

REDWOOD ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
LYON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER – COMMISSIONERS' ROOM
AUGUST 10, 2026 1:00 PM
In Person & Virtual*



Policy Committee (PC) Present:

Gary Crowley-Area II, *Joe Drietz-Lincoln County, Tom Andries-Lyon County, Jackie Meier-Murray County, Luke Johnson-Pipestone County, Michael Fruechte-Pipestone SWCD, Larry Anderson-RCRCA, *Rick Wakefield-Redwood County, Bob Byrnes-City of Marshall, and Larry Arentson-City of Redwood Falls.

Steering Team Members: Dale Sterzinger-Lincoln SWCD, Natalie Banish-Lyon County/SWCD, Jim Doering – City of Redwood Falls, Kerry Netzke-RCRCA/Area II, and John Shea and Mark Hiles-BWSR.

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM with a quorum present. All were asked to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Crowley, seconded by Anderson, to adopt the Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Byrnes, to approve the March 9, 2026 Policy Committee Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

The Financial Reports for grant expenditures for the months of March, April, May, June and July 2026 were provided. Through July 31, expenses to date include \$147,061.94 in consultant fees for Plan Development, \$30,871.50 for consultant fees for Additional Services (BEAST, MS4Front and Stacked Hydrograph Analysis), and \$38,364.45 for administration, totaling \$216,297.89. Total grant remaining is \$22,402.11. Motion by Meier, seconded by Andries, to approve the Financial Reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

PLAN STATUS

The Plan, as recommended by the BWSR Southern Region Committee on February 19, was approved by the BWSR Board on March 25, 2026.

ADA Compliance: Houston Engineering is editing the Plan to make it ADA compliant as is now required by the State. ADA changes include fonts, colors, contrast and ability for the plan to be read by a computer for someone with visual disabilities such as color blindness or blindness in general. The \$2,300.00 quote from Houston Engineering Inc. was approved by the Policy Committee on June 8, 2026 via email with a motion made by Johnson, seconded by Byrnes, and with affirmative votes cast by Anderson, Arntsen, Crowley, Meier, Carter, Wakefield and Andries. The motion carried. Rachel Olm added that Houston is wrapping up the edits which should be completed by August 21.

Printing of the Plan and maps for the partners is completed. Maps are being distributed.

This grant expiration has been extended from June 30 to August 31 to allow Houston Engineering to complete the Additional Tasks that were contracted. The final progress report is due September 30.

ADDITIONAL TASKS – HOUSTON ENGINEERING INC.

Rachel Olm, Brian Fischer and Bret Zimmerman from Houston Engineering joined the meeting virtually to present on the additional tasks which include development of the BEAST reduction calculator, MS4Front tracking system, and the Stacked Hydrograph Subwatershed Analysis.

▪ MS4Front Tracking System - Brian Fischer

The data management platform tracks all activities and aggregates that work toward the Plan goals. A map viewer is embedded into the system that allows the user 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 displays the progress to each of the Plan goals with grant funding as well as other funding sources. A Data Entry Guide for MS4Front will be provided upon its completion. Fischer has been working closely with Williams on the “test” project entries to ensure that goals are tracked correctly.

▪ BEAST (Benefits Estimator and Summary Tool) Spreadsheet – Rachel Olm

Rachel Olm stated that this product was delivered in April 2026 and was used to estimate reductions for the Redwood WBIF 1.0 grant workplan submitted in May. The BEAST is an Excel-based spreadsheet linked to the PTMApp model data that is specific to the Redwood River watershed and its planning regions. Individual spreadsheets have been developed for each planning region to make it more user-friendly. Scott Kronholm developed the software and ensured that the BEAST results are comparable with results obtained from other calculators such as MPCA’s BEET (**BMP Effects Estimator Tool**). Olm demonstrated its use by selecting one of the 24 standard conservation BMPs to illustrate how results are calculated at the field edge. 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

Using the Cottonwood River as an example, Bret Zimmerman explained the PC-SWMM (Storm Water Management Model) model and how the watershed was divided into 11 smaller subwatersheds for analysis. 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 are 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 that are most strategic for implementing storage practices can be identified, as well as subwatersheds that may worsen flood conditions due to timing. The Plan will own this model which can be used to determine if a proposed storage project will be a benefit or a detriment in terms of timing of the flows reaching the Redwood River. With the \$20,000 provided by this grant, the PC-SWMM model has been developed. The remainder of the analysis will be funded by the WBIF 1.0 Grant where the Redwood River will be divided into 8-10 subwatersheds and hydrographs will be developed from there. Zimmerman offered to present the findings and the Technical Memo once the analysis is completed.

All were thanked for their time to present to the Policy Committee today.

WATERSHED BASED IMPLEMENTATION FUNDS 1.0 GRANT

The grant application was approved on May 6, and grant agreement executed on May 20 in the amount of \$1,121,292.00. Local match of \$112,129.20 is required for a total budget of \$1,233,421.20. A budget sheet was provided detailing how the grant funds were divided between Agricultural Projects, Nonstructural Management Practices, Groundwater Practices, Streambank or Shoreline Protection, Administration, Technical/Engineering Assistance, Project Development, Planning/ Assessment and

Education/Information. A second sheet was provided listing the Agricultural and Nonstructural Practices that have been approved to date. Agricultural Practices have \$180, 427.17 remaining of the \$501,292.00 budget, and Nonstructural Management Practices have \$20,850.10 remaining of the \$200,000 budget. The committee was surprised with the amount of contracts submitted in less than 3 months of receiving the grant funds.

The Technical Committee will continue to meet on the 2nd Monday of the month on an as-needed basis.

ACTION ITEMS AND NEXT MEETING

With the grant ending August 31, it was suggested that the Policy Committee meet virtually to approve the minutes from today's meeting and approve the final grant expenditures at month end.

The next Policy Committee will be Monday, August 31, 2026 at 9:00 AM via ZOOM.

Netzke extended an appreciation to everyone for their time and commitment to this planning effort.

With no other business, the chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.



Jackie Meier, Secretary