



Cannon River

One Watershed, One Plan

“Aligning local water planning on major watershed boundaries with state strategies towards prioritized, targeted and measurable implementation plans”

Minutes

Policy Committee Meeting

September 26, 2018

**Rice County Government Services Building
320 Third St NW, Faribault, MN 55021**

Policy Committee Members: Brad Anderson (Goodhue County), Kevin Chamberlain (Dakota SWCD), Richard Cook (Rice SWCD), Cletus Gregor (Le Sueur SWCD), Brian Harguth (Waseca County), James Hedeem (Belle Creek WD), Peg Varien (North Cannon River WMO), Jeff Beckman (Goodhue SWCD), Galen Malecha (Rice County), Mike Slavik (Dakota County), Steven Rohlfig (Le Sueur County).

Also in Attendance: Brad Becker (Dakota County staff), Haley Byron (Waseca County staff), Ashley Gallagher (Dakota SWCD staff), Eric Gulbransen (Steele SWCD staff), Beau Kennedy (Goodhue SWCD staff), Holly Kalbus (Le Sueur County staff), Melissa King (BWSR), Jenny Mocol-Johnson (BWSR), Steve Pahs (Rice SWCD staff), Glen Roberson (Goodhue SWCD staff), Mike Schultz (Le Sueur SWCD staff), Brian Watson (Dakota SWCD staff), Mark Schaetzke (Waseca SWCD staff), Camilla Correll (EOR)

1. Call to Order

Chair Rohlfig called the meeting to order at 9:10 am.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Anderson, second by Malecha to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Cook, second by Beckman to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2018 Policy Committee meeting. Motion carried.

4. Invoices for Payment

It was noted that two line items were added, one for the hours of administration that are over the budgeted amount and another for the workplan change that was approved for EOR at the last Policy Committee meeting. A question was asked as to whether we have enough money to address the recent comments and still finish the Plan. It is hoped that there will be adequate funds for completing the plan but we will need to look at utilizing the contingency and shifting between line items.

Motion by Cook, second by Anderson to recommend approval of invoices for payment. Motion carried.

5. Internal Reviews

Correll presented on the internal reviews that have occurred. Portions of the Draft Plan have been reviewed by the TAG throughout the planning process as the group worked through each stage. More recently the Draft Plan was reviewed by the group July 24th through August 8th. Since that review there have been a number of meetings and conference calls with BWSR to primarily discuss the measurable goals. One conference call specifically addressed the water storage goal requirement; the other conference calls addressed the supporting documentation for the measurable goals.

- Was there duplication in comments received? Not much duplication, but some overlap. It is good to have many people look at the Draft Plan.
- Were BWSRs comments related to the layout? No, more related to supporting documentation to measurable goals, which is why the 'Justification for the Goals' section was added along with pace of progress tables and text. These elements can be used in annual work planning.
- A statement was made that the Policy Committee wants to continue to ensure that comments are heard.
- How was the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) used? The WRAPS report is a precursor to One Watershed, One Plan and was used to generate many of the measurable goals in the Draft Plan. MPCA coordinates the WRAPS however there is local staff involvement.

6. Revised Schedule

Gallagher presented on the revised schedule. The schedule now has the Policy Committee meeting on December 5th with anticipation that a Draft Plan would be approved to go out for 60 day review at this meeting. This is approximately 3 months behind the previous schedule. After the 60 day review, and 90 day review are factored in, the earliest a Plan would be approved by the BWSR Board is summer 2019. The Policy Committee, if they become a Joint Power Board (JPB), will then have 120 days to formally adopt the Plan. If the Policy Committee is not a JPB the Plan will need to be adopted by the full Board of every member.

7. Presentations

Correll provided a presentation on Draft Plan content and navigation of the Draft Plan. A handout on 'Navigating the Plan' was also provided. The handout uses one concern as an example in order to show the progression that occurred during planning. Presentation covered the what and where aspect of the Draft Plan, provided a description of the different Tiers for the Priority Issues, and components that are provided for Priority Issue including an issue statement, desired future condition, measurable goal, justification for goals, implementation activities and pace of progress. Comments and questions from the Policy Committee included:

- Questions as to whether other lakes, or lakes that are not listed as priority lakes, would be addressed in the Plan. The planning process requires prioritization however there are some activities that are watershed wide and could benefit other lakes. There is also a section in the Plan for local priorities where other lakes or priorities can be addressed.
- There was a question about cover crop adoption in different counties and whether there has been an increase. Cannon River Watershed Partnership has done some work to track on a county basis. There is also an activity in the Draft Plan that would work in partnership with the University of Minnesota to conduct remote tracking of cover crop implementation.

- Is BWSR satisfied with the Draft Plan? We are working towards that. Policy Committee expressed that they want the Plan to remain a local Plan and not just be modified to become what BWSR wants.
- Who does assessment? The planning partners do and share this with the Policy Committee.
- Will the Implementation Schedule be shifted due to the new approval timeline? Timeline will be monitored and the schedule will be shifted if considered necessary.

A second presentation was provided by local staff. Staff provided a summary on the priority areas and implementation areas within their organization, a snapshot of activities, and strengths that each Member hopes to contribute to the Plan. It was noted at the end that there are also a number of watershed wide activities, many are socioeconomic concerns. Local staffs are excited about working on the Plan Implementation. The planning process has helped set the stage for partnerships that will be needed to implement the Plan.

8. Draft Joint Powers Agreement

The goal of this discussion would be to reach consensus for the Draft JPA to be released for legal review by all members. The Rice County attorney is willing to be the point of contact for questions and comments on the Draft JPA. The Draft JPA was updated after the last meeting to incorporate decisions made by the policy committee.

The remaining section requiring discussion was Membership Dues. The Policy Committee had recommended a structure where the counties pay. However, after staff had further discussion, the staff recommendation is to keep all members listed. This would still allow the Policy Committee to determine dues annually, and it could be determined that not everyone needs to pay in a given year based upon project locations or other factors. This option also does not preclude a county from paying for the SWCD, however every county can determine this on their own. It was noted that Dakota County may not participate if only the counties pay. A previous experience with another board with dues ended with mixed results for Dakota County. There was some discussion on Dakota County/NCRWMO and how the metro planning requirements are very confusing, and they do not want to have to pay for multiple plans and pay multiple dues. The goal of the staff recommended tiered approach was to keep the JPA at a higher level, as there may be changes during the 10 years, such as SWCDs securing stable funding.

There was discussion on the decision made at the previous Policy Committee meeting. It was thought that a motion had been made, when it was just a general decision made to guide staff for drafting the JPA. Therefore a formal motion should be made at this Policy Committee meeting.

There was a question as to whether the tiers would cover the administrative costs. It was pointed out that administration is not the sole focus of the membership dues. It takes money for the Board to operate and dues can be used to seek outside grants and other funding sources. BWSR grants allow for some administration costs but there will be outside opportunities to consider as well.

There was still some concern with the watershed district and the watershed management organization being listed, however the fact that the member dues are determined annual by the Board provides more comfort. There was a question as to whether having more members listed

is better for seeking grants. It is unknown if it would have a beneficial impact when seeking grants but it does show more of a team approach. Listing everyone and determining dues annually keeps the conversation open.

Motion by Cook, second by Anderson to use the staff recommended tiered approach for membership dues in the Draft JPA. Motion carried.

Motion by Galen, second by Slavik to send the Draft JPA to each member for legal review. Motion carried.

9. Draft Factsheet and Draft Frequently Asked Questions

The Draft Factsheet and FAQ were presented at the last Policy Committee meeting. There have been some minor updates based upon guidance from the Policy Committee. These materials would be sent out with the Draft JPA. A comment arose about land use and how this is one of the more effective ways to make change. While the Draft JPA does not support land use authority the planning group recognizes the need for coordination on land use among members and there are activities in the Draft Plan to improve coordination. It was recommended to consider organizing questions by placing those that would be the most common questions at the beginning.

10. Next Meeting

December 5th, 2018 at 9:00 am at the Rice County Government Services Building.

11. Adjourn

Motion by Hedeem, second by Slavik to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Galen Malecha, Secretary

Cannon River Watershed 1W1P Policy Committee