



Steering Committee Meeting
Zoom
Wednesday, July 26th, 2023
1:00PM

Attending: Craig Mell – Chisago SWCD, Tom Dietrich – Washington County, Emily Heinz – CLFLWD, Michelle Jordan and Barb Peichel – BWSR, Jay Riggs and Angela Defenbaugh – WCD, Jester – Keystone Waters LLC, Becca Oldenburg – WCD, Todd Kulaf – Isanti SWCD, Karen Kill – BCWD, Jennifer Hahn – MN Extension/LSC, Caleb Anderson – Pine County, Zach Van Orsdel – Pine SWCD

Call to Order – 1:00PM

Becca Oldenburg started the meeting at 1:03PM. A request for an addition to the agenda was brought forward by Laura Jester to discuss the 2024 Workplan. There were no objections this addition.

Approval of Minutes

No changes were made to the June 28th, 2023 minutes.

Administrative updates

2023 Quarter 2 invoices have been received.

FY21 WBIF Review

No updates to FY21 WBIF.

FY23 WBIF Review

No updates to FY23 WBIF.

Project Proposals & Reports

Old Business

New Business

Updates were given from the most recent Policy Committee meeting. A MIDS presentation was given, as well as Laura's workplan update. Both presentations were received well. The meeting was sparsely attended, the need to start brainstorming ideas to increase attendance was brought up.

Laura Jester discussed the need for a 2024 Workplan. She shared her understanding that the plan should go to the Policy Committee in October and that even years, like 2024, are a big plan update, with odd years being a touch-up plan. She mentioned using the Rum River Workplan as a model. Emily Heinz mentioned that the 2023 Workplan was mostly skipped over because the grant plan covered a lot of the work but the larger implementation plan of the LSC WP isn't covered by the grant. Michelle Jordan

[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](#)

shared that the annual workplan can be structured with two years in mind. And that the details currently included in eLINK are too much and should be reduced. Barb Peichel suggested looking at the implementation table to see what the LSC WP stated would be done in this year of plan. Emily Heinz shared this is Table 5-1 and that we are in years 3-4 of the plan. Karen Kill asked if the implementation can be used instead of translating this information into a Word Document format.

Laura Jester asked if this workplan needs to go to all local boards and if that needs to be done prior to the funding deadline. Barb Peichel stated the deadline for FY25 funding is July 1st, 2024 and that lots of workplans come in close to the funding deadline. Craig Mell said that the plan update could wait until 2024 and add the implementation table to a document like Karen had suggested. Emily Heinz stated that the JPA requires that an annual plan is approved and Craig Mell added that it needs to be approved by 2/3 of partner boards. Karen Kill commented that this plan wouldn't supersede her organization's plan or be added to their plan, but rather that requiring approval adds work. There was discussion that the workplan is not as important as reporting. Barb Peichel and Michelle Jordan stated that the workplan could be simple and that BWSR isn't scrutinizing it. Jennifer Hanh said having a simple and efficient workplan without duplicating efforts would be ideal. The Rum River plan was mentioned again as a model. Barb Peichel said using the pie chart format from that plan could be a way to convey the data.

Other

Adjourn

Becca Oldenburg called to adjourn at 1:51PM.