

## **REDWOOD RIVER ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN (1W1P)**

### **POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**MAY 12, 2025 – 1:00 PM**

**Lyon County Government Center – Commissioners' Room – Marshall, MN**



#### Members Present:

Tom Andries - Lyon County, Allen Deutz – Lyon SWCD, Jackie Meier – Murray County, Luke Johnson – Pipestone County, Mike Fruechte – Pipestone SWCD, Rick Wakefield – Redwood County, Ed Carter – Redwood SWCD, Bob Byrnes – City of Marshall, Doug Anderson – City of Ghent, Larry Arentson – City of Redwood Falls, Gary Crowley – Area II, and Larry Anderson – RCRCA. No members joined virtually.

Others Present: Rachel Olm, Houston Engineering, Mark Hiles and John Shea - BWSR, Courtney Williams – Lyon SWCD, and Kerry Netzke-RCRCA/Area II.

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. All were asked to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Meier, seconded by Carter, to adopt the Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Fruechte, seconded by Byrnes, to approve the March 10, 2025 Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

The Financial Report for grant expenditures for the month of April 2025 was presented. The report for March 2025 was made available for reviewing. Through April, monthly expenses included \$9,707.50 in consultant fees and \$589.70 for administration, totaling \$10,679.20 for the month. Total grant expenditure to date is \$118,086.67 with \$120,613.33 remaining. Motion by Carter, seconded by Andries, to approve the April 2025 financial report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Plan Section 5: Targeted Implementation**

Olm recapped the comments received and their edits within the plan section. She explained that the Steering Team had several questions that resulted in new changes to this section. These changes include increasing the nonstructural practices goal from 12,800 acres to 22,500 acres (5% of tillable acres in the watershed); changing the septic incentive to local cost share; adding language to the Land and Water Resources Narrative and Education & Outreach for DWSMAs outside the watershed that provide water to the watershed, and changes to the Capital Investment Project (CIP) Table for more information and lumping projects together for Lake Benton and the City of Marshall. The change to the nonstructural acres goal creates the need to rerun the PTMApp to recalculate estimated reductions. This will take a little time for Houston to complete and will delay the Internal Review a few weeks. Consensus of the Policy Committee was to see the changes before approving as a working draft section.

#### **Plan Section 6: Implementation Programs**

This section identifies the programs to be used for implementation as reviewed by Olm. Changes recommended by the Steering Team were to replace the photo of Pipestone Creek with one from the watershed and remove the word incentive from the section. Motion by Andries, seconded by Wakefield, to approve this section as a working draft with the recommended changes. Motion carried unanimously.

**Plan Section 7: Plan Administration and Coordination**

The section identifies how the plan will be administered. Changes were made regarding administration by the RCRCA Joint Powers Agreement with the members consisting of the counties and SWCDs of Brown, Cottonwood, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Pipestone, Redwood and Yellow Medicine Counties. No changes were suggested by the Steering Team. Consensus of the Policy Committee was to wait until the funding table is completed before approving as a working draft section.

**Formal Agreements**

Netzke provided an update that the RCRCA joint powers agreement has been executed and provided to all the member counties and SWCDs. Changes made allow for Plan Implementation of the Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota and the Redwood (upon Plan completion). A hiring subcommittee has been formed consisting of RCRCA commissioners Anderson, Crowley and Johnson to oversee the development of the position description, advertising, interviews and hiring. It is hoped to have a Watershed Coordinator in place by July 1. This position will be a RCRCA employee paid by the two watershed implementation grants.

**Next Steps: Internal Review**

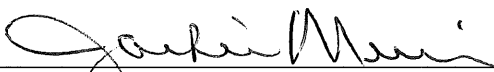
To allow for Houston to rerun PTMApp and make revisions, the Internal Review schedule will be May 27 – June 27. The Internal Review will be of the cover-to-cover version of the plan that allows for extensive comments to be made. Comments made on the final plan become an appendix in the document, so the Internal Review allows for the majority of comments to be addressed early and to create a better document.

A joint Steering Team/Advisory Committee will be held June 9, and Policy Committee meeting on July 14 to approve the revisions from Internal Review and release the plan for Formal Review. The Policy Committee requests a redline version of the document to be emailed out by July 7. Additionally, the BWSR Southern Region Committee will be scheduled to meet in December with BWSR Board approval to follow in January 2026.

**Action Items and Next Meeting**

The Policy Committee will meet on July 14, 2025 at 1:00 PM.

With no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 1:50 PM.



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Jackie Meier, Secretary