LOWER ST. CROIX COMPREHENSIVE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN (CWMP)

**IMPLEMENTATION POLICY COMMITTEE, MEETING 1**

**JAN. 25, 2021 MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 4:01pm by Angie Hong.

*Members present:* Anoka SWCD: Sharon LeMay

Brown's Creek WD: Klay Eckles (Alternate)

Carnelian Marine St Croix WD: Wade Johnson

Chisago County: Chris DuBose, Lance Petersen, and Mike Mergens,

Chisago SWCD: Jim Birkholz

Comfort Lake Forest Lake WD: Jackie Anderson

Isanti County: Susan Morris

Isanti SWCD: Jerry Schaubach

Middle St. Croix WMO: John Fellegy

Pine County: Steve Hallan

Pine SWCD: Doug Odegard

South Washington WD: Kevin ChapdeLaine

Sunrise River JP WMO: Janet Hegland

Washington County: Fran Miron

Washington SWCD: Diane Blake

*Members absent:* Valley Branch WD: Ed Marchan

*Also attending:* Dawn White and Steve Paquay (Chisago County at-large alternates), Steve Schmaltz (CLFLWD alternate), Dave Medvecke (Isanti SWCD alternate), Jerry Telker (Pine SWCD board supervisor), Candice Kantor (Sunrise River JPWMO alternate); staff from BWSR and member organizations

**AGENDA ITEMS**

***Election of Officers***

Chris Dubose nominated Fran Miron to serve as committee chair. Susan Morris seconded the nomination. Jim Birkholz asked for a full slate of officers to be nominated before the group voted. Jackie Anderson nominated Chris DuBose for Vice Chair. Wade Johnson seconded the nomination. Jackie Anderson nominated Susan Morris for Secretary and Steve Hallam seconded the nomination.

Role Call Vote: All members vote yes. The slate of candidates was confirmed: Fran Miron as chair, Chris Dubose as vice-chair, and Susan Morris as secretary.

As the newly elected chair, Fran Miron led the remainder of the meeting.

***Approve Jan. 25, 2021 meeting agenda***

Jerry Schaubach requested that a conversation about the newly signed JPA be added to the agenda after approval of Oct. 26 minutes and before the draft workplan presentation. Motion to approve the agenda with this addition Jerry Schaubach. Second by Jackie Anderson.

Roll Call Vote: All members vote yes. Agenda approved.

***Presentation: Overview of planning process and implementation timeline***

Angie Hong provided a summary of the planning process over the past two and a half years. The presentation slides can be found online [here](https://oriole-bullfrog.squarespace.com/s/1-25-21-presentation.pdf) or a paper copy is available upon request.

Fran Miron noted that the group is at a critical phase of the process. The first year of the implementation process will be a good test to see how this group can work together.

***Approve Oct. 26, 2020 meeting minutes***

Janet Hegland moved to approve the Oct. 26 policy committee meeting minutes. Seconded by Chris DuBose. No discussion. Roll Call Vote: All members vote yes. Minutes approved.

***Discussion of Joint Powers Agreement***

Jerry Schaubach shared concerns about language in Section 9B of the JPA which states that any changes to the JPA can only be approved with unanimous approval of all signatories. All other decisions in agreement were changed to require only 2/3 approval. In Section 4B of the JPA, language was amended to require only 2/3 approval to terminate the JPA; however, in 9B, unanimous approval is still required for modifications to the JPA. John Fellegy noted the difference as well, and Steve Hallan agreed that unanimous agreement could be an impossible bar for the group to meet. One person could block any changes. Jackie Anderson said her understanding was that it was left this way intentionally – perhaps the group could review the audio recording from the meeting. Fran Miron agreed that it would be a good idea to review audio and come back to this topic after the audio is reviewed. Jerry Schaubach agreed he would be fine with continuing this conversation at a future policy committee meeting. Jerry Schaubach moved to direct staff to review the previous meeting’s recording and add this topic to the agenda for a future policy committee meeting. Jackie Anderson seconded the motion. Janet Hegland noted that she remembered the conversation happening the same as Jackie Anderson had said. She suggested that if the group decides to keep the language the same, they should consider adding a dispute resolution process. No other comments. Roll Call Vote: All members vote yes. Motion approved.

***Review and consider adopting new policy committee by-laws***

Jamie Schurbon provided a summary of the draft bylaws. Jackie Anderson motioned to approve the draft bylaws. Mike Mergens seconded the motion. Jim Birkholz asked about language in Article 8 that says regular meetings will be held within the Lower St. Croix watershed – would the group potentially be able to hold a meeting across the river in WI if future collaboration opportunities arise? Intent is to have local and accessible meeting, which is good. But it may be nice to allow some flexibility. Fran Miron asked if Wisconsin would still be considered in the Lower St. Croix watershed? Klay Eckles noted that the bylaws refer to “regular board meetings” but “special” meetings could likely be held elsewhere. With that noted, there was no opposition to the current bylaws language. No other discussion. Roll Call Vote: All members vote yes. Motion approved.

***Presentation: 2021-22 Draft Work Plan***

Jay Riggs provided an overview of the work plan, which was developed by the steering committee and advisory committee over the past 3.5 months. The following meetings were a part of the work plan development process:

* Oct. 5 – Planning Team
* Oct 7 - Steering Committee + cities
* Dec. 1 – Wetlands subcommittee meeting with BWSR
* Dec. 10 – Planning Team
* Dec. 14 – Steering Committee + cities
* Jan. 4 – 8 – Steering Committee Subcommittees
  + **Wetlands:** Emily Heinz (CLFLWD), Jamie Schurbon (Anoka SWCD, Sunrise WMO), Jeremy Williamson (Pine Co.), Tiffany Determan (Isanti SWCD), John Hanson (Barr Eng./VBWD), Craig Mell (Chisago SWCD), Jay Riggs (Washington CD)
  + **Ag-Urban-Education:** Craig Mell (Chisago SWCD), Jamie Schurbon (Anoka SWCD, Sunrise WMO), Mike Isensee (CMSCWD), Caleb Anderson (Pine Co), Mike Kinney (CLFLWD), Jessica Jagoe and Kurt Schneider (Chisago Co), Jay Riggs (Washington CD)
  + **Prioritization and Targeting Analysis:** Jay Riggs (Washington CD), Caleb Anderson (Pine Co); Jerry Spetzman (Chisago Co), Jeremy Williamson (Pine Co), Casey Thiel (Chisago SWCD), Mike Isensee (CMSCWD)

• Jan. 12 – Planning Team

• Jan. 14 – Advisory Committee

Note: The group made a conscious decision to hold off developing final budget recommendations until partners found out about competitive Clean Water Fund grants in December. Several LSC partners received large grants in this round.

Jay Riggs reviewed the proposed work plan activities and budget.

Questions:

Jackie Anderson – CLFLWD prepared a memo to submit to the PC after this meeting. Would like the committee to consider and discuss at a future meeting. Their concern all along has been to make this plan as specific and targeted as the CLFLWD watershed management plan. Angie Hong will send the memo to the committee after today’s meeting.

Fran Miron – could we change the language on page one to make it clear that we intend to hire just one person, not multiple people? Could we also revise the wording for the farmers we will work with to make sure it is clear that we intend to work with owners and operators of 3000 acres total and not just farms that are larger than 3000 acres. There is also a typo in the last page of the education section of the work plan.

Klayton Eckles – Appreciates the fact that this is a holistic approach. It won’t be possible to hit everything everywhere but very much supports the idea of a regional plan that targets work to get the best benefit for our whole area.

Steve Schmaltz – want to make sure that we have position descriptions for the ag outreach and education plan and that we clarify the milestones for the ag outreach position. It should not be just to hire the position or to implement BMPs. By the end of the first year, the new hire should have an program up and running.

Fran Miron – how will our position integrate with the Minnesota aq water quality certification program? Will the position promote this?

Jay Riggs – Yes. This person will promote existing programs such as MAWQCP. Many of these details will come out in the position description and work plan development for this position.

Jim Birkholz – There are several people in the policy committee that are MAWQCP certified. There are a lot of opportunities for collaboration in this new work plan and we’ll undoubtedly learn that we have a variety of tools to use to work with ag landowners. Staff have done a good job pulling the work plan together. We can put all our tools on the table and learn from each other rather than saying one approach is better than another.

Janet Hegland – how does this work plan % breakout compare with that proposed in the CWMP? Angie Hong showed a table with comparative percentages prepared by Emily Heinz. They are close but not the same. Administration is not considered part of the shared services portion of the budget. Janet – was admin a line item in the CWMP? Angie – yes.

Jackie Anderson – is concerned that our new agronomy position might take on job duties of existing SWCD staff. These new funds should enhance; not supplant existing funds and programs. Focus should be on soil health.

Chris Dubose – hasn’t seen Jackie’s letter yet. First thought is that this is a good plan and he is in favor. Who will be involved in the hiring process for new positions? Jay – it will be a panel comprised of interested members from partner entities.

Fran Miron – could someone review the minor changes suggested to the work plan before the policy committee votes to approve?

Emily Heinz – reviewed the suggested changes and conversation so far. Angie Hong noted that staff are recommending removing $100 from the wetlands budget to be correct an error in total amount coming from State WBIF.

There were no objections and no additional comments.

***Consider approving the draft work plan to send to local governing boards for final approval***

Steve Hallan motioned to approve the proposed work plan with minor changes suggested. Jim Birkholz seconded the motion. Fran noted that there are processes to change work plans as needed. Doug Odegard asked who local partners should notify once their boards approve the work plan. Answer - email Craig Mell with a note of the meeting date and decision or a copy of board minutes. No additional discussion. Roll Call Vote: All members vote yes. (Note: Susan Morris left the meeting before the final vote took place). Motion approved.

***Set meeting schedule for 2021***

Previously, the policy committee was meeting on the last Monday of the Month. Will the policy committee continue to meet on a monthly basis? It could move to fewer meetings after the implementation process moves forward. After conversation the policy committee decided to plan on meeting the 4th Monday of each month, beginning on March 22, with the option to cancel or reschedule future meetings as needed. Jackie Anderson motioned to approve the proposed meeting schedule. Chris DuBose seconded the motion. No additional discussion. Roll Call Vote: All members vote yes. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned by Chair Fran Miron at 5:57pm.

Next Policy Committee meeting will be held on Monday, March 22, 4-6pm via Zoom.