Lower Minnesota River East One Watershed One Plan

Meeting Minutes

Friday, October 14th 2022

Attendees at meeting: Holly Bushman (Le Sueur County), Mike Schultz (Le Sueur SWCD) Steve Pahs (Rice SWCD), Meghan Darley (Scott SWCD), Melissa Bokman (Scott County/WMO), Linda Loomis(LMRWD), Barb Peichel (BWSR)

Welcome & Review Agenda

• The Lower Minnesota River East Meeting was held on October 14th, 2022. The meeting was held in person. Holly briefly went over the agenda. The main goals of the meeting were further discussion and recap of the advisory committee meeting, determine the policy committee agenda, determine schedules for the next few steering team, advisory committee, and policy committee meetings, and lastly any updates of items for discussion.

Recap Last Meeting

Holly briefly went over discussion at our last meeting which was September 1, 2022.
 We reviewed the data aggregation information ISG put together, had some discussion about our priority issues as a steering team, reviewed other planning efforts to see how they determined priority issues and concerns, and lastly talked about our first advisory committee meeting which would be held on September 28th 2022.

Advisory Committee Meeting Recap/Discussion

- The steering team talked about how there was good participation at the meeting.
 People were engaged with the activities and there was also some good discussion.
- We talked about the Advisory Committee meeting schedule a bit, and the reoccurring meeting date will stay as the Third Wednesday of the month. We will push the start time back to 10am.
 - The only advisory committee member that the meeting date and time will not work for is John Frietag. To make it easier on John, we will let him know which meetings we really would like his participation at. That way he is not juggling two meetings on third Wednesday of the month.
- The next topic the steering team discussed was priority resources.
 - Barb mentioned that we have quite a bit of water resources and impairments;
 therefore, it is going to be difficult to choose which ones to focus on.

- She suggested having a chart that lists all of the water resources with their associated data (ex: impairments, pollutant reductions needed, etc.) that way we can see all of the information at once for all of the water resources and make our decision based off of the information.
 - The steering team mentioned for priority lakes, most if not all of them will be located within Scott County. Upper and Lower Prior Lake and Spring Lake were mentioned the most from the public notification period and the public kickoff meeting.
 - Streams and rivers will be a bit more challenging. To prioritize streams and rivers we could for example focus on the subwatersheds of a certain river or stream that has the highest sediment load to the Minnesota River. Another example would be to develop a feasibility study for a river or stream to identify specific areas on where to target to reduce pollutants or erosion.
- Steve mentioned that if there are areas that are a priority we need to make sure they are included.
 - In the Cannon, we left out areas that we originally wanted to include as a priority and it wasn't clear until after the plan was approved and we started implementation efforts.
 - We just need to be clear on what we want to include and make sure they plan's priority issues and resources are also very clear.
- Barb stated that she thought ISG was doing a good job so far.
- The steering team discussed next steps and when we should schedule a meeting.
 - We wanted to keep our momentum going, but not overwhelm everyone at the same time. Once we have the issue statements developed we should be able to start on other items and really move forward with planning efforts.

Policy Committee Agenda

- The steering team discussed that we will not have enough time to get the issue statements ready for the Policy Committee in October. We should cancel that meeting and plan on having a meeting either in November or December.
- We also are going to have to figure out how to juggle the advisory committee and policy committee meetings since they are a day apart. The dates and times that are set work best for both committees.
 - Further discussion is needed. We might have to get a bit creative on how to bring items to the policy committee.
- Looking across the board with all of the data that was collected; Surface Water, Habitat & Natural Resources, and Groundwater were the top priority issues.

- Can add different activities into the plan to address these priority issues in different ways.
- Education and Outreach can fit into each topic area and the same goes with Policy and Regulations.
 - These will vary by resources and issues.
- Typically, with data, monitoring, and studies, plans have identified existing data and what gaps there are. This can be included later in the plan and not necessarily a priority issue.
- The steering team felt we could add emerging issues into surface water and groundwater.

Reschedule Steering Team Meetings

Moving forward the Steering team meeting will occur after the Advisory Committee
meeting. It will be the third Wednesday of the month from 1:00pm-3:00pm or 1:303:30pm (depending if we need to include a lunch break). If we do not have an Advisory
Committee meeting that month, we will still plan on having the steering team meeting
the same day.

Updates & Next Steps

- The next steering team meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 16th from 1:00pm-2:00pm/3:00pm.
- The next policy committee meeting will be held either on Thursday, November 17th from 3:00pm-5:00pm or Thursday, December 21st from 3:00pm-5:00pm.
- Next Advisory Committee Meeting will be held either Wednesday November 16th from 10:00am-1:00pm or Wednesday, December 20th from 10:00am-1:00pm.