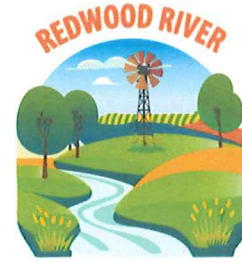


REDWOOD ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN
POLICY COMMITTEE – IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 13, 2025 – 1:00 PM
****joined virtually***



Policy Committee (PC) Present:

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

Steering Team Members: Dale Sterzinger-Lincoln SWCD, Ben Skorczewski-Lyon SWCD, Kerry Netzke-RCRCA/Area II, Courtney Williams-RCRCA, and John Shea & Mark Hiles-BWSR.

Consultant: Rachel Olm, Houston Engineering Inc.

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

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

Motion by Arentson, seconded by Crowley, to approve the July 14, 2025 Minutes as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

The Financial Reports for grant expenditures for the months of August through September 2025 were presented. Through September 30th, total expenses to date include \$132,910.19 in consultant fees and \$23,997.55 for administration, totaling \$156,907.74. Total grant remaining is \$81,792.26. Motion by Wakefield, seconded by Meier, to approve the August through September 2025 financial reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Netzke shared that the FY26/27 WBIF grant amounts have been released. The Redwood will be able to apply for \$1,121,292 in implementation funding.

FORMAL REVIEW

The Formal Review 60-day period went from August 1 to September 30. Overall, 18 comments were received from BWSR, DNR, MDA, MDH, and MPCA and have been included in the comment/response table provided. The majority of the comments are supportive of the Plan, noted the collaboration among the partners, or were editorial in nature. Olm commented that this is probably the shortest comment/response table that she has ever assembled. The table identifies the comment, its location in the plan, the revision made, and if the comment was flagged for further discussion or clarification.

Flagged comments included:

Comment #2 – DNR: discussion involved the inability to “control” flows and using the right practice on the right order of stream. It was suggested to use the DNR language instead of the Plan language as recommended by the Steering Team.

Comment #3 – DNR: Solar farms atop acres set aside for habitat in permanent easement are conflicting in nature. It is unlikely that solar farms would be allowed on these easements. There is concern with the discard of used solar panels and the impervious surface that they create. The Steering recommends removing the “Consider solar farms” from that language in the

implementation table, and to add solar farms as an Emerging Issue. The Plan will be neutral – neither for nor against the renewable energy technology. All comments were reviewed, approved and recommended by the Steering Team for approval by the Policy Committee.

Motion by Meier, seconded by Arentson, to approve the Comment/Response Table and changes to the Plan as discussed. Motion carried unanimously. Olm noted that the 60-Day Formal Review Comment/Response Table becomes an appendix to the Plan, along with any comments that may come from the Public Hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING

In July, the Policy Committee scheduled the Public Hearing for Monday, November 10, 2025 at 1:00 PM at the Lyon County Government Center - Commissioners Room. This hearing is hosted by the Policy Committee and provides an opportunity for the public to ask questions or make comments. The hearing agenda will include the chairman opening the hearing, introduction of the Policy Committee members, and Olm providing an overview of the 1W1P planning process, providing highlights of the plan, providing the comment/response table and revisions made, providing the opportunity for in-person comments, and then closing the hearing.

The Policy Committee will meet immediately following the hearing to approve submitting the plan for BWSR approval with any pending changes to the Plan, and to request the local boards to pass resolutions to approve the Plan for submittal and to adopt the Plan upon approval. Cities are not required to adopt the Plan, but may if they choose to do so. The Lower Sioux Community will be invited to pass a resolution as well. By including the adoption language, the need for a second resolution is not needed. All resolutions must be passed prior to submitting the Plan to BWSR for approval.

The BWSR Southern Region Committee will hear 3 plans: Redwood, Minnesota River-Mankato, and Blue Earth. At this time, the Minnesota River-Mankato plan is about one month behind the other two. Two meetings may become necessary for the committee, either in December or early January 2026. The BWSR Board does not meet in February, so making the January agenda is imperative.

Netzke has drafted a Public Notice for this hearing that each MOA partner must post on their website for 14 days. Netzke will email this Word document to the partners for this posting period.

Additionally, resolution templates for the counties, SWCDS, cities, joint powers organizations, and the Lower Sioux Community will also be emailed out. These resolutions should be passed in November, after the Public Hearing.

PLANNING GRANT DOLLARS

Netzke provided the most current financial report for expenses through September 30, 2025. Houston Engineering estimates coming in under budget by \$5,000-\$6,000 due to few comments received. Steering Team funding of \$12,800 will not be used as well as the \$21,700 contingency. Houston Engineering was asked to provide a quote for development of the BEAST (Benefits Estimator and Spreadsheet Tool) and the MS4Front Tracking System. An estimate of \$7,900 for BEAST and \$12,000 for MS4Front were provided. It was noted that a \$6,000 annual subscription for MS4Front cannot be paid by the planning grant, but can be paid with WBIF funds.

Additional planning grant expenditures will include printing of the approved Plans and potentially starting the watershed analysis to identify subwatersheds that may provide water storage areas beneficial to the Redwood River, in similar fashion to the analysis Houston performed for the Cottonwood-Middle MN Plan. The entire stacked hydrograph analysis (\$35,000) may not be funded with remaining funds, but at least the subwatershed identification and other work could be completed.

The Policy Committee asked if monitoring to prove the estimated reductions could be provided. It was explained that the cost of monitoring is expensive and is not eligible with this grant funding. We will continue to rely on the current monitoring stations at Russell, Marshall, and Redwood Falls for flow, sediment, and nutrient data.

The Steering Team recommends accepting Houston's estimates for development of the BEAST and MS4Front software to the Policy Committee.

Motion by Crowley, seconded by Arentson, to accept Houston Engineering's estimate for development of the BEAST and MS4Front software at a cost of \$19,900.00. Motion carried unanimously.

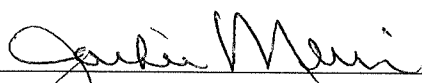
ACTION ITEMS AND NEXT MEETING

Netzke will send out the Public Notice language and the resolution templates that the local partners will need to present to their respective Boards in November after the 10th.

The Public Hearing will be November 10, 2025 at 1:00 PM at the Lyon County Government Center – Commissioner's Room. It was decided to not schedule a rain date in the event of inclement weather. A 10-day posting will be needed for a postponed date for the Public Hearing.

The Policy Committee will meet immediately following the Public Hearing

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 PM.



Jackie Meier, Secretary