

REDWOOD RIVER ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 8, 2024 – 1:00 PM Lyon County Government Center – Marshall, MN



Committee Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp - Area II, Joe Drietz - Lincoln County, Ron Bunjer - Lincoln SWCD, Tom Andries & Todd Draper - Lyon County, Allen Deutz - Lyon SWCD, Jackie Meier - Murray County, Luke Johnson - Pipestone County, Brad Kruisselbrink - Pipestone SWCD, Ed Carter - Redwood SWCD, Rick Wakefield – Redwood County, Jeff Veerkamp - Area II, Mark Meulebroeck - RCRCA, Doug Anderson & Adam DeRoode - City of Ghent, and Larry Arentson - City of Redwood Falls.

Steering Team Present: John Shea & Mark Hiles - BWSR, and Kyle Jarcho - DNR, Dustin Hauschild - Lincoln County, Dale Sterzinger, and Noah Steffen - Lincoln SWCD, Blake Giles - Lyon SWCD, Kyle Krier - Pipestone County, Danielle Evers - Pipestone SWCD, Nick Brozek - Redwood County/SWCD, Kerry Netzke - RCRCA/Area II, Dawn Vlaininck - City of Ghent, and Jason Anderson - City of Marshall.

Others present: Craig Christensen - Murray SWCD.

Kerry Netzke, Redwood River 1W1P coordinator, welcomed everyone and asked for introductions to be made. The agenda was adopted as presented.

Overview of Policy Committee's Roles & Responsibilities

Netzke reviewed the role and responsibilities of the Policy Committee members – *making final decisions about content of the Plan, its submittal to BWSR, and expenditures of funds allocated for plan development*. A list of the Policy Committee delegates and alternates were provided. Any errors in the contact information should be reported to Netzke. The committee's membership and decision-making process are part of the Memorandum of Agreement and associated bylaws. The Committee generally meets monthly for about the first six months of the planning effort, goes to bi-monthly meetings during the plan writing stage, and then goes back to monthly towards the end of the process. Three-ring binders were provided to Policy Committee members containing the printed materials covered today. This includes the executed Memorandum of Agreement, work plan, grant budget, and timeline.

A list of the Steering Team members was provided -- *as staff members representing the partners, the Steering Team provides guidance to the Policy Committee on the logistical and process decision-making in the plan development, making recommendations to the Policy Committee*. Additionally, there is an Advisory Committee of citizens and stakeholders that meet 3-4 times to review plan sections and provide input.

Election of Officers

Netzke called for nominations for chairman. Commissioner Andries nominated Luke Johnson. Nominations were called three more times. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Deutz, to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Luke Johnson for chairman. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Johnson took over the meeting and called for nominations for vice chairman. Chairman Johnson nominated Tom Andries for vice chairman. Nominations were called three more times. With no other nominations, the Chairman called for the vote for Tom Andries for vice chairman. Motion carried unanimously. The Chairman called for nominations for secretary. Commissioner Andries nominated Jackie Meier. Nominations were called three more times. With no other nominations, the chairman called for the vote for Jackie Meier for secretary. Motion carried unanimously.

The Executive Committee consists of: Commissioner Luke Johnson – Chairman, Commissioner Tom Andries - Vice Chairman, and Commissioner Jackie Meier – Secretary.

Draft Bylaws

Bylaws for the Policy Committee were drafted for consideration. The draft includes language added to the BWSR template by the Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota 1W1P. Members are asked to have their respective attorneys review the bylaws and seek authorization to approve at the next Policy Committee meeting.

Hiring of a Consultant

Options to hire a consultant include: a) RFP, b) RFQ, and c) direct hire. There is no requirement to accept the low bid. To date, Houston Engineering Inc. (HEI) and ISG have been the consultants doing most of the plans in southern Minnesota. HEI has completed the plans for the Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank, Des Moines, Missouri Basin and is currently working on the Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota. ISG has done the LeSueur plan. Netzke added that HEI, led by project manager Rachel Olm, has been a very smooth process and she listens to the wants/needs of the client. Sterzinger added that he would prefer to have consistency between the neighboring watershed plans as HEI has developed the MS4Front tracking tool and BEAST reduction calculator tool that works very well and has been easy to train staff to use. Lincoln County is part of 4 1W1Ps, with 2 different tracking tools, and he wishes that the same tool could be used for all the watersheds. Discussion followed. Motion by Councilman Arentson, seconded by Commissioner Drietz, to hire Houston Engineering, Inc. with Rachel Olm as the Project Lead, and to request a cost proposal to be considered at the May meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Kickoff Meetings

Kickoff Meetings are public meetings held in the watershed where participants are educated on the 1W1P process and given the opportunity to identify priority resources and concerns with those resources. This information is vital, along with comments from the state agencies and other stakeholders, to help: prioritize resource concerns, target implementation/actions, and measure the outcomes. Given the size and shape of the Redwood River plan boundary, hosting meetings at the top, middle and bottom of the watershed may be advantageous to encourage attendance. Discussion followed. It was decided to hold meetings as follows:

Lake Benton Event Center	Tuesday, June 25	early evening (time TBD)
Marshall (location TBD)	Wednesday, June 26	late morning (time TBD)
Redwood Falls Community Center	Wednesday, June 26	early evening (time TBD)

This schedule will take advantage of the consultant's travel and time. Light meals will be provided at each meeting. Netzke will confirm these dates with Houston Engineering and make meeting reservations and arrangements.

Standing Date for Policy Committee Meetings

Netzke compiled a list of days/weeks of the month with standing meetings (ex. Commissioners' meetings, SWCD Board meetings, etc.). Discussion followed. The 2nd Monday of the month at 1:00 PM was agreed upon with meetings to be held at the Lyon County Government Center. Meetings will be in the Commissioners Room unless informed otherwise.

60-Day Notice of Intent to Plan

Netzke provided a draft of this notice that is required to be provided to state agencies and stakeholders of the Redwood River 1W1P. Stakeholders consist of counties, SWCDs, cities, tribal governments, townships, agricultural organizations (Pork Producers, Corn and Soybean Growers, etc.) and sportsmen's groups (lake associations, Pheasants Forever, etc.). This notice will be emailed or mailed to the stakeholders. The draft notice was approved by consensus; Netzke will distribute the notice by the end of the week and will include the Kickoff Meeting dates/locations.

Next Meeting

The next meeting for the Policy Committee will be Monday, May 13, 2024 at 1:00 PM at the Lyon County Government Center. Approval of the bylaws, consultant budget and contract will be on the Agenda and an introduction to Rachel Olm from Houston Engineering. No June meeting will be scheduled due to the Kickoff Meetings.

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 1:54 PM.