

**Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP)
Implementation Policy Committee**

Policy Committee		<p>Vision</p> <p>The St. Croix River, groundwater, lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, and upland habitat in the Lower St. Croix watershed sustain healthy ecosystems, recreation, public health, tourism, agriculture, the economy, and quality of life in our communities.</p> <p>Mission</p> <p>Guide protection and restoration of priority natural resources in the Lower St. Croix watershed over the next ten years through implementation of the Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.</p>
Meeting #8		
<p>July 25, 2022 4:00-6:00 PM</p>		
<p>Wyoming Area Library 26855 Forest Blvd, Wyoming, MN 55092</p> <p>Optional zoom call-in: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81062688584?pwd=NDlrRz-gxV3pCVlg3NDhjQ3hMWnUyZz09 Meeting ID: 810 6268 8584 Passcode: 165880</p>		
	Facilitator: Angie Hong	Note taker: Jay Riggs
Attending:	<p>Anoka SWCD: Sharon LeMay Brown's Creek WD: Klayton Eckles Carnelian Marine St Croix WD: Wade Johnson Chisago County: Chris DuBose (Vice Chair), Lance Petersen, and Mike Mergens Chisago SWCD: Jim Birkholz Comfort Lake Forest Lake WD: Jackie Anderson Isanti SWCD: Jerry Schaubach Middle St. Croix WMO: Mike Runk Pine County: Steve Hallan South Washington WD: Kevin ChapdeLaine Sunrise River JP WMO: Janet Hegland Washington County: Fran Miron (Chair) Washington SWCD: Diane Blake</p> <p>Staff: Angie Hong (EMWREP), Jay Riggs (WCD), Craig Mell (Chisago SWCD), Tom Dietrich (Washington County), Jennifer Hahn (Lower St. Croix Partnership), Susanna Wilson Witkowski (Chisago County), Beth Carreno, Emily Heinz and Mike Kinney (CLFLWD), Matt Moore and John Loomis (SWWD), Tiffany Detterman (Isanti SWCD), John Loomis (SWWD), Barb Peichel and Michelle Jordan (BWSR).</p>	
Absent:	<p>Isanti County: Susan Morris Pine SWCD: Doug Odegard Valley Branch WD: Ed Marchan</p>	

MINUTES:

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

1. **Approve agenda** - Motion to approve agenda by Jackie Anderson. Second by Chris DuBose. All in favor. Agenda approved.
2. **Approve meeting minutes** - Motion to approve 4-25-22 meeting minutes by Mike Mergens. Second by Jerry Schaubach. All in favor. Minutes approved.
3. **Financial report** - Craig Mell shared the [July 2022 Financial Report](#). There were no questions from the group.
4. **Progress report** - Emily Heinz shared the [July 2022 Progress Report](#), which includes load reductions for recently approved projects. There was no further conversation from the group.
5. **FY23 WBIF Work Plan and Budget** – Craig Mell provided update on the concept draft [FY23 Preliminary WBIF Budget](#) and timeline for approvals. The work plan will be brought to the policy committee in September to bring to partner boards in October for final approval by BWSR by February 2023. Fran Miron commented that Washington County is excited to work collaboratively and use the funds basin-wide. Angie Hong asked if there needed to be a motion to schedule a special policy committee meeting for September 27-26, 4-6pm. Jackie Anderson motioned to do so. Second by Chris DuBose. All in favor. Location TBD. Most likely, this will take the place of the regularly scheduled October policy committee meeting.
6. **Project Proposals:** Angie Hong provided an overall summary of the two requests seeking Policy Committee approval. Both are above \$50k threshold that needs to be brought to the policy committee and would require a work plan amendment. Emily provided background and information about both proposals. See memos for details: [7-25-22 WBIF Project Proposals](#). Three options for funding were suggested.
 - Wade Johnson shared concerns about pre-approving 2023 funding. Would like to look more into how funds are being leveraged from other sources. The CLFLWD project does not have as much local match, proportionately.
 - Chris DuBose has similar concerns. Getting jump of next year's projects is a concern. Against using 2023 funding. Willing to look at funds from current funding.
 - Klayton Eckles – planning large projects takes a lot of time and energy. Saying it is too early for FY23 projects is concerning.
 - Emily – For CLFLWD, their levy would provide \$100k toward the Sunrise River project.
 - Matt Moore & John Loomis – SWWD will provide over \$300k for a \$1 million project - 1/3 local funding.
 - Steve Hallan agrees with Klayton – communities use a 5 year planning process for roads.
 - Jim Birkholz – These are good projects. This watershed funding process is just getting started. Would like to share that he is good with allocating FY21 projects. He is reluctant to allocate FY23 funds. Do we have to have a policy discussion about what state vs locals need to fund? Both of these projects have significant phosphorus reduction. Is there adequate upstream treatment?

- Matt Moore / John Loomis –The SWWD project is funded locally through stormwater utility fees. Upstream treatment has happened in the past. Currently, channel stabilization is the focus because that is the source of the pollutant load.
- Jackie Anderson – CLFLWD philosophy is to start upstream and go downstream. The proposed project is at the headwaters of Comfort Lake watershed. Did one project about 10 years ago at Bixby Park – reconstructed wetland. Also diagnostic monitoring and feasibility study was done in advance of this project and many stats were provided (see memos).
- Wade Johnson – Agrees with other policy committee comments. FY23 funds should be allocated following normal/new review and decision protocol.
- Jackie Anderson asked about timing for notification of FY23 allocation. We do not want to have funds unspent.
- Klayton Eckles – big picture, we as a group need to decide what the best options are for the big picture – if we start to argue over who gets their slice of the pie, then BCWD will not support that approach. This is an opportunity for us to think big picture as a group – we are working together to support our common goals. Any time we start fighting for the money, we are not living up to the philosophy of what we are trying to do.
- Chris DuBose wants to have more projects to choose from and does not want to eat up FY23 budget early. Would be open to consider using left over FY21 funds.
- Klayton Eckles – respects that and we need to make sure we make decisions if there is the opportunity. If we wait too long they may go away.
- Lance Petersen – if we use FY21 budget, can we then say maybe for FY23 funding?
- Angie Hong – there are logistical challenges to funding projects over multiple funding cycles.
- Michelle Jordan – projects would have to have distinct phases with clear start date to be funded under grant cycles. Each phase much have a clear and separate water quality benefit. The timing is important in how you mix pots of funds.
- Matt Moore - There is a window for tree removal because of the bats.
- Kevin Chapdelaine – Wants to support both projects. Suggests SWWD project needs funding ASAP or they will lose other funding because it is already August. Both projects have shown their virtue.
- Jim Birkholz – Was SWWD assuming Lower St. Croix Partnership funds would be used?
- Matt Moore / John Loomis – yes, SWWD has been pursuing these funds for many months.
- Steve Hallan– what are the odds that another project will come up?
- Chris DuBose – Suggests using remaining FY21 funds to support project. We have limited dollars and capping at some number makes sense. What happens if we have \$3 million dollar projects?
- Steve Hallan – How much FY21 funds to we have left? We are advancing funds all the time for road projects.
- Craig Mell – We have \$430,000 not yet allocated from FY21 funds.
- Chris DuBose – point of clarification – we are suggesting \$431,000 of FY21 PLUS \$200,000 of FY23.
- Jim Birkholz – Asked the project leads “what is your reaction to using the remaining FY21 funds and only receiving partial funding. Will your projects still be able to move forward?”
- Jackie Anderson – We would be \$150,000 short, but we would figure out a way to make it work. Competitive funds will be dropping over time as 1w1p expands. Emily Heinz concurs there may be other avenues for funding.

- John Loomis –SWWD has maxed out local funding options. Would need to scale down the project, which would lower pollutant load benefits.
- Craig Mell – about 35% of FY23 implementation budget would be used if we allocate the funds now.
- Sharon Lemay – we all agreed we would do the best projects. We should honor staff recommendations. Moving forward, we need to call for proposals two years in advance.
- Emily Heinz – the remaining balance for project implementation in FY23 would be \$463,000.
- Mike Kinney –discussed targeted monitoring of the Sunrise River project.
- Fran Miron – Leans toward staff recommendation.
- Janet Hegland – Concerned about process. Does not want to allocate FY23 funds in advance.
- Jackie Anderson – Large projects take a long time to prepare – it can take 2-3 years just to get things lined up. Think of it like a public utility. The Lower St Croix Partnership needs to start operating more like a watershed district. There needs to be multi-year planning and targeted implementation. We can't only look two years ahead.
- Klayton Eckles – from a project perspective, these are both pretty good projects. Motion to support Option 3 with all the bullets. Steve Hallan seconded.
- Janet Hegland – Understands the process – it is just not how we had planned to do business. Liked what Sharon Lemay suggested.
- Jerry Schaubach – likes option 3 as well.
- Fran Miron – the process does not preclude us from funding other FY23 projects. Commends project proposers for bringing good projects forward. These projects spend down FY21 dollars, for which the clock is ticking.
- Wade Johnson – wants us to follow our process – we need to have something in place to make it clear to partners – it is OK to make suggestions years in advance. Wants all partners to be on the same page.
- Kevin Chapdelaine – concurs with Wade. We have a process problem. These are good projects. Are there others coming that may not get funded with this decision?
- Jim Birkholz – This is an abrupt way to make policy. We need to talk about timing and timeline for project proposals and make sure our process meets the needs. It is hard to believe that there is no way to proceed without this funding.
- Mike Kinney – the CLFLWD project has been in development for years. Wants to maximize use of funds based on cost-effectiveness.
- Lance Petersen – would like to vote on option 3, but add a discuss of process to the next agenda.
- Fran Miron – policy will be discussed at next meeting.
- Klayton Eckles – in front of us we have real projects with a real timeline and the group should proceed.
- Fran Miron – Calls for motion.
- Jim Birkholz – how much staff time is involved to make the needed work plan amendment?
- Craig Mell – provided overview of the local board approval process and BWSR review.
- Angie Hong– a work plan amendment would be required for either of suggested options. Angie read Option 3, as motioned by Klayton Eckles and seconded by Steve Hallan.
 - “The motion is to recommend allocating \$300,449 in WBIF funding to the Sunrise River Wetland Restoration Project and \$350,000 in WBIF to the Trout Brook Project, including the following:

- Recommend to partner entities that the FY21 work plan be amended to shift \$160,000 added to A5 and \$66,326 added to A6;
 - Direct that the FY21 work plan amendment be submitted to the entities' governing bodies and to BWSR for approval at the earliest opportunity;
 - Approve \$350,000 in WBIF funds for the Trout Brook Project and \$300,449 in WBIF funds for the Sunrise River Wetland Restoration Project;
 - Direct that \$350,000 in FY21 funds be applied first to the Trout Brook Project, and a minimum of \$80,449 in FY21 funds to the Sunrise River Wetland Restoration Project;
 - As to that part of approved Sunrise River Wetland Restoration Project funding not met by FY21 funds, provide in the proposed FY23 work plan for a maximum of \$220,000 in FY23 WBIF disbursement to be applied to the project;
 - Find that the commitment of FY23 funds to the Sunrise River Wetland Restoration Project is prudent and justified to establish sufficient funding certainty for the project to commence in early 2023.
- Roll call vote:
 - Anoka SWCD: Sharon LeMay - yes
 - Brown's Creek WD: Klayton Eckles - yes
 - Carnelian Marine St Croix WD: Wade Johnson - yes
 - Chisago County:
 - Chris DuBose - no
 - Lance Petersen - yes
 - Mike Mergens - yes
 - Chisago SWCD: Jim Birkholz - no
 - Comfort Lake Forest Lake WD: Jackie Anderson - yes
 - Isanti SWCD: Jerry Schaubach - yes
 - Middle St. Croix WMO: Mike Runk - yes
 - Pine County: Steve Hallan - yes
 - South Washington WD: Kevin ChapdeLaine - yes
 - Sunrise River JP WMO: Janet Hegland - no
 - Washington County: Fran Miron - yes
 - Washington SWCD: Diane Blake – no
 - Absent: Isanti County: Susan Morris; Pine SWCD: Doug Odegard; Valley Branch WD: Ed Marchan

7. At 5:40pm, Fran Miron left the meeting and delegated the roll of meeting chair to Chris DuBose.

8. Program updates:

- Jennifer Hahn provide an update on agricultural outreach and projects.
 - See [Non-structural ag program overview](#)
 - See [LSC NS BMP Ag 2022](#)
 - See [2022 Agricultural Conservation Programs](#)

- Lance Petersen and Jackie Anderson requested that staff track the pollutant reduction benefits of nonstructural practices that are funded through the program and provide updates to the policy committee.
- Angie Hong provided an update on [2022 Q2 Outreach and Education](#) and encouraged policy committee members to attend the Aug. 24 Workshop at the Winery and invite city council and key staff members from their communities to attend as well.
- Jay Riggs provided an update on the [Tree Canopy Assessment Protocol for Enhanced Street Sweeping Prioritization](#). The group will be reaching out to cities in the watershed to begin developing enhanced street sweeping plans. More details are provided here: [LSC NS BMP Urban 2022](#)

9. The meeting was adjourned at 6pm.