**Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Monday, December 13, 9-10:30am**

To join the Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81644480415?pwd=TGx6a1ZrN3Z0bGJBM3psRHUxa3dndz09>

Meeting ID: 816 4448 0415

Passcode: 732347

**MINUTES**

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Progress update
   * Overview of WBIF grant and projects approved for funding in 2021 – Angie Hong
   * Cumulative progress toward water quality goals – Emily Heinz
     + 254.5lb phosphorus reduction so far
     + 28% of the way toward the grant goal and 5% of the way toward the 10yr goal
     + 64,395 phosphorus reduction needed to meet state standards for all of our priority water resources. We are only 0.4% of the way toward that goal.
3. Financial update – Craig Mell
   * We have encumbered or spent 43% of the WBIF grant for 2021-23
   * 15% of funds have been spent.
   * Have received about 75% of our match funds
4. Planning team updates
   * Policy Committee Memo: Lower St. Croix Project Prioritization and Targeting – Emily Heinz
     + This memo will be going to the policy committee in January 2022. It explains how we are using targeting and prioritization to identify potential projects. There was a concern that we might be considering projects on a first come, first serve basis.
   * Leadership for basinwide projects
     + Chisago SWCD will be acting as project manager for the street sweeping project, happening basinwide.
     + Thinking forward to the next round of funding, consider if your organization could lead any of the basinwide projects so that admin funding for the required staff time can be included in the next WBIF grant
5. Discussion: 2022 Annual Plan of Work and 2021 Progress Report – Emily Heinz
   * Review/revise and recommend an annual plan of work for the Policy Committee to approve in January 2022
     + Emily walked through the 2022 Annual Plan – it looks similar to the Table 5.1 from the LSC CWMP. 10-yr goals were divided into 1yr goals. This includes all goals, not just activities that will be funded by WBIF grants.
     + Barb Peichel – BWSR does not provide guidance on how to do an annual plan. We are setting ourselves up well for our future 5yr progress review by creating an annual plan that reflects our 10-yr plan
     + Craig – if the policy committee approves this at its Jan 24 meeting, everyone will need to put this on their February board meetings.
     + By a show of hands, the advisory committee members approved the plan as presented
   * Plan for year-end progress reporting
     + This spring, we will be asking partners to report on progress toward goals in the 10yr plan. This includes activities that are completed with local or non-WBIF funds.
   * Homework for partners: review your 2022 work load and consider possible requests for Lower St. Croix WBIF funding
     + Contact your subcommittee lead early so that we can plan ahead for funds that may be spent later in the year.
6. Subcommittee Updates
   * A1) Agronomy Outreach – Jay Riggs and Joel Larson
     + Update on agronomist hiring
     + Joel Larson, UMN – leads the Extension water resources team
     + Expect to make an announcement on position offer by the end of this month.
     + WCD is the position host but the person will work basinwide
   * A2,4,5) Urban and Agricultural Projects – Craig Mell and Mike Isensee
     + Partners share: Clean Water Fund grants you received for work in the Lower St. Croix Watershed
       - SWWD McQuade project is completed and came in considerably under budget
       - CLFLWD – will receive two 2022 grants. One is a wetlands restoration in WJD6 watershed going to Forest Lake (~40lb per year of P). Second is for remaining projects needed to restore Moody Lake to state standards.
       - Pine SWCD – is receiving a grant for Island Lake, which is not in the Lower St. Croix but is in the larger St. Croix watershed (Kettle River)
       - WCD / MSCWMO – restoration work on Perro Creek in Bayport. $80k grant to install up to 4 structural projects to reduce 8lbs of phosphorus
       - CMSCWD – received two grants. One is on Big Marine Lake in the Bliss Addition, Scandia – most densely developed area on the lake. Will be installing LID projects. Second grant is for a project on Big Carnelian Lake. The lake is high quality but has declining water quality.
   * A3) Watershed Education – Barbara Heitkamp
     + Workshop series for small farmers – will most likely need to be virtual
       - Pushing large acreage workshop back to March, in hopes it can be held in person
       - Lots of professional development for farmers is happening at this time of year
     + Workshops for local decision-makers – Conservation Development, MIDS and shoreline/wetland protections
       - Workshop in the southern watershed will hopefully be on the river on a boat
       - Workshop in the northern watershed may be at a winery or brewery, with good opportunities for networking
     + Shoreland Landowner Guide
       - Using a guide from Itasca County as a template. Could be adapted for local counties and watersheds in our area. Good tool for lake association engagement.
     + Lower St. Croix project fact sheets
   * A6) Wetland Restoration – none
   * A7) Internal Analyses – Susanna Wilson – Witkowski
     + $50k available to calculate internal loading of phosphorus for two lakes
     + Call for projects was due Oct. 31. Project applications are due Dec. 17
     + Subcommittee received seven initial applications
       - Forest Lake, Martin and Typo, West Rush Lakes ranked the highest and have been asked to submit full applications
       - Little, East Rush, North and South Goose Lakes ranked lower and have been asked to potentially apply for funding in the future
   * A8) Targeting and Prioritization Analyses – Jay Riggs and Mike Isensee
     + General updates:
       - The Chisago SWCD, WCD and CLFLWD are working on updating the urban and rural subwatershed assessment protocols.
       - The Pine Co and Sunrise River subwatershed analyses is underway currently
       - The tree canopy protocol street sweeping is also underway currently.
     + Request for funds: Northeastern Washington County,St. Croix and Spring Streams Subwatershed Analysis
       - Mike Isensee reviewed the proposal, which was included in the advisory committee packet
       - A8 subcommittee has approved this project and is recommending it for funding
       - Roll call vote: 13 yay, 0 nay, 4 absent
       - Barb Peichel suggested that subcommittees share information regarding scoring criteria for projects when bringing them forward to the steering committee and policy committee. Jay Riggs noted that the process is different for targeting and prioritization projects because they were already identified in the plan; the scoring criteria are used for “in-the-ground” projects
     + Request for funds: Rock Lake (Pine County) Subwatershed Analysis – will be tabled until the next steering committee