

## **COTTONWOOD-MIDDLE MINNESOTA ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN**

### **POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**MAY 15, 2024 – 2:00 PM**

**Springfield Community Center – Springfield, MN**



#### Committee Members Present:

Jeff Veerkamp – Brown County, Brad Augustin - Brown SWCD, Tom Appel - Cottonwood County, Daryl Tasler – Cottonwood SWCD, Rick Anderson - Lyon County, John Lanoue – Lyon SWCD, Lori Gunnink -- Murray County, Mona Henkels – Murray SWCD, Ed Carter – Redwood SWCD, and Nick Klisch - City of Springfield.

#### Steering Team Present:

Allison Kletscher and Jaden Sandgren - Brown County, Melanie Krueger - Brown SWCD, Kay Gross – Cottonwood SWCD, Kerry Netzke - RCRCA/Area II, and Mark Hiles and John Shea – BWSR.

Others Present: Rachel Olm, Houston Engineering Inc. and Jenifer Stum, guest.

Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 1:08 PM. Introductions were made.

The agenda, April 17, 2024 minutes, and financials for month-ended April 30 were reviewed. Expenses to date include \$99,027.00 for consultant services; \$19,603.60 for administration, and total grant expenditure of \$118,630.60. Remaining grant funds amount to \$134,369.40. Motion by Gunnink, seconded by Appel to approve the agenda/minutes/financials as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Draft Plan Section 5: Implementation

After today, the only sections unseen will be the Executive Summary, Table of Contents, and Appendices. The Implementation section was reviewed with the suggested changes by the Steering Team summarized. Policy Committee comments included:

- 1) Pg 5-32 and 5-33: It was suggested to add **Measurable Goals** columns from the Planning Regions Actions Table to the CIP spreadsheet. Chairman Anderson would like to see the acre-feet of storage (if known) added to the project descriptions.

A section for each Planning Region was created. Milestones are established for each region while goals are established for watershed-wide activities.

Motion by Tasler, seconded by Lanoue, to approve Section 5: Implementation as a working draft section. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Draft Plan Section 6: Implementation Programs

This 10-page section outlines the five implementation programs: Projects and Practices, Education and Outreach, Capital Improvements, Research and Data Gaps, and Local Controls and Regulation. Existing programs are listed under the implementation programs that relate to land protection, cost-share, wellhead protection, and other categories.

Regarding the CIPs, it was suggested that signage be required (if the location is appropriate) to promote the Plan and acknowledge the funding source.

Motion by Appel, seconded by Anderson, to approve Section 6: Implementation Programs as a working draft section. Motion carried unanimously.

Draft Plan Section 7: Plan Administration and Coordination

This 10-page section states that the plan will be overseen by a joint powers agreement. Changes suggested by the Steering Team were summarized.

The City of Springfield will likely not sign onto the JPA for implementation. Any projects they have can be brought forward by the SWCD or County. In similar fashion, Netzke added that Area II and RCRCAs may not be part of the JPA as their member counties and SWCDs are already represented. Area II and RCRCAs will discuss this at their June 6 meeting.

The group discussed whether the Policy Committee intends on a stand-alone JPA or using RCRCAs as the umbrella organization in similar fashion to GBERBA. Kay Gross explained how GBERBA incorporates 1W1P into their regularly scheduled meeting. All projects are reviewed and recommended by the Technical Committee. Discussion followed. The Plan only requires that a JPE or JPC is identified as the administrative role; the details of the JPE is not needed until the grant agreement is drafted. Chairman Anderson asked that members have this discussion with their respective boards to determine the organizational format of a stand-alone JPA or under the umbrella of RCRCAs.

Motion by Gunnink, seconded by Klisch, to approve Section 7: Plan Administration and Coordination as a working draft section. Motion carried unanimously.

Internal and Form Review

Two options were presented to the Policy Committee in April:

Option A – Formal review July 1 - August 31, Public Hearing September 18.

Option B - Formal review August 1 – September 30, Public Hearing October 16

The Policy Committee chose Option A in order to avoid harvest.

Olm will have links ready for the draft plan and appendices on May 27 which will allow for Internal Review until about June 12 to allow a few days for edits. It is asked that the link to the draft Plan also be put on the RCRCAs website and Facebook page.

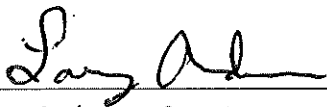
It is suggested that a joint Steering Team/Advisory Committee meeting be held prior to the Policy Committee meeting in June. However, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in June falls on June 19/Juneteenth holiday. The Steering Team provided alternate dates as Monday, June 24 or Thursday, June 13. The Policy Committee selected Monday, June 24. Meeting times will be revised as:

Steering Team/Advisory Committee 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Policy Committee 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

All meetings will be at the Springfield Area Community Center.

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 3:12 PM.



Larry Anderson, Secretary  
Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota Partnership