

REDWOOD RIVER ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN (1W1P)

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 9, 2024 – 1:00 PM

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



Members Present:

Tom Andries - Lyon County, Dennis Welgraven – Murray County, Luke Johnson – Pipestone County, Rick Wakefield – Redwood County, Ed Carter – Redwood SWCD, Bob Byrnes – City of Marshall, Larry Arentson - City of Redwood Falls, and Gary Crowley – Area II.

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

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and asked for introductions to be made.

Motion by Crowley, seconded by Welgraven, to adopt the Agenda as amended to include the Pledge of Allegiance and Approval of Plan Logo. Motion carried unanimously.

All were asked to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

A financial report for grant expenditures from July 1 through August 31 was presented: expenses included \$18,368.99 in consultant fees and \$3,635.29 for administration, totaling \$22,004.28. Total grant expenditure to date is \$38,870.90 with \$199,829.10 remaining. Motion by Wakefield, seconded by Andries, to approve the financial report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Land and Water Resource Narrative (LWRN)

Plan Logo

Olm presented the logo which has been revised per the committee's wishes. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Wakefield, to approve the logo as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

The LWRN, the 2nd section of the Plan, has been reviewed by the Steering Team and Policy Committee as presented today. The committee pointed out a few additional corrections desired:

Page 2-1, 2nd paragraph, 3rd line: define the CWMP acronym

Page 2-5, Climate section, 1st paragraph: explain the time period for the 28" of rain

Page 2-8, Streams section, 3rd line from the bottom of the page: Change "29" to "Twenty-nine"

Page 2-9, Groundwater section, 2nd line from the bottom of the page: add "to" after "compared"

Motion by Carter, seconded by Byrnes, to approve the LWRN as a working draft document with the revisions noted. Motion carried unanimously.

Plan Priority Issues

Review Ranked Issues

Issue Statements have been drafted using aggregated watershed data, agency reports, other reports/research, 60-Day Notice and comment letters and the Steering Team input from the July 8th meeting. 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 be addressed by others without WBIF.

The Steering Team proposed the following changes at their meeting this morning and recommended approval to the Policy Committee:

Surface Water Quality

- Insert “and restoration” into the issue statement – Protection **and restoration** of recreational and nearly/barely impaired surface waters. Discussion involved reducing the priority to Medium, however it remained as High by consensus. Norwegian Creek, Redwood River at Camden State Park, Lower Ramsey Creek and Lake Redwood fall into this classification.

Water Quantity and Hydrology

- Drainage Infrastructure = delete this issue and add portions of its statement to the Water Storage/Flooding issue.

Land Use and Urban Areas

- Barriers to Fish Passage = Remove “Natural” from the issue statement.
- Move “Barriers to Fish Passage” to the ***Water Quantity and Hydrology*** Resource category where it fits better.
- Barriers to Fish Passage = Change the priority from Low to Medium as the DNR currently has funding to address some barriers.
- Natural Areas = Natural barriers will be added to this issue statement.

Approve Priority Issues for Plan

Motion by Crowley, seconded by Wakefield, to approve the Priority Issues as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Overview of Next Steps

Priority Issues Plan Section

This section is about 80% complete and will be ready for review by the end of September.

Measurable Goals and Subwatershed Heat Maps

The Steering Team reviewed very preliminary heat maps this morning and provided insight for needed changes. BWSR Content Requirements require that each priority issue must have a measurable goal associated with it. Goals can be combined for simplicity. Examples from the Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota plan were shared for illustration. Olm covered the methodology to be used for the Measurable Goals section. She intends to share a draft of that plan section without the actual measurable amounts included, just the language for the goal.

The Steering Team also considered 3 options for Planning Regions.

Option 1 – 4 regions based on the HUC 10/HUC 12 boundaries which align with land use and resources.

Option 2 – 5 regions with each orphan area as its own region.

Option 3 – 4 regions with the orphan areas combined as a planning region.

Consensus of the Steering Team was to select ***Option 3.***

Advisory Committee Roster

A list of the confirmed Advisory Committee members and their email addresses was provided.

Motion by Crowley, seconded by Carter, to approve the Advisory Committee membership as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Advisory Committee will meet jointly with the Steering Team on Monday, October 14 at the Lyon County Government Center – Commissioners’ Room.

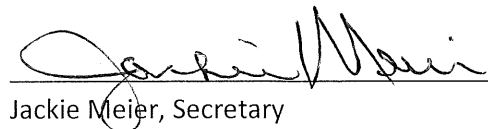
Action Items and Next Meetings

Looking forward, rescheduled dates for November and December are needed to avoid Veterans Day and annual conventions in December. The Policy Committee reviewed their calendars and selected:

Monday, November 18 at 2:00 PM Hybrid meeting - Olm to join virtually due to a morning commitment.

No December meeting will be held.

With no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM.



Jackie Meier, Secretary