

LOWER ST. CROIX ONE WATERSHED, ONE
PLAN POLICY COMMITTEE, MEETING 4

OCTOBER 22, 2018 BOARD MINUTES

APPROVED 1/28/19

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 4:03pm by Chair Fran Miron.

Members Present: Anoka SWCD- Sharon Lemay
Carnelian Marian St Croix WD - Wade Johnson
Chisago SWCD – Jim Birkholz
Comfort Lake Forest Lake WD - Stephen Schmaltz
Isanti County - Greg Anderson
Isanti SWCD- Wayne Calendar
Pine County – Stephen Hallan
Sunrise River JP WMO- Paul Enestvedt
Washington County - Fran Miron
Pine SWCD – Doug Odegard
South Washington WD – Kevin Chapdelaine
Washington Conservation District – Diane Blake
Middle St. Croix WMO – Doug Menikheim

Staff Present: Angie Hong- EMWREP
Tiffany Determan - Isanti SWCD
Jamie Schurbon – Anoka SWCD
Jay Riggs – Washington CD
Jim Shaver – Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix WD
Mike Kinney – Comfort Lake

Other Agencies: Laura Jester – Keystone Waters
Jen Kader, and Kris Meyer - Freshwater Society
Barb Peichel- BWSR
Dan Fabian – BWSR

ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE DECISIONS OR APPROVAL

Approve agenda

Stephen Schmaltz moved to approve the agenda and Stephen Hallan seconded this motion. Motion carried.

Approve August 27, 2018 meeting minutes

Wade Johnson moved to approve the August 27, 2018 minutes and Diane Blake seconded this motion. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update on development of LSC 1W1P Mission Statement

Angie Hong updated the group that the mission statement had not yet been developed. Wade Johnson stated he believed it was important the statement result in what the group sees as being improved with this plan. Laura Jester said the planning or steering committee can draft a statement and she would bring the draft to the next Policy Committee meeting.

Update on outreach and stakeholder engagement

Angie Hong updated the group on outreach and stakeholder engagement efforts including reviewing the outcomes of the three “kickoff” events with various stakeholders (July 12 Boat Tour on St. Croix River out of Hudson WI; August 27 Boat Tour on St. Croix River out of Taylors Falls; and September 26 Northern Region Meeting in North Branch) and outcomes of the online survey. She noted the surveyed received 85 responses. Angie also noted there was a gap in receiving input from agricultural producers. Stephen Hallan and Jim Birkholtz both agreed that there seemed to be a lack of ag outreach, and are worried the farmers on the northern end of the basin are missing the 1W1P process. Wade Johnson asked how to best reach farmers in the basin. Angie Hong stated that the 1W1P process may have started during a busy time of year for farmers and that the best time to reach them for input may be January or February.

Sharon Le May expressed concerns about development and wondered if another focus could be working with cities and developers to do more about the methods used to protect the environment. Fran Miron stated he believed there is good work occurring with developers already and to talk to city planners to get an idea of what strategies are already being employed.

Doug Menikheim expressed confusion over what the issue was that this group was trying to address, feeling like the watershed districts and management organizations involved with the City of Stillwater were doing a great job at addressing the issues being raised. He felt nervous about creating a new organization similar to the Met Council. Stephen Hallan stated that he believed it was important to look at these issues from a basin wide perspective and that regionally it would be helpful not to work in a vacuum but instead across political lines. Fran Miron explained that the meetings had an expiration date and that the mission of these meetings was not a new layer of government, but rather collaboration and sharing of good ideas and activities across the basin. Laura Jester reiterated the goal of the 1W1P as a plan for working collaboratively and implementing locally, and that one of the other benefits is that the plan will be able to address issues other than just surface water concerns.

Update from Advisory Committee meetings on September 13th and October 11th

Laura Jester updated the committee on the latest Advisory Committee meetings and clarified that all local plans were part of the data gathering and consolidation. The next step in the process is to

identify measurable goals, and then identify strategies for addressing the issues.

Discuss “Priority Issues” Developed by the Advisory Committee

Jen Kader explained the process of data consolidation, input, and issue prioritization and presented the tiered priority issues by resource area for discussion and approval. Laura Jester explained that there would be opportunity for farmer input later on during the strategy conversations, but that the timeline was such that the process had to continue. Greg Anderson asked about the State agency input which can be found in the form of letters on the website. As the resource areas were discussed Jen clarified that “Tier C” did not mean the issues were not a priority and would not be addressed.

Groundwater

The first issue statement under the lake resource category was discussed at length. Stephen Hallan was concerned with the wording “misuse or overuse” and believes it will anger or alienate farmers. Jim Birkholz stated that market prices do not compensate farmers for environmentally friendly choices and this is a major issue involved in promoting eco-friendly land use. Greg Anderson agreed that he did not believe misuse or overuse of chemicals is an existing problem in the farm community and worries about the impact of having agriculture listed as the number one issue. Steve Schmalz read data from analysis done on the St. Croix which found that 11% of farmland accounts for 66% of the phosphorus contribution to the river. Jim Birkholz agreed he did not want to alienate farmers, and Fran Miron suggested rewording the issue statement so as not to make it an attack on farmers. The first issue was reworded to read “Groundwater quality is impacted by degraded soil health and agricultural practices.”

Lakes

There were no comments on lakes issues.

Rivers and Streams

Kevin Chapdelaine stated that he wants to clump ag and development as equally important issues in this category. Dan Fabian asked if agriculture could be moved off the top of the issues list now that the tiers have been created. Jen Kader noted that issues won’t be addressed equally across the basin; that some issues are much more significant in some areas than in others. Jim Birkholz took issue with the separation, stating that it misses the dynamic between development, long term farming vs short term farming, and the use of land. Stephen Hallan asked about SSTS failure data. Jim Birkholz suggested alternative methods to SSTS should be considered.

Wetlands

Stephen Hallan agreed with the hydrologic balance issue involved in wetland banking. There was a discussion about the term “ditching” used in the first issue statement with a recommendation to change it to “ditch maintenance activities” after Jim Birkholz expressed the need to work with the existing legal ditch system. Kevin Chapdelaine repeated that he believed agriculture and development should be combined due to their similar degree of impact. Fran Miron also agreed that agriculture should be moved down the list within Tier A so as not to alienate farmers. Greg Anderson asked about Category C and why prioritizing is needed and Barb Peichel suggested establishing a process within the plan to move issues up the Tier of priority if needed.

Upland Habitat

There was discussion on conversion of marginal agricultural land to production between Jim Birkholz, Doug Odegard, Jim Shaver, and Stephen Hallan due to crop prices.

St. Croix River and Lake St. Croix

Kevin Chapdelaine wanted to add boat wake damage to shoreline as an issue in this resource area, and again wanted to tie agriculture in with development for this resource area.

Social Capacity

Jim Birkholz stated that he believes economics should receive a higher priority as it is involved in many issues, with the problem being that the economy does not reflect the costs of environmental protection currently. Doug Menikheim expressed that he believes this section holds the problem the group is looking to solve.

Schedule next Policy Committee meeting

The motion to adjourn was made by Kevin Chapdelaine and seconded by Jim Birkholz. Meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is January 28th, 2018 at **4:00p.m** at the Wyoming Library.