

# REDWOOD RIVER ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN

## POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES



MAY 13, 2024 – 1:00 PM Lyon County Government Center – Marshall, MN

*\*joined virtually through TEAMS*

Committee Members Present: Tom Andries - Lyon County, Luke Johnson - Pipestone County, \*Brad Kruisselbrink - Pipestone SWCD, Ed Carter - Redwood SWCD, Gary Crowley – Area II, Adam DeRoode - City of Ghent, and Larry Arentson - City of Redwood Falls.

Steering Team Present: John Shea & Mark Hiles - BWSR, \*Amanda Strommer – MDH, \*Mike Weckwerth – MPCA, Dustin Hauschild - Lincoln County, Dale Sterzinger - Lincoln SWCD, Blake Giles - Lyon SWCD, \*Sarah Soderholm – Murray County, Kyle Krier - Pipestone County, and Kerry Netzke - RCRCA/Area II.

Others present: \*Rachel Olm, Houston Engineering Inc.

Kerry Netzke, Redwood River 1W1P coordinator, welcomed everyone and asked for introductions to be made for those attending in person and virtually.

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:00 and noted that no quorum was present. Crowley was enroute but encountered a flat tire. The Chairman asked that we move ahead to Agenda Item #6, and we'll return to the items requiring a motion once a quorum is present.

### Public “Kick-off” Meetings in the Watershed

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 to help prioritize resource concerns, target implementation/actions, and measure the outcomes. Hosting meetings at the top, middle and bottom of the watershed may be advantageous to encourage attendance. Meetings have been scheduled as follows:

Lake Benton Event Center	Tuesday, June 25	5:00 – 7:00 PM
Marshall Merit Center	Wednesday, June 26	10:00 AM - Noon
Redwood Falls Community Center	Wednesday, June 26	5:00 – 7:00 PM

Rachel Olm from Houston Engineering will facilitate the Lake Benton and Marshall meetings, while her associate Drew Kessler will facilitate the Redwood Falls meeting. Courtney Williams from Lyon SWCD designed a flyer to post in SWCD and county offices, public bulletin boards, as well as on partners websites and social media pages. Netzke asked everyone to take a few flyers to post.

Larry Arentson – City of Redwood Falls arrived at 1:10 PM and established the quorum.

Rachel Olm presented ideas for the kickoff meetings following what was done for the Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P. The meeting starts with a short PowerPoint presentation introducing what 1W1P is and is not, and specific information about the Redwood River

Watershed. Then the group will be broken into groups to view four 'resource stations' with large maps where reviewers are asked to circle areas of concern or write the concern on post it notes. The stations will address Surface Water, Ground Water, Flooding, and Land Use/Habitat. Bob Byrnes suggested that a map illustrating the elevation drop within the watershed be at the Flooding station as much of the flood history is due to the elevation. Discussion involved creating a 5<sup>th</sup> station to address Urban concerns relating to chloride (salt use for softeners and ice melt), phosphorus removal from wastewater, etc. It was agreed that these items should be combined with the Land Use/Habitat station. Olm also shared a survey that would be distributed at the meeting to gather concerns that folks may not feel comfortable sharing in the group activity. This survey would be their meal ticket for the light lunch served afterwards. This survey will also be available online.

Gary Crowley entered the meeting at 1:23 PM.

Dale Sterzinger requested that 5-10 minutes of the meetings at Lake Benton and Marshall be utilized for the SWCD/NRCS Local Work Group to help direct where the federal funds for conservation should be directed. They would speak for a few minutes and then distribute a survey to rank priorities for funding. Sterzinger added that getting the public to attend the work group meetings is getting increasingly harder and the kickoff meetings would be a good opportunity to share with the audience. Consensus of the Policy Committee was to include the Local Work Group at the meetings. The Redwood SWCD/NRCS has already conducted their Local Work Group meeting.

#### Approve Agenda

With a quorum now present, Chairman Johnson asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion by Carter, seconded by Crowley, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Approve Minutes from April 8, 2024 Policy Committee

Motion by Crowley, seconded by Carter, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Review and Adopt Bylaws

Members are asked to have their respective attorneys review the bylaws and seek authorization for approval at this meeting. The only comment received was from the City of Marshall's attorney who questioned the definition of "close associate" in Article II, Section 4. The Board did not feel that a definition was necessary. Motion by Andries, seconded by Arentson, to approve the Bylaws as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Houston Engineering Inc. Contract – Review and Approve

Houston Engineering, Inc. with Rachel Olm as the Project Lead, presented a contract in the amount of \$159,200. This includes 20 in-person meetings over 10 days (2 meetings per day), 3

public kickoff meetings, and 10 virtual conference calls. Chairman Johnson noted a few errors in the contract where RCRCRA is incorrect (RCRA) and that this contract would be completed by May 1, which should be June 1. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Byrnes, to approve the contract as corrected, and to request RCRCRA to enter into this agreement with Houston Engineering. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Next Steps in Planning Process

Olm presented a style guide which illustrates the font, colors, and format of the Plan document. Several commented that the red and orange colors are hard to distinguish, especially for the colorblind. Houston will make this change. Olm presented three possible logos to help 'brand' the Plan and planning effort. Houston's graphics team takes the logos of the partners and incorporates common features into a possible logo. The Plan name on the outside of the logo is preferred, but in an upright position rather than at a skew. Some felt that the wind turbine was not related to water; an old-fashioned windmill would be preferred. Ideas were shared of incorporating the watershed shape into the logo, perhaps placed on top since it is a long, narrow shape. Olm will share these ideas with the graphics team and return with another iteration at the next meeting. Olm presented a timeline for the planning effort putting formal review and Plan approval occurring between June 2025 and February 2026.

#### 60-Day Notice of Intent to Plan

Netzke distributed the approved Notice, which included the Kickoff Meeting information, to state agencies and stakeholders of the Redwood River 1WIP. Comments are due June 14, 2024. To date, no comments letters have been received. It is normal for agencies to not submit comments until closer to the deadline due to the number of document reviews.

#### Advisory Committee Nominations

Netzke presented a draft membership list for the Advisory Committee. Rather than simply nominating people, it has been easier and more effective to identify the stakeholder (rural water, sportsmen's clubs, ag groups, etc.) and find an individual associated with that group. It was asked that members connect with these stakeholders and ask for their involvement on this committee which meets three times over the year.

#### Next Meeting

The next meeting for the Policy Committee will be Monday, July 8, 2024 at 1:00 PM at the Lyon County Government Center – Commissioners Room. No June meeting will be held due to the Kickoff Meetings, and it is asked that members attend at least one of the Kickoff Meetings.

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 2:05 PM.



Jackie Meier, Secretary

