



**Steering Committee Meeting**  
**Zoom**  
**Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023**  
**1:00PM**

**Attending:** Craig Mell – Chisago SWCD, Tom Dietrich – Washington County, Emily Heinz – CLFLWD, Michelle Jordan – BWSR, Jay Riggs and Angela Defenbaugh – WCD, Becca Oldenburg – WCD, Karen Kill – BCWD, Jennifer Hahn – MN Extension/LSC, Tiffany Determan – Isanti SWCD, Matt Downing – MSCWMO, Paul Swanson – Pine SWCD, Kyle Axtell and Matt Moore – SWWD, Susanna Wilson-Witkowski – Chisago County, Jamie Schurbon – ACD, Jason Rehn – NRCS

**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 Emily Heinz to discuss Environment & Natural Resource Trust Fund (ENRTF) grant possibilities for adding AIS tool stations at boat launches in the LSC. There were no objections this addition.

**Approval of Minutes**

No changes were made to the July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 minutes.

**Administrative updates**

No administrative updates were given.

**FY21 WBIF Review**

100% of the funds have been encumbered. A5 funds are waiting on projects being completed with SWWD and CMSCWD.

**FY23 WBIF Review**

72% of funds have been encumbered. The cycle expires in 2025. 19% of the funds have been spent on work CLFLWD has done.

**Project Proposals & Reports**

The Lucht Gully Erosion Project from Pine SWCD was presented with information given by Paul Swanson and Jason Rehn. The project will reduce 113 lbs. of total phosphorus (TP) and total suspended solids (TSS). Craig Mell shared that Chisago is working with this same producer in their county. Tiffany Determan asked if this is a prioritized project. Paul shared that the receiving waterbody, Rush Lake is prioritized. Michelle Jordan shared that this gets the LSC WP closer to the 10-year goal of 300 lbs. reduction of TP/TSS.

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

Lucht Gully Erosion Project Technical Assistance request was also presented by Paul Swanson for Pine SWCD. The goal of this funding is to help build partnerships.

Danson Agriculture BMPs Project for Chisago SWCD was presented by Craig Mell. This project is in the priority area of Goose Lake north.

Karen Kill motioned to approve all three projects at there requested funding level, this was seconded by Kyle Axtell. The motion carried with all voting parties voting in favor.

The Trout Brook Project Extension for SWWD was discussed by Kyle Axtell, Craig Mell, and Michelle Jordan. The project will be completed in 2024 and requires a grand amendment. The FY21 grant can't be closed out if this project is still in process and as such the final 10% payment cannot be received from BWSR. The extension request can be submitted directly on eLINK. Emily Heinz asked why the project has been delayed. Kyle shared that the construction schedule has shifted and due to the drought conditions, they haven't been able to revegetate post remaindering the channel. It was agreed that an extension is acceptable as long as the 10% that BWSR is holding payment doesn't impact other organizations, including paying for staff time. SWWD agreed that they wouldn't want to impact others.

### **Old Business**

There were no questions and therefore no discussion about the 2024 Workplan Update.

### **New Business**

Emily Heinz shared some information about an opportunity to apply for an ENRTF grant for adding AIS tool stations in the LSC. Without grant funding tool stations are too expensive for many organizations. Emily shared some background and an explanation of one brand of tool station, CD3. She also shared that the director of MN Lakes & Rivers, Jeff Forester is interested in partnering with members of the LSC WP, and that this organization is the fiscal agent for this same situation in Wright County. Matt Downing shared that he was in support of the idea if all tool stations were explored, not just the CD3 brand. Jay Riggs agreed and suggested that estimates be provided by multiple suppliers. The committee was in support of hearing more and Emily sending out an email with further information.

### **Other**

Paul Swanson shared the success of the Conservation Cookout event. Jennifer Hahn presented at the event as well.

Michelle Jordan gave an update about possible changes to WBIF that will be going to the next BWSR board meeting. There will likely be a third round of dollars available. This are intended for non-metro areas. They may be able to be rolled into WBIF grant applications even though they are from two different grants.

Matt Moore brought up the possible change of adjusting match percentages from 10% to 25%. Craig Mell shared that this should be discussed for the FY25 cycle.

### **Adjourn**

Becca Oldenburg called to adjourn at 1:56PM.