



Steering Committee Meeting

Zoom

Wednesday, May 24th, 2023

1:00PM

Attending: Tom Dietrich – Washington County, Barbara Heitkamp – EMWREP/LSC, Emily Heinz – CLFLWD, Jennifer Hahn – MN Extension/LSC, Jamie Schurbon – Anoka SWCD, Paul Swanson – Pine SWCD, Michelle Jordan and Barb Peichel – BWSR, Susanna Wilson Witkowski – Chisago County, Jay Riggs – WCD, Matt Moore – SWWD, Laura Jester – Keystone Waters LLC, Angela Defenbaugh – WCD, Becca Oldenburg – WCD, Todd Kulaf – Isanti SWCD, Casey Thiel – Chisago SWCD, John Hanson – VBWD, Alicia Acken Cosgrove – Washington County, Mike Talbot and Sarah Voje – EOR

Call to Order – 1:00PM

Becca Oldenburg started the meeting at 1:02PM.

Approval of Minutes

No changes were made to the April 26th, 2023 minutes.

Administrative updates

Becca Oldenburg stated the original agenda for the meeting included two project requests from Pine SWCD that have been rescinded. These requests will be brought forward at a subsequent meeting.

FY21 WBIF Review

All funds have been encumbered and all projects are on track to be completed in 2023. There will likely be \$15,000-20,00 in funds not needed to complete projects. These funds will be shifted to the A3 Shared Services Educator activity through a Board of Soil and Water Resource (BWSR) GAM Grantee Discretion work plan budget adjustment. Michelle Jordan (BWSR) and the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership Planning Team (LSC WP PT) have reviewed and accepted this grantee discretion work plan budget adjustment. This grant agreement expires on 12/31/2023. Paul Swanson shared that Pine SWCD will be submitting for reimbursement shortly.

FY23 WBIF Review

Currently 70% of the funds have been encumbered and 17% have been spent. This grant agreement expires on 12/31/2025. No updates were given for A1, A2, A7, A8, A9. Jay Riggs shared that meetings are occurring for street sweeping with Afton and MSCWMO communities for street sweeping under A3. Emily Heinz shared that the agreement for Wyoming street sweeping is executed. For A5, Jennifer Hahn shared that she's busy with field verifications and certifications, field days, and work regarding cover crops. For A6, Barbara Heitkamp shared that she's working on videos, the children's water festival, workshop on the water, and meeting with Jay Michels to discuss MIDS work. Jay Riggs discussed A10 saying that he is working with Joel (U of M Extension) regarding an extension on FY21 funding.

[Anoka Soil and Water Conservation District - Brown's Creek Watershed District - Chisago County](#)
[Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District - Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District](#)
[Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District - Isanti County - Isanti Soil and Water Conservation District](#)
[Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization - Pine County - Pine Soil and Water Conservation District](#)
[South Washington Watershed District - Valley Branch Watershed District - Washington County](#)
[Washington Conservation District](#)

Project Proposals & Reports

Jay Riggs discussed the Scandia Enhanced Street Sweeping request submitted by CMSCWD. He shared that hopefully Washington County would be the entity to perform the street sweeping. A motion to approve the funding request for the Scandia Enhanced Street Sweep Project Request Funding for \$15,000 was made by Emily Heinz and seconded by Tom Dietrich. The motion carried with all those who voted in favor.

Jay Riggs also discussed the Marine on St. Croix Enhanced Street Sweeping submitted by CMSCWD. He mentioned that Marine on St. Croix's street sweeper is in need of repair and that likely many communities will be needing funding for street sweepers as this practice continues to grow. A motion to approve the funding request for the Marine on St. Croix Enhanced Street Sweep Project Request Funding for \$15,000 was made by Paul Swanson and seconded by Jay Riggs. The motion carried with all those who voted in favor.

Old Business

The LSCP Non WBIF Reporting Form was discussed. The deadline for filling out the form has passed. Feedback on the form was given including appreciating the color-coding system. Tom Dietrich inquired if including location data would be helpful. This is likely to be included moving forward and was generally agreed to be an asset to making the reporting more visually appealing. Jay Riggs will be connecting with entities that need assistance to complete the form.

New Business

Mike Talbot and Sarah Voje from EOR gave a presentation on catchment prioritization for the LSC. Mike discussed the methodology used to develop the map and showed the pollutant hot spots. Pine County is currently missing soil data, as that data becomes available the analysis could be rerun. There are two layers available to the mapping one focused on the St. Croix and one for other waterbodies. The map doesn't fully account for storm sewers but was hydro-corrected from LiDAR data. This methodology was chosen as it had already been employed for the CMSCWD and the level of detail available, down to the field scale, made it a more useful tool than SWAP. The report accompanying this information and the data files will be distributed with the Steering Committee.

Jennifer Hahn discussed possible options for promoting this year's Soil Management Summit. The Summit will take place in Alexandria on December 6-7th. Jennifer said that social media promotions and mailing post cards to advertise the event are planned and brought forward the idea of also offering a scholarship for farmers to be able to attend. The cost of the Summit will likely be around \$175. This does not include the cost of lodging. Emily Heinz asked if this needs to be a formal project request for if the funding can come from the educator material's budget. Barbara Heitkamp said there are multiple ways to approach giving scholarships. The Steering Committee was in favor of continuing the discussion on providing scholarships. Jennifer Hahn and Barbara Heitkamp will meet with Craig Mell to further converse on the matter.

Other

Becca Oldenburg discussed some housekeeping items, asking for feedback on chat participation during Zoom meetings. Jay Riggs offered to help with chat facilitation. No feedback was given on email participation. The topic of holding some in-person meetings was discussed with a few Steering Committee members stating that they like the current online format, so that will continue.

Adjourn

Becca Oldenburg called to adjourn at 2:02PM.