

**COTTONWOOD-MIDDLE MINNESOTA ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN (1W1P)**

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

JULY 19, 2023 – 2:00 PM

Springfield Community Center – Springfield, MN

Committee Members Present:

Jeff Veerkamp – Brown County, Mark Wellner - 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, Larry Anderson & Glen Kack - Area II, Bill Eckstein - RCRCA, and John Ryan - City of Springfield.

Steering Team Present:

Kay Gross – Cottonwood SWCD, Allison Kletscher - Brown SWCD, Melanie Krueger - Brown SWCD, Kerry Netzke-RCRCA/Area II, and Courtney Snyder-Lyon County/SWCD.

Chairman Anderson welcomed everyone and asked for introductions to be made.

The agenda was adopted as presented. Motion by Gunnink, seconded by Veerkamp, to adopt the Minutes from the June 21, 2023 Policy Committee meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

A financial report for grant expenditures through July 18, 2023 was presented: expenses included \$10,186.24 in consultant fees and \$7,230.57 for administration, totaling \$17,416.81. Motion by Wellner, seconded by Appel, to approve the financial report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Nominations for Advisory Committees (Technical and Citizen)

A list of potential members to be appointed to the Advisory Committees is needed. To date, only a few names have been provided including individuals representing the Lower Sioux Community, SWRDC, Red Rock Rural Water, MNDOT, USF&WS, City of Sleepy Eye and a Murray County Water Plan member. The Steering Team as well as the Policy Committee are asked to compile a list of names by the August meeting as these committees will be needed before year-end.

Plan Outline

It was emphasized that the planning process should collaborate with local partners and agencies to develop a well-organized plan that is concise and easy to read. Olm presented an outline for seven main sections with details of what is to be included within those sections. Motion by Larry Anderson, seconded by Carter, to adopt the Plan Outline as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Plan Logo

A logo for individual plans has become popular that identifies that plan easily. Houston Engineering's graphics team compiled a few logos that incorporates parts of the partners' logos. The Steering Team selected a logo for the Policy Committee to consider. Discussion followed. Consensus of the PC was that the logo wasn't representative of the Cottonwood River watershed. Suggestions were to include the watershed shape with the counties involved and add some agricultural elements, perhaps corn. HEI will work on a revision.



### Public Kickoff Summary

Two kickoff meetings were held: June 1, 2023 in Springfield with 23 in attendance, and June 2, 2023 in Walnut Grove with 18 present. From the input gained at the resource stations and in the survey, the Top 5 priority issues that emerged from these discussions were: Erosion/Streambanks, Minimizing Flooding, Reducing Pollutants, Protection of Drinking Water Sources, and Soil Health/Wind Erosion.

### Plan Issues

A Draft Issues Table was presented to the Committee by Olm. The issues were identified based on HEI's review of existing local water plans, WRAPS/TMDL documents, reports generated by MDA, DNR, and NRCS; 60-day notice comment letters and Steering Committee input. The main resource issues listed were Groundwater, Surface Water, Excess Water, and Lands. Based on the number of times that these issues were mentioned in the documents, a score was assigned. If the total score was 7 or above, it was given a HIGH priority. Scores of 3 to 6 were considered MEDIUM, and scores of 1 or 2 were LOW.

The group was divided into two smaller groups and asked to discuss the HIGH/MEDIUM/LOW rankings, lump issues, and adjust scores. As one group, these changes were reviewed and discussed. HIGH scores will be addressed in this 10-year Plan, MEDIUM scored issues will be included in the implementation plan but may need outside funding, and LOW scored issues will not be addressed in the Plan.

Discussion followed involving climate change, Environmental Justice, drainage management and combining some closely related issues. It was decided to add a stand-alone issue of "Protection of high recreational use and value lakes" to the Surface Water category to emphasize protection of the shallow lakes. Olm would like to bring in HEI's Drainage Specialist, Chris Otterness, to explain what 1W1P can and cannot do relating to drainage. Consensus of the Committee was to welcome Otterness to a meeting. Tasler commended Olm on categorizing the many issues and presenting them clearly. Motion by Tasler, seconded by Gunnink, to approve the Plan Issues as amended. Motion carried unanimously. It was stressed that these Issues are not the same as Priorities which are next to be developed.

### Land and Water Resource Narrative (LWRN)

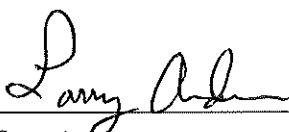
The LWRN, the 2<sup>nd</sup> section of the Plan, was reviewed and edited by the Steering Team and was presented to the PC. The committee pointed out several areas where corrections or additions are desired. HEI will make these revisions for review/approval at the August meeting.

### Action Items and Next Meeting

The next meeting for the Policy Committee will be Wednesday, August 16, 2023 at 2:00 PM at the Springfield Community Center. The Steering Team will meet earlier that day at a time to be determined.

Homework:     Review the revised LWRN when emailed out  
                  Compile Advisory Committee nominees for prioritization work and plan review

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 3:27 PM.

  
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Secretary

Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota Partnership