LOWER ST. CROIX COMPREHENSIVE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN (CWMP)

**IMPLEMENTATION POLICY COMMITTEE, MEETING 2**

**March. 22, 2021 MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 4:00pm by Chair Fran Miron.

*Members present:* Anoka SWCD: Sharon LeMay

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

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:* Brown's Creek WD: Craig Leiser

Carnelian Marine St Croix WD: Wade Johnson

Middle St. Croix WMO: John Fellegy

Valley Branch: Ed Marchan

*Also attending:* Steve Schmaltz (Comfort Lake Forest Lake WD alternate)

Dawn White (Chisago County alternate)

Dave Medvecky (Isanti SWCD alternate)

Candice Kantor (Sunrise River JP WMO alternate)

Staff from BWSR and member organizations

**AGENDA ITEMS**

***Introductions; Approve agenda***

Fran Miron noted that approval of the January 25, 2021 meeting minutes should be added to the agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda with this addition Mike Mergens. Second by Jackie Anderson. Roll Call Vote: All members vote yes. Agenda approved.

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

Steve Hellan moved to approve the January 25, 2021 Implementation Policy Committee meeting minutes. Seconded by Doug Odegard. No discussion. Roll Call Vote: All members vote yes. Minutes approved.

***Update on implementation timeline***

Angie Hong and Craig Mell reviewed the implementation timeline as follows:

* Work plan has been submitted to BWSR by Chisago SWCD.
* March 31- BWSR approval expected.
* April 13- Chisago SWCD board will approve the BWSR contract at board meeting.
* April 7th—Closing date for Basin Outreach Education Specialist position.
* April- no Policy Committee meeting.
* May 24th- Next Policy Committee meeting. The Annual Plan, which describes all projects and programs (those that aren’t specifically funded by Watershed Based Implementation Funds) partners plan to cooperate on will be complete and ready for review. New staff person should be hired by May meeting as well.

***Update on eLink work plan for state funds***

Emily Heinz updated the committee on the eLink work plan. She noted that the work plan has increased in size due to added details.

Jackie Anderson: Can we get a copy of the updated work plan?

Emily Heinz: Yes, it will be sent to the PC once BWSR approves it.

No motion needed.

***Review and consider approving framework for implementing WBIF work plan activities***

Angie Hong reviewed the framework, including committee leads and committee members, for implementing the WBIF work plan by each activity as provided to the Policy Committee prior to the meeting.

Comments and questions as follows (note: if no comments were made specific to the activity the activity is not listed below):

Chris DuBose: Have the people on subcommittees been approached and is the Policy Committee being asked to approve the subcommittees or just the framework?

Answer: The people identified on the list have been approached. Staff volunteered themselves and Policy Committee members have been asked prior to the meeting. PC should approve the entire framework but there is room to make adjustments.

Activity 1: Basin Ag Outreach Program

Jackie Anderson: Is this an agronomist position? If the group decides to hire and not contract will the position work on behalf of Lower St. Croix partners? It is important that the business card says Lower St. Croix—not Washington Conservation District. It should be noted this position will operate on a basin-wide scale, and not from the perspective of a single organization. Mike Kinney should be added to committee.

Answer: Yes, the position will be an Agronomist/Outreach Specialist. The position will work on behalf of watershed and will be branded that way.

Susan Morris: Question on why certain Policy Committee members have already been identified to sit on committees.

Answer: Policy members were selected because of qualifications. Lance Peterson- Ag Water Quality Certified, Outstanding Conservationist, mentor on Soil Health Coalition, very conservation orientated farmer. Dave Tolberg- is an agronomist.

Fran Miron: Is there a reason for odd numbers on the committee?

Answer: No specific reasoning. The Steering Committee didn’t want group to get too large.

**CHANGES:** Add Mike Kinney to subcommittee, note this position will operate on a basin-wide scale

Activity 2: Structural Ag BMP Implementation (this is combined with Activity 4: Non-structural Ag BMPs)

Policy Committee members not in subcommittees for implementation activities because they may meet often.

Policy Committee liked that the structural and non-structural activities are combine.

**CHANGES:** None

Activity 3: Basin Water Outreach Plan

Jackie Anderson: Would like to sit on Subcommittee. Also noted the importance of branding for LSC—similar to Agronomist position.

Fran Miron: The subcommittee should also consider completing the positions reviews and check in on progress/accomplishments made.

**CHANGES**: 1. Add Jackie Anderson to subcommittee. 2. Add the following duties to subcommittee: Position reviews, and progress/accomplishment check-ins. 3. Note this position will operate on a basin-wide scale (same as the Agronomy Outreach Specialist)

Activity 8: Targeting Analyses

Jackie Anderson: Will we see project selection at May meeting?

Answer: No, just the criteria established by committee.

**CHANGES**: None

It was noted that all of the committees will likely stay in place for some time.

Susan Morris motioned to approve the proposed framework with minor changes suggested. Steve Hallan seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All members vote yes. Motion approved.

***Discuss next steps and adjourn***

May 24th is next Policy Committee meeting. Subcommittee members will receive follow up communication.

Meeting adjourned by Chair Fran Miron at 4:51pm.

Next Policy Committee meeting will be held on Monday, May 24, 4-6pm via Zoom.