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| Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP)  Implementation Policy Committee | | | |
| Policy Committee Meeting #3 | | May 24, 2021  4:00-6:00 PM | |
|  | **Facilitator:** Angie Hong | | **Note taker:** Angie Hong |
| Attending: | Anoka SWCD: Sharon LeMay  Chisago County: Chris DuBose, Lance Petersen, and Mike Mergens  Chisago SWCD: Jim Birkholz  Comfort Lake Forest Lake WD: Jackie Anderson  Isanti County: Susan Morris  Isanti SWCD: Jerry Schaubach  Middle St. Croix WMO: John Fellegy  Pine County: Steve Hallan  Pine SWCD: Doug Odegard  South Washington WD: Kevin ChapdeLaine  Sunrise River JP WMO: Janet Hegland  Washington County: Fran Miron  Washington SWCD: Diane Blake | | |
| Absent: | Brown's Creek WD: Craig Leiser  Carnelian Marine St Croix WD: Wade Johnson  Valley Branch WD: Ed Marchan | | |

**MINUTES**

1. Introductions; Approve agenda
   * The meeting was called to order by Chair Fran Miron at 4:03pm.
   * Motion to approve agenda by Jim Birkholz. Second by Susan Morris. Roll call vote. All members voted yes.
2. Approval of March 22 Meeting Minutes
   * Motion to approve minutes by Jackie Anderson. Second by Mike Mergens. Roll call vote. All members voted yes.
3. Update on BWSR approved work plan for 2021-22 - Craig Mell
   * The work plan was submitted to BWSR on March 22
   * On March 31 we received a signed agreement from BWSR
   * The steering committee attended a grant compliance meeting on March 30
   * On April 13, Chisago SWCD approved contracts with CLFLWD and WCD for admin services and activities 1 and 3 in the work plan
4. Financial Update - Craig Mell
   * No additional updates
5. Subcommittee Updates

* Agronomy Outreach – Jay Riggs
  + The subcommittee would like to have one full-time person and is still considering whether it will be more cost-effective to hire a staff person or contract with University of MN Extension. Jay will be meeting with MN Extension tomorrow to discuss.
  + Matt Moore - Lance Petersen from Policy Committee has provided a lot of great insight for the subcommittee conversations
* Urban and Agricultural Projects – Craig Mell and Mike Isensee
  + Combined subcommittee for activities 2, 4, 5, and 9
  + $360k is available for structural projects in the first round of funding - $160K for ag and $200k for urban. The subcommittee is recommending that the steering committee allocate 50% of the available funding for projects this year.
  + The group sent out a request for shovel-ready projects that require funding from Lower St. Croix WBIF and got proposals from South Washington WD and Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix WD
    1. $150-175K from LSC WBIF for a SWWD ravine project with direct drainage to St. Croix River in Afton (Total project cost = $243K)
    2. $20K from LSC WBIF for a CMSCWD Goose Lake project in Scandia (Total project cost = $58k)
  + The total load reduction goal for the full plan for 2021-23 is 500lb P. These two projects will get us halfway there
  + There is lots of prioritization work happening during these first two years and it is hard to get projects ready to construct this early in the process
  + There is also $200k available for nonstructural projects
    1. Will likely create an RFP to contract with someone to conduct street sweeping analyses for communities that are willing
    2. Ag non-structural BMPs will be a big priority but pursuing those is contingent on getting an agronomist on board, finalizing policy for cost-share, and completing targeted analyses in rural portions of the watershed.
* Watershed Education – Angie Hong
  + Barbara Heitkamp, the new educator, introduced herself to the group. She lives in Bayport and has worked at SAFL for the past 10 years. Trained hydrologist-geologist and has been doing communications since 2015. Excited to begin the new position.
  + Jay Riggs: There were 63 applicants and the group conducted 8 interviews. Jackie Anderson and Janet Hegland were on the hiring committee along with staff
  + Jackie Anderson: We had very qualified candidates and people were very complimentary of EMWREP, our existing education program.
* Wetland Restoration – Becky Wozney
  + The subcommittee will be meeting next week and discussing the prioritization process
* Internal Analyses – Susanna Wilson-Witkowski
  + The subcommittee met on April 26 and developed criteria for prioritizing lakes for internal analyses. They are considering if lakes are part of a WRAPS study, if they have large external loads coming in, and other factors
  + Will develop a 1-2 pg form for the next subcommittee meeting on June 3 and will prepare a request for quotes to be sent out this fall
* Targeting Analyses – Jay Riggs
  + Subcommittee will be meeting this week and will have a report for the policy committee soon

Policy Committee Discussion:

* Jackie Anderson: WBIF can’t be used for monitoring work so we’ll be using modeling estimates?
* Jay Riggs: Yes
* Jackie Anderson: CLFLWD would like to ensure we have accurate numbers on pollutant loading and reduction and not just modeling estimates
* Mike Isensee: The loading to Goose Lake was determined through monitoring. The ravine project in SWWD will only be modeled for nutrient loading estimates.
* Jackie Anderson: Mike Kinney wants to make sure that farmers are working toward a goal if they are getting 100% funding for a project
* Matt Moore: Asked Jim Birkholz if farmers should be asked to be meeting T?
* Jim - This is a good partial goal but many farmers and landowners could do more than just that. T is a goal that is applicable to all soils in all fields and worthy of attaining. But often, there are water quality impacts and improvements to be achieved in other ways.
* Lance Petersen: “T” is the soil loss part of equation. Most acres in the watershed meet T but not phosphorus loss goals. It is unfortunate we can’t measure or monitor with the funds. Need to work on reducing P and N in addition to sediment.
* Matt Moore: The SWWD project will reduce 295 tons sediment + 250lb P – directly entering the St. Croix every year

1. Progress Update – Angie Hong
   * Emily Heinz will provide an update on cumulative progress toward water quality goals at future Policy Committee meetings. So far, we have not completed any projects.
2. Overview of additional, locally-led projects – Angie Hong
   * Angie showed a map of the Lower St. Croix watershed with proposed projects to be funded with WBIF and local funds: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1U_E43ZHR9CkXKN52iDZkekNmmxC8Hz7O&usp=sharing>
   * Steve Hallan: Snake River and Kettle River are just north of us and discharging to the St. Croix. Opportunity for collaboration between LSC and partners in those watersheds
   * Barb Peichel: The Snake River Watershed is working on their Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan right now. There will also be Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants open statewide this summer.
   * Matt Moore: Snake and Kettle are significant contributors to the St. Croix and in the TMDL
   * Jay Riggs: Snake River is currently developing its 1w1p. There will eventually be similar plans statewide. Wisconsin has lost many of the lead staff we used to partner with.
   * Fran Miron – Perhaps the Policy Committee could get reports from local partners such as the Snake, Kettle, and Wisconsin at future meetings to know what neighboring watersheds are doing
   * Barb Peichel: Deanna Pomije (Kanabec SWCD) is the lead LGU staffer for the Snake River Watershed One Watershed One Plan process so could possibly give a short update. Or I could too.
3. Meeting format and topics for future meetings

* In person vs virtual meetings
  + Chris Dubose – in person
  + Steve Hallan – at least hybrid. Totally in person is hard to make
  + Janet Hegland – in person or hybrid
  + Susan Morris – prefers in person but having the virtual option is good
  + Kevin ChapdeLaine – hybrid at minimum would be a good compromise
  + Jackie Anderson – would like hybrid
  + Jim Birkholz – hybrid would be a good way. Encourage in person meetings.
  + Jerry Schaubach – also likes idea of hybrid. It allows people to attend when out of town or traveling
  + John Fellegy – only challenge is logistics of hybrid meetings. What technology would be needed and what level of staffing?
    - * + Jay Riggs – WCD purchased a wide angle, double USB camera for hybrid board meetings
        + Jackie Anderson– check with City of Forest Lake to see what tech they will have set up. We could have meetings there
        + Angie Hong – City of Scandia is also set up to have hybrid meetings now
        + Chris Dubose – Chisago County will have the technology also
        + Matt Moore – SWWD is watching executive orders. If they expire, the watershed district is no longer legally able to meet virtually.
        + Steve Hallan – under open meeting law, we have to notice meetings but can meet virtually
        + Fran Miron – staff should research that aspect as well
* Meeting schedule?
  + Chris Dubose – every other month
  + Jim Birkholz – quarterly would be good. Likes the idea of keeping monthly meeting on the calendar with the expectation that we will likely cancel at least half of the meetings
  + Jackie Anderson – agrees with Jim. Would like to keep it on the calendar monthly and be sure we can meet if we have to, especially in the first year.
  + Susan Morris – maybe wait until end of Aug. to meet again
  + Sharon LeMay – less is better
  + Lance Petersen – every other month
  + Mike Mergens – open to quarterly or every other month
  + Jerry Schaubach – every other month
  + John Fellegy – every other month
  + Steve Hallan – quarterly
  + Doug Odegard – every other month but transition to quarterly
  + Kevin ChapdeLaine– quarterly
  + Janet Hegland – quarterly. Would prefer not to keep meetings on the calendar if they’ll likely get canceled
  + Fran Miron – monthly is too often. Every other would be good. Quarterly is fine. Policy Committee sets the budget and approves the annual plan but doesn’t need to be involved in day to day decision making
  + Diane Blake – every other month until fall

What level of involvement do PC members want?

* Jim Birkholz – let staff get going and see how it goes
* Fran Miron – I agree

Topics for future meetings

* Let Angie Hong know if you have things you’d like added to future agendas

1. Adjourn
   * Chris Dubose motion to schedule next two meetings for July 26 and Sept. 27, 4-6pm in person at a location to be determined and adjourn the May 24 meeting. Second by Steve Hallan. Meeting adjourned at 5:23pm

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