

COTTONWOOD-MIDDLE MINNESOTA ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 18, 2024 – 10:30 PM



Policy Committee (PC) Present: Larry Anderson-Area II, Bill Eckstein-RCRCA, Jeff Veerkamp-Brown County, Mark Wellner-Brown SWCD, Tom Appel-Cottonwood County, Daryl Tasler-Cottonwood SWCD, Rick Anderson-Lyon County, John Lanoue-Lyon SWCD, Mona Henkels-Murray SWCD, and Ed Carter-Redwood SWCD.

Steering Team (ST) Present: Jaden Sandgren-Brown County, Melanie Krueger-Brown SWCD, Kay Clark-Cottonwood SWCD/County, Courtney Williams-Lyon SWCD/County, Craig Christensen-Murray SWCD, Nick Brozek-Redwood SWCD/County, Kerry Netzke-RCRCA/Area II, and John Shea-BWSR.

Consultant: Rachel Olm, Houston Engineering Inc.

Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:32 AM.

There were no additions or corrections to the Agenda. Minutes from the August 21, 2024 meeting were reviewed. Vice Chairman Wellner was thanked for running the meeting in Anderson's absence.

Financials for month-ended August 31 were reviewed. Expenses to date include \$128,958.65 for consultant services; \$25,212.62 for administration, and total grant expenditure of \$154,171.27. Remaining grant funds amount to \$98,828.73.

Motion by Larry Anderson, seconded by Appel, to approve the agenda, minutes, and financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was turned over to Rachel Olm, Houston Engineering.

Approve Cottonwood-Middle MN CWMP

Olm reviewed the comments received as presented in the Comment Response Table. She added that the Steering Team met virtually on September 4 to assist Olm on appropriate responses to some of the comments. The more substantial comments that required plan edits were reviewed with the committee.

Some topics were discussed during the comment review. One topic involved the fate of the Clean Water Legacy funding and if the State agencies have begun addressing this future issue. Signage of implemented projects was questioned. If a project is located in a very visible location, such as a busy highway, signage is encouraged. On the majority of the projects that are not very visible by the public, signage is not practical. It was suggested that an annual social media posting with photos of the projects undertaken that year be done to help publicize the funding and its purpose.

Motion by Wellner, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the Comment Response table and editorial actions as presented and to be considered as final. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Henkels, seconded by Appel, to approve the Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan with the intended edits. Motion carried unanimously.

Olm recapped the next steps. Each local board (county, SWCD, JPO and city) will need to pass resolutions to submit the plan to BWSR, and to adopt and implement the plan upon BWSR approval. By including the implementation language, it eliminates the need for that local board to adopt a separate resolution for implementation. Area II, RCRC and the City of Springfield do not require the implementation language. Blue Earth County and SWCD may adopt the plan at any time; a resolution is not needed at this time to submit. The resolutions must be completed prior to submitting the Plan to BWSR for approval. Mark Hiles previously provided resolution templates for each board which Netzke distributed. Netzke asked that the LGUs provide the passed resolutions to her as soon as they are available.

The BWSR Southern Region Water Plan Committee will meet in November to review and recommend approval to the BWSR Board. Plan approval will be on the December BWSR Board agenda.

Update on RCRC Joint Powers Agreement Revisions

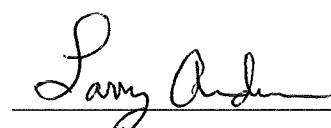
Netzke contacted Ann Goering at Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney, PA who worked on GBERBA's joint powers agreement and bylaws. Goering has been traveling for work and did not reply to Netzke until this week. She would be happy to work on this. The needed revisions include changing RCRC's boundary to include the entire 1W1P watershed area and not just the mainstem river watersheds. Bylaws must also be drafted. Netzke will follow up with Goering next week upon her return to the office.

Action Items and Next Steps

The next Policy Committee meeting will be Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 12:00 PM at the Springfield Area Community Center with lunch provided.

Agenda items will include an update on the BWSR meeting dates, formal agreement and bylaw matters, and approve expenditures for the remaining planning grant funds. Planned expenditures include: printing/binding of the approved plan for the partners, BEAST (Benefits Estimator and Spreadsheet Tool) development, MS4Front tracking system, large scale maps, poster boards and pamphlets. Quotes will be collected for these items.

With no other business to discuss, the chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 11:02 PM.



Larry Anderson, Secretary
Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota Partnership