Front Tracking System and a Hydrologic Model of the CWMM watershed. HEI staff joined remotely to present these items and their usefulness.

▪ **MS4Front Tracking System - Brian Fischer, HEI**

The data management platform tracks all activities and aggregates that work toward Plan goals. A map viewer is embedded into the system that allows you to zoom into the area of interest, put a point on the map, and enter the project information. Three modules are developed: 1) Education & Outreach, 2) WBIF (includes the Scoring & Ranking Sheet), and 3) Other Funded Projects & Practices (other grant funds, local and federal funds). A public-facing dashboard illustrates the progress to each of the Plan goals. A Data Entry Guide for MS4Front will be provided. It was asked if the system can be used to predict changes to water quality based on this progress. The answer is 'no' as the system is not a model, but a data management tool to track the individual projects and overall progress made toward the Plan goals. Fischer added that the Technical Committee will be receiving additional training on Monday, June 23 on how to enter the data and more uses of the software. The software is not viewable to the public, however the administrator (Netzke) can grant sign-in access to interested people with 'view only' rights.

▪ **BEAST (Benefits Estimator and Summary Tool) Spreadsheet – Scott Kronholm, HEI**

This product was delivered in early April and was used to estimate reductions for the WBIF grant workplan. The BEAST is an Excel-based spreadsheet linked to the PTMApp model data that is specific to the CWMM watershed. Individual spreadsheets have been developed for each planning region to make it more user-friendly. Kronholm demonstrated its use with selecting one of the 24 standard conservation BMPs to illustrate how results are calculated at the field edge, as compared to more distant locations downstream. A "How To" guide has been provided to explain the use of the spreadsheet and is available under the User Manual tab.

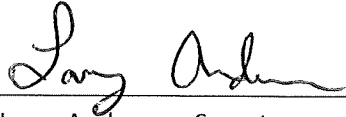
▪ **Hydrologic Model – Stacked Hydrograph Analysis – Bret Zimmerman, HEI**

Zimmerman explained the PC-SWMM (Storm Water Management Model) model and how the watershed was divided into 10 smaller subwatersheds for analysis. NOAA Atlas 14 rainfalls of 4.01" for a 10-year storm, and 6.69" for a 100-year storm was used. The model allows the flow contributions from each subwatershed to be 'turned off', and the resulting hydrographs determine the contribution of this subwatershed and its timing reaching the Cottonwood River mainstem. These results from each simulation were then compiled and plotted as a stacked hydrograph, illustrating the cumulative runoff contributions from all the subwatersheds. From the results of this analysis, the subwatersheds of Dutch Charley Creek, Highwater Creek, Plum Creek and Pell Creek appear to be the most strategic for

Next Steps

The last Policy Committee meeting will be Wednesday, August 20 at 1:00 PM. This meeting will be in-person at Springfield Community Center and also virtual to ensure a quorum to approval final bills and close-out the grant by August 29. Final expenses will include Houston Engineering Inc, printing of plans, and any excess to RCRCA for administration.

With no other business to discuss, the chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 2:12 PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Anderson", is written over a horizontal line.

Larry Anderson, Secretary
Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota Partnership