

Lower Minnesota River East 1W1P

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: 3:00-5:00pm, Thursday, May 16, 2024

Location:

Le Sueur County Soil and Water Conservation District Office
181 W Minnesota Street, Le Center, MN 56057

And

Virtual – Microsoft Teams

Attendees: Jeff Docken (Rice County); Rob Casey (Scott SWCD), Roger Bongers (Rice SWCD), Pete Thelemann (Le Sueur SWCD), Rita Weaver (Scott County and Scott WMO), Holly Bushman (Le Sueur County); Meghan Darley (Scott SWCD), Michael Schultz (Le Sueur SWCD), Linda Loomis (Lower MN River Watershed District); Brad Behrens (Rice County), Barb Peichel (BWSR), Anne Sawyer (BWSR), Tim Tutlam (Guest)

I. Welcome & Review Agenda

Jeff Docken called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm. Holly gave an introduction on the agenda and what will be covered in today's meeting.

II. Review and Approval of Agenda

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Motioned by Bongers; Seconded by Thelemann to approve the agenda.

The Motion carried unanimously for the agenda to be approved.

III. Review and Approval of March 21st Meeting Minutes

Motioned by Schoenecker; Seconded by Entinger to approve the January 18th meeting minutes.

The Motion carried unanimously for the approval of the January 18th meeting minutes.

IV. 60 Day Review Period Update and Public Hearing (Decision Item)

60 Day Review Period Update

Holly summarized the comments that came in so for the 60-day Review Period. The 60 Day Review period ended on Friday, March 22nd 2024.

We received a total of 562 comments. 264 comments were considered official whereas 298 comments were considered unofficial, but would still be beneficial to include and update in the

plan however unofficial comments are not required to be included within the plan. Most of the comments were in regards to grammatical changes and/or no changes.

We received comments from all state agencies except MDA. Additionally, we have received comments from Prior Lake Spring Lake WD, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, Scott County/WMO, Le Sueur County, Le Sueur SWCD, Friends of the Minnesota Valley, and the Minnesota River Collaborate.

Holly provided a summary of the comments we have received so far:

- Positive feedback about plan layout, format, and visuals.
- Multiple comments about appreciating the partnership including Chloride Issues and Environmental Justice Areas.
- Multiple comments about continuing to partner and communicate. AC members would like to continue to be AC members.
- Multiple comments about an appreciation of having a diverse set of actions and activities in order to achieve goals.
- Major Content Changes
 - Multiple comments about concerns of goals being too low.
 - Multiple comments about the JPB, JPA, and JPE not being clearly defined.
 - Multiple comments about 5-year amendment mark.
 - Multiple Comments about more narrative explains the modeling approach and what it means. Update in Chapter 4 and Appendix E.
 - Natural Resources and Cultural Resources Study (who, where, what).
 - Definition and clarification of Metro Plans, One Watershed One Plan Program, Existing Watershed Management Efforts with other LGUs.
 - Clarification for State Agency Programs.
- Minor Improvements
 - Chapter 5 Summary of Existing Programs, Regulations, Etc.
 - Tables and Narrative were updated to reflect existing programs.

- Updating or including maps within the plan.
- Multiple comments about grammatical errors.
- How Comments were addressed
 - Comments and Draft Responses were developed by the ST and ISG.
 - Comments were color coded to signify which comments required no change, comments was based on grammatical/format errors, or comment needed content related feedback and or discussion.
 - A few comments required the AC, and/or ISG to assist with a response.
 - Modeling approaches that was used and assumptions made.
 - Pike Lake. Will be listed as local priority in plan, but not 10 year Plan Priority.
 - Clarification on Narrative for Drainage, Water Control Structures, Natural and Cultural Resource Study, Water Storage-Groundwater Recharge, Stormwater Facility Maintenance.
 - JPA/JPB/MOA language-relied more on BWSR for this.
- Rita asked about the modeling comments and if that was the first time ISG had seen comments in regards to modeling efforts?
 - Sarah responded yes at least to the extent in which the questions were asked. Essentially providing more detail on how the models came to their conclusions.

The ST asked the PC for approval of the 60 day comments and responses that were provided by the ST for the 60 day review process. These will be reflected in an updated draft at a later date.

The Board approved 5-0 to incorporate comments and responses into the plan as presented by the ST.

The Motion carried unanimously for the 60 day comments and responses to be approved and incorporated into the Plan.

Public Hearing

- Holly summarized the Public Hearing information.
 - Need to have at least one public hearing.

- Provided public notice (in 3 papers and on website).
- Scheduled for Thursday, May 30th at New Prague Fire Department
 - Staff and PC attend 3:30pm-4:00pm
 - 4:30pm Public Is Welcome
 - 5:00pm Presentation about LOMRE Plan
- 5:30pm Public Hearing Starts
 - Limit speaking time for each participant
 - 3-5 minutes per participant
 - PC recommends 3 minutes
 - Response Protocol to Public Hearing Comments?
 - Thank you for your comment.
 - We can address the comment with a response at a later date.

VI. Joint Powers Agreement Update (Informational Item)

Holly mentioned that Rice County attorney had a few additional comments for the draft Joint Powers Agreement to clarify liability of staff, easements, property, and equipment. Holly mentioned she will add in this language that each LGU is individually held liable for the items listed above. Holly mentioned she has not received any other comments.

The ST asked the PC to set a deadline on when a draft JPA should be ready. The PC mentioned that Friday, June 14th would be a hard deadline for the draft of the Final JPA.

Motioned by Docken; Seconded by Bongers to approve the Friday, June 14th as deadline to have a Final Draft JPA.

The Motion carried unanimously for the approval of the Friday, June 14th as deadline to have a Final Draft JPA.

VII. Planning Effort Timeline & Policy Committee (PC) Meeting Schedule (Informational Item)

Holly provided an update of the plan timeline. The 60-day formal review process has ended. A public hearing will need to be held prior to sending the plan off to BWSR for the 90-day review and approval which is scheduled for Thursday, May 30th. Comments will need to be responded to

and incorporated as necessary in the Plan. Then the 90-day review period can start. Tentative Dates for Plan approval are in August 2024.

Scheduled PC Meeting in June to initiate 90 day review period and have final draft of JPA ready. Additionally, discuss which PC members can attend the BWSR Central Region Committee meeting on August 1st.

VIII. Updates & Next Steps

Updates & Next Steps

- Next Steering Team Meeting: **Wednesday, June XX, 10:00am-1:00pm (TBD)**
- Next Policy Committee Meeting (Tentative): **Thursday, June 20th 3:00pm-5:00pm**

IX. Meeting Adjourn

Motioned by Docken, Seconded by Bongers at 4:02 pm

The Motion carried unanimously for the approval to adjourn at 4:02 pm.