

# Cannon River 1W1P

## Technical Advisory Group

### Meeting #6 Notes

March 21, 2018

9:00am – 12:30 pm

Rice County Government Center  
320 Third St NW, Faribault, MN 55021

**Technical Advisory Group:** Cole Johnson (*City of Northfield*), Spencer Herbert (*MDA*), Shaina Keseley (*BWSR*), Melissa King (*City of Faribault*), Todd Piepho (*DNR*), Kristi Pursell (*CRWP*), Bradley Rademacher (*City of Owatonna*), Emily Resseger (*Met Council*), Justin Watkins (*MPCA*)

**Planning Work Group:** Brad Becker (*Dakota County*), Brad Behrens (*Rice County*), Haley Byron (*Waseca County*), Ashley Gallagher (*Dakota SWCD*), Eric Gulbransen (*Steele SWCD*), Beau Kennedy (*Goodhue SWCD*), Holly Kalbus (*LeSueur County*), Steve Pahs (*Rice SWCD*), Glen Roberson (*Goodhue SWCD*), Michael Schultz (*LeSueur SWCD*), Brian Watson (*Dakota SWCD*).

**Advisory Staff:** Meghan Funke (EOR), Jenny Mocol-Johnson (BWSR)

#### ❖ Review Water Conversations

- Summary of the Northfield and Owatonna Water Conversations was provided. The events started with an hour long open house. Following the open house, there was a brief presentation on accomplishments to date and instructions for the small group discussions. Participants then divided into one of three issue categories: Resource Concerns, Landscape Alterations and Socioeconomic Factors. Northfield had 22 participants, Owatonna had 16, and a few Planning Work Group members attended as well. The summary and worksheets with notes will be posted online.

#### ❖ All Measureable Goals

- Draft Issues, Goals and Implementation Activities document was projected for the group as well as provided by email prior to the meeting. Changes were made in the word document as discussion occurred on each section.

#### ❖ Revised Measurable Goals for Resource Concerns: Wetlands

- A quick update was provided on how these goals have changed since the last meeting. The goal is no longer a percent or ac ft gain based goal but it now references the WRAPS goal. These were originally goals set to achieve nitrogen reductions but can serve as interim goal until an H & H model is complete. No comments from the TAG.

#### ❖ Revised Measurable Goals for Resource Concerns: Soil Health

- A conference call was held last week to get further input on Soil Health goals. Participants included Spencer Herbert, Alan Kraus, Justin Hanson, Matt Drewitz, some PWG members and EOR.
  - It is realized that Organic Matter is difficult to measure. Decision: Support idea but don't base goal on an increase in OM.
  - BWSR Tillage and Erosion Survey Project which is developing remote sensing methods for measuring residue and cover crops was discussed. Would be helpful to have now for baseline, but not available for likely another year. Some feel this method will not be very reliable and transects surveys would be more accurate and useful.
  - Soil Health is a watershed wide goal, with first focus on drainage areas of priority lakes and streams.
  - Decision: Make goal 1 broader to include other practices besides cover crops, such as tillage reduction.
  - Decision: Make language in issue statement less accusatory such as removing 'poor' agricultural practices. Correct 'no tillage' to 'conventional tillage'.

## ❖ Revised Measureable Goals for Landscape Alterations: Drainage Systems

- A meeting was held last week to get further input on Drainage Systems goals. Purpose was to gather ditch authorities, ditch inspectors and others to help create goals that don't contradict ditch law. Participants included Tim Gillette, Le Sueur County drainage Authority, Inspectors from Rice, Steele, LeSueur (which also are SWCD employees/PWG members), some PWG members and EOR.
  - Meeting started with review of how other 1W1P plans have incorporated drainage. Most plans do not elevate drainage systems as much as Cannon River currently is. Decision: There are enough drainage systems in Cannon River watershed that drainage should be significant.
  - Discussion on how many drainage systems there actually are. Decision: Document systems in the Land and Water Resource Inventory.
- Issue Statement
  - List the number of systems and miles in description.
  - Define public drainage as 103E.
- Drainage Systems Management: Goal 1
  - Already have basic inventory, goal is really to inventory for multi-purpose drainage options.
  - DNR reviews repair and improvement requests and suggests multi-purpose ideas.
- Drainage Systems Management: Goal 2 and 3
  - Not much discussion from the TAG on these two goals
- Drainage Systems Education: Goal 1
  - This was the fourth goal developed at the drainage sub-group meeting. No discussion on this goal
- Operation and Maintenance (Tier two)
  - Is this encompassed in Drainage Systems Management Goal 1?
  - What would a potential funding source be?
  - Currently required to do this every 5 years
  - Discussion on cleanouts and whether ditches that have started to naturalize could remain that way and only perform minor cleanouts or repairs. Difficult to do with ditch law, but inventory in Drainage Systems Management Goals could help identify these sites.
  - Keep this as Tier two goal, in case opportunity for activities arises during the 10 year plan.

## ❖ Measurable Goals for Landscape Alterations: Climate Change

- Issue Statement
  - Include vegetation changes; in particular Cannon is on edge of three biomes that could change. This also affects water quality.
  - Include language on how groundwater availability could change.
- Goal 1
  - What is measurability? What is defined as a 'better understanding'?
  - Suggestion to look at goals in plans around the country.
  - Revisit the Inter-Agency Report on Climate Change
  - Adding the action item of conducting vulnerability assessments could make goal more measureable.
  - Include teams as part of the vulnerability assessments, similar to a soil health team model.
  - Use the EPA CREAT tools for assessing impacts to utilities.
- Goal 2
  - Do not use NOAA atlas 14 but rather leave open to most current version of precipitation frequency data.
  - Decision: Write goals in similar style to Soil Health Goals
- Implementation activities

- Need more activities that individuals can implement.
- Measure ice out dates- DNR already has network of volunteers that do this and posts online, however there is probably not any trend analysis.
- Multi-use trails that are not just for winter activities. Might not fit under this goal.

## ❖ Measurable Goals for Socio Economic Concerns

- Educating Local Land Use Decision Makers
  - Goal 1 –
    - Rewrite language to lighten/make more positive, such as ‘Inform’ instead of ‘Educate’
    - Does this mean reach each LGU once in the 10 year plan? Yes it does, might not be enough with how frequently officials can change.
    - Discussion on whether townships really need to be included. Decision: Yes, some townships have landuse authority, such as all Dakota County and Bridgewater in Rice County. They also make decisions on roads and culverts. Could prioritize LGUs for education based on whether they have landuse authority or not.
- Citizen Engagement
  - Issue Statement –
    - Rewrite to make a little more positive, use word like ‘inform’.
  - Desired Future Condition-
    - Discussion on adding more language on behavior change or cultural change.
  - Goal 1 and 2-
    - Not much discussion, include ‘removing barriers’ in Goal 2
  - Implementation Activities
    - Distributing copies of the MN Stormwater Manual is not feasible, should just direct to the online manual.
- Watershed Partnerships
  - Combine Goals 1 and 2
  - Remove Goal 3
  - In Goal 4 change ‘trusted individuals’ to ‘key players’ or ‘community leaders’
  - Idea in Goal 7 is good to show effectiveness, however combine Goal 7 and Goal 6 into new Goal 2 as ‘stakeholders’
  - Move Goal 5 of increasing use of volunteers to Citizen Engagement as a new Goal. This is really increase coordination and tracking of volunteers.
  - Put the whole Coordination and Partnerships section before Education and Outreach
- Internal Capacity
  - Discussion on what is meant by internal capacity. The ability of the group to work together or the ability of the group to work with others? Idea originated from ability of existing or new staff to get projects done, and technical approval authority or certification needed to do so.
  - Desired Future Condition
    - Might need to wait until Policy Committee selects a structure. Could be more general such as ability to do business, adapt to change, and achieve goals.
  - Goal 1 is more like two separate goals. Discussion as to whether goal of transparent process or offer public opportunity are really even needed as goals. Need to think about what activities would be under these goals. Example activity could be as simple as continuing the TAG
  - Goal 2 is covered in coordination and partnerships and can be removed.
  - Goal 3 was language was tweaked in the word document at the meeting

- Recreational Value
  - Goal 1
    - Is this the physical access points on in general improve the public's access?
    - Is this passive or active recreation? Could we just focus on access to water resources and not all natural environments? Decision: Currently leave natural environments but add water resources
  - Goal 2
    - This is almost a description for a desired future condition, might not be needed as a goal.
  - Implementation
    - Discussion that many of these activities will have to look to funding sources beyond Clean Water Funds such as LCCMR or Lessard Sams.

#### ❖ Implementation Table

- The draft table filled out with information for the Lakes, Stream and Rivers section was projected for the group and had been emailed prior to the meeting. Goal of discussion was to determine if the table format had the necessary components.
- Some activities account for staff time others do not, if it makes sense for the activity it should be both.
- Multiple ways to filter the information, project lead column will probably be used often.
- Group did not have any additions or subtractions to be made to the table.
- There was concern about format in final print version of plan. This will still be worked on, full excel table will not be used.
- Process for reviewing table
  - EOR will bring draft table to April TAG meeting.
  - Time needed for review? Around 2-3 weeks
  - Each county can prepare their comments
  - Cant track changes in excel but can just use different font colors

#### ❖ Next Steps

- Next meeting will be **April 18th**, 9am at the Rice County Government Services Building.
- **Homework**: Draft Issues, Goals and Implementation Activities document will be posted in Google Docs. Members can review the draft implementation activities and provide comments in preparation for the Implementation Table.