**Lower St. Croix One Watershed, One Plan**

**Policy Committee, Meeting 16**

**March 30, 2020 Board Minutes**

**Approved 6-29-20**

## Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 4:00pm by Chair Fran Miron and introductions were made.

*Members Present:* Anoka SWCD – Sharon Lemay

Brown’s Creek WD – Craig Leiser

Carnelian Marine St Croix WD – Wade Johnson

Chisago County – Chris DuBose

Chisago SWCD – Jim Birkholz

Comfort Lake Forest Lake WD- Steve Schmaltz

Isanti County – Susan Morris

Isanti SWCD- Jim Birkholz

Middle St. Croix WMO – John Fellegy

Pine County- Stephen Hallan

Pine SWCD – Doug Odegard

South Washington WD – Don Pereira

Sunrise River JP WMO - Janet Hegland

Washington County – Fran Miron

Washington SWCD – Diane Blake

*Staff Present:* Mike Isensee – Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix WD

Angie Hong – EMWREP

Craig Mell – Chisago SWCD

Jamie Schurbon – Anoka SWCD

Maureen Hoffman – Washington County

Tiffany Determan – Isanti SWCD

Katie Petzel – Pine SWCD

Susanna Wilson Witkowski – Chisago County

Jerry Spetzman – Sunrise River WMO

*Others attending:* Barb Peichel – BWSR

Dan Fabian – BWSR

Julie Westerlund - BWSR

Laura Jester – Keystone Waters

Jen Kader- Freshwater

Jackie Anderson - Comfort Lake Forest Lake WD (alt.)

## AGENDA ITEMS

#### Welcome and Instructions on how to conduct the meeting in accordance with MN Open Meeting Law

Angie Hong took attendance and explained how the remote meeting was to be conducted in order to be in compliance with open meeting laws. Any motion will require a roll call vote. Fran Miron commended the group for following COVID-19 restrictions and being willing to work remotely, as there are important decisions to make that shouldn’t be delayed.

#### Approve March 30, 2020 agenda

Stephen Hallan motioned to approve the agenda. Susan Morris seconded that motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote with all in favor.

#### Approve January 27, 2020 and February 24, 2020 meeting minutes

Craig Leiser motioned to approve the January 27th meeting minutes as amended. Steve Schmaltz seconded this motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote with one abstention from Jim Birkholz who was unable to see the attachment.

John Fellegy motioned to approve the February 24th meeting minutes. Don Pereira seconded this motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote with all in favor.

***Review Draft Plan***

Laura Jester presented the LSCWD 1W1P Draft Plan Review. She noted there were a few minor changes to the plan since the March 2nd version. The policy committee asked for the BCWD, Chisago County, Isanti County, and Sunrise River WMO listed lead/alternative representatives to be reversed/corrected. Laura Jester explained that the budget figures are still in progress and there would be further refinement possible during the 60 day review period. Laura walked the group through some of the example scenarios within the tables. The county funding remained separate to better identify the discrepancies in funds. She noted there was also a discrepancy in the cost-share activities, with Washington County having the majority. The tables also helped to identify the need for more education and outreach funding in the northern counties in the watershed. Lastly she noted that the SWA need is greater than it appears in the table, also because of a discrepancy in Washington County funding vs. the other counties in the watershed.

***Update on March 2nd Stakeholder engagement workshop***

Angie Hong reported on the feedback gathered at the second stakeholder engagement workshop in Stillwater. She shared some of the identified strengths, questions/concerns, and recommended actions/next steps. Craig Leiser said that there was a good turnout with active participants. Fran Miron said he was grateful the public engagement meetings happened before the shutdown from COVID-19.

***Approve the draft plan for 60-day official review***

Fran Miron reminded everyone that there will likely be changes made to the plan based on public comment during the 60 day review period. He also reminded the committee that members all should have received approval from their representative organizations for the authority to approve the draft plan today.

Chris DuBose motioned to approve the draft plan and to allow the plan to go forward with the 60 day review. Craig Leiser seconded this motion.

Don Pereira asked if those two actions were included in the one motion and Fran Miron confirmed that. Don Pereira asked if Policy Members were to bring concerns from constituents to the Policy Commmittee. Fran Miron agreed that concerns could be brought through PC members and staff to the Policy Committee.

The motion on the table passed on a roll call vote with all in favor.

***Review draft schedule for 60-day review and public hearing; review and discuss attorney memo related to public hearings and plan approval***

Jamie Schurbon said based on attorney review, the policy committee was identified as the proper group to hold the public hearings for the plan. The counties that are adopting the plan as their own can also hold their own hearings which can occur later on in the process. Susan Morris expressed concerns about how to hold a public hearing during these times. Fran Miron said there is guidance on how to hold them remotely. Chris Dubose said Chisago County wanted to hold a public hearing and that they were going to encourage public comments remotely.

Tiffany Determan presented the draft schedule for the 60-day review and the remainder of the grant. The PC can have a public hearing at their June29th meeting and approve responses to public comment then. In July local boards can review the plan and approve it for submission to BWSR. The grant expires in December, and February 2021 is the deadline for individual LGU’s to adopt the plan. Individual LGUs should have public hearings as part of the last step in adopting the plan, which has to be within 120 days of when BWSR approves the plan. Chris Dubose asked when his county should have a public hearing, and the group recommended his June 17th meeting so that comments can be addressed before the June 29th PC meeting. The group discussed where the June 29th PC meeting/public hearing should be held, as the library may be too small if they are expecting a larger turnout. Fran Miron said he believed there were requirements that the public hearing be held in the usual meeting space but perhaps there were exemptions that would allow the meeting to be held in a larger space like a high school. He agreed that counties should hold their public hearings in June before the PC meeting, or afterwards but before July 24th when the local boards will approve the plan to go to BWSR review. Tiffany will send out the draft schedule.

***Adjournment***

The next PC meeting will be on June 29th, with another meeting possible on July 27th. Chris Dubose asked if there would be any need to extent the contract. Craig Mell said that since the draft plan was approved to be sent out today the requirements of the contract were met and there shouldn’t be a need to extend it. Laura Jester will make the small changes identified today to the draft plan before sending it out.

Fran Miron asked everyone how their organizations were handling the COVID-19 situation. Susan Morris said it has been interesting to see how ways of doing business has changed and wondered if it was an opportunity for efficiency. Stephen Hallan said staff in his county were struggling with aspects of working remotely such as not having the equipment they are used to while working. Susan Morris agreed that some of the work the county does can not be handled remotely, but that her county was applying better public health practices during this time within the facilities. Fran Miron said Washington County had completed some IT upgrades and so most staff were able to work remotely. He said there was a lot of concern for people who are unemployed during this time. Washington County is also addressing concerns from residents about property tax statements that went out this spring and is trying to be flexible and find solutions. He noted that the business world is also struggling given the retail/service oriented businesses in the county.

Fran Miron thanked everyone for the participation in the meeting and thanked Laura for her work. Angie Hong will work to keep the committee apprised of changes and share comments made. Fran Miron exercised his ability to adjourn the meeting at 5:06pm.