

Cannon River One Watershed, One Plan

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

DRAFT Minutes Policy Committee Meeting November 8, 2017

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

Policy Committee Members: Jeff Beckman (Goodhue SWCD), Kevin Chamberlain (Dakota SWCD), Richard Cook (Rice SWCD), Cletus Gregor (Le Sueur SWCD), Dan Hansen (Steele SWCD), James Hedeem (Belle Creek WD), Carrie Jennings (North Cannon River WMO), Galen Malecha (Rice County), Steven Rohlfig (Le Sueur County), Mike Slavik (Dakota County).

Also in Attendance: Brad Becker (Dakota County staff), Brad Behrens (Rice County staff), Dave Bucklin (GBERBA staff), Dave Copeland (BWSR), Ashley Gallagher (Dakota SWCD staff), Justin Hanson (Mower SWCD staff), Beau Kennedy (Goodhue SWCD staff), Shaina Keseley (BWSR), Josh Mankowski (Le Sueur County staff), Jenny Mocol-Johnson (BWSR), Bill Opheim (Waseca County intern), Donna Rasmussen (Fillmore SWCD staff), Mike Schultz (Le Sueur SWCD staff), Brian Watson (Dakota SWCD staff), Camilla Correll (EOR).

1. Call to Order

Chair Rohlfig called the meeting to order at 9:05am.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Hansen, second by Gregor to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2017 Policy Committee meeting. Motion carried.

4. Invoices for Payment

Gallagher reviewed the financial summary. **Motion by Cook, second by Slavik to recommend approval of invoices for payment. Motion carried.**

5. Workplan Progress Update

Correll presented on the workplan progress that has been made and the next steps (see presentation slides). The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and Planning Work Group (PWG) will meet in November to finalize the issues, priorities and management areas. This will then be brought to the Policy Committee at their next meeting. The next phase is the establishment of

measurable goals followed by targeted implementation activities. The process continues to involve many stakeholders through the use of public Water Conversations as well as the TAG, PWG and Policy Committee. Questions and comments on the presentation included:

- The draft management areas map showed the Cannon Bottoms area as a hot spot. Is this all below Lake Byllesby? As it is currently mapped, yes it is. Follow-up comment included concern that there are still groundwater issues in Northfield area above Lake Byllesby. Response was that the management areas are still draft and the TAG/PWG will have an opportunity at their November 15th meeting to make any necessary changes.
- How likely is it that the TAG/PWG will change the priorities and management areas? Fairly likely as there is still a need for review on more watershed wide issues. Groundwater will likely rise as a watershed wide issue.
- There was a question regarding input data used for the Zonation process. EOR previously prepared a memo on the sources of data and it is available on the Cannon River 1W1P website.

6. Updates on priorities and management areas

Included in agenda item number 5 during the presentation given for the Workplan Progress Update.

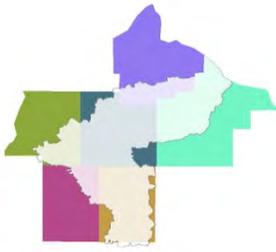
7. Committee and work group roles and responsibilities

Watson provided an overview on the work groups and committees and how they have evolved. After consultation with BWSR, it was advised that the Cannon River 1W1P add a Technical Advisory Group (TAG). A determination on who this would involve was needed and it was decided to have a representative from each state and regional review agencies, cities with population approximately 10,000 or greater, Cannon River Watershed Partnership, all the Planning Work Group members and BWSR advisory staff. This is a group of 28 people that will continue to meet throughout the planning process. Questions and comments included:

- Were models taken from other watersheds? Response is that we are following BWSR Guidance.
- Is it possible to get the names of the members? Response is TAG members are posted on the Cannon River 1W1P website.

8. Collaboration for implementation

Gallagher presented on BWSR requirements for implementation structure and what that means for the Cannon River 1W1P (see presentation slides). The Policy Committee will need to determine how current group/committee roles will change or stay the same, the type of structure for implementation, and the timing of these decisions. The presentation then transitioned into three examples of existing structures around southern Minnesota watersheds including Justin Hanson from Mower SWCD and Cedar River Watershed District, Donna



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Rasmussen from Fillmore SWCD on the Root River 1W1P, and Dave Bucklin from Cottonwood SWCD on the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA).

Malecha left at 10:30am.

Questions and comments were held until the end of all presentations and included:

- For the Root River 1W1P, where will the implementation dollars go? Is there acceptance with landowners? Response is that the group has developed a workplan in the last year as they wait for funding, and there are 'ready to go' projects. The Workplan also includes initiatives that are losing funding such as a nutrient management staff and soil health staff that work in multiple counties. There will also be work in two wellhead protection areas, and support of a farmer-led council in a sub-watershed.
- Is there duplication with Watershed Districts/WMO now that we have 1W1P? Response is it is more an opportunity to leverage existing resources, especially staff. A position for administration of 1W1P or a Watershed District can be contracted through the SWCD office. This provides opportunity to target practices and provides services at the same time. The transition to 1W1P will be difficult for the state and local governments but in the end it will lead to new opportunities.
- When the Watonwan watershed starts their 1W1P, how will GBERBA be involved/represented? Response is staff may wear multiple hats but the current plan is to have one staff represent Cottonwood SWCD and another staff represent GBERBA.
- Comment made to thank the presenters as their information was very helpful, and that a Joint Powers Board seems to be an option that works well.
- Comment that implementation dollars from the state may require local match dollars. How are you leveraging dollars? In the Root River 1W1P they are going to try and use county dollars to the SWCD's as match. Follow-up comment that in 2018 there will be \$8.75 million available as part of the watershed based funding pilot program that aims to reduce competitiveness and encourage collaboration.
- What is the timeline? Response is ultimately is up to the Policy Committee.
- What is the best structure for moving the needle on water quality? Response is we do not know this. Examples in the metro area include watersheds that operate on multi-million dollar budgets down to approximately \$30,000 budgets.

The presentation concluded with three check-in questions for the Policy Committee members:

1. What information do you as a policy committee member need?
2. How could our Cannon River 1W1P efforts fail?
3. What does success look like?

9. Next meeting

The next Policy Committee meeting was scheduled for January 10th, 9:00 am at the same location, Rice County Government Services Building.

10. Adjourn

Motion by Hedeem, second by Gregor to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Galen Malecha".

Galen Malecha, Secretary
Cannon River Watershed 1W1P Policy Committee