

Lower Minnesota River East 1W1P

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: 3:00-5:00pm, Thursday, June 20th, 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);, Roger Bongers (Rice SWCD), Doug Schoenecker (Scott SWCD), Greg Entinger (Rice SWCD), Dan O’Keefe (Le Sueur County), County); Meghan Darley (Scott SWCD), Michael Schultz (Le Sueur SWCD), Linda Loomis (Lower MN River Watershed District), Barb Peichel (BWSR), Anne Sawyer (BWSR),

I. Welcome & Review Agenda

Dan O’Keefe called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm. Mike 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 Schoenecker; Seconded by Docken to approve the agenda.

The Motion carried unanimously for the agenda to be approved.

III. Review and Approval of May 16th Meeting Minutes

Motioned by Docken; Seconded by Entinger to approve the May 16th meeting minutes.

The Motion carried unanimously for the approval of the May 16th meeting minutes.

IV. Public Hearing Update (Informational Item)

Public Hearing

- Mike summarized the Public Hearing information.
 - 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 minutes
- Had one participant at the Public Hearing
 - Eric Evenson-Friends of the Minnesota Valley
 - Comments were very similar to what was stated during the 60 day review period.

VI. Initiate 90 day Review Process (Decision Item)

In order to initiate the 90 day review process for the Watershed Comprehensive Management Plan the following needs to be completed:

- Plan needs to be updated
- All 60 day comments need to be responded to and addressed (document)
- All Public Hearing Comments need to be responded to and addressed (document)

All of the comments and responses within the 60 day review period and Public Hearing have been included in one document. The documents should each comment, who stated the comment, referenced the plan where this comment applies to, and a formal response on who the comment is addressed. Not all comments required changes to the plan. The ST worked to complete all of the responses.

BWSR and the ST will share all of the comments on their website. Additionally, the updated Plan will be shared on the LoMRE website.

As part of initiating the 90 day review process, a formal letter will be submitted to all State Agencies and Met Council stating the intent to initiate the 90 day review process. The intent is for Holly to submit this letter on Monday, June 24th along with all of the 60 day and Public Hearing Comments and Responses. Also during this time, the ST will post the Final Draft of the Plan on the LoMRE website.

Motioned by Schoenecker; Seconded by Docken to approve the Submittal of the Lower Minnesota River East Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan to BWSR to initiate the final 90-day review process

Motioned by Entinger; Seconded by Bongers to send out the 90 day formal letter to State Agencies including Met Council on Monday, June 24th.

The Motions carried unanimously for the approval of initiating the formal 90 day review process and sending a letter to State Agencies and Met Council on Monday, June 24th.

Final Steps to Approve, Adopt, and Implement the Plan include initiating the 90 day review process, attending and presenting at the BWSR Central Region Committee Meeting, BWSR Board Meeting, completion of JPA, Resolution to Adopt and Implement the Plan, Workplan, WBIF Policy, Project Tracking and Ranking, Watershed Roles/Subagreement, and Education and Outreach.

VII. Joint Powers Agreement Update (Decision Item)

Mike provided an update of the JPA and mentioned to the PC we have a final draft ready. A JPA is required in order to move forward and receive WBIF funding. The PC has looked at many draft of the JPA. Keep in mind who ever signs onto the JPA will determine what is considered a quorum, supermajority, and final dues.

Motioned by Bongers; Seconded by Schoenecker to approve the final draft of the JPA and have staff bring back to local boards for approval.

The Motion carried unanimously for the approval of Final Draft of the JPA and send to local boards for approval.

There was discussion about attendance at the BWSR Central Region Committee Meeting. BWSR stated that it would be nice to have at least one board member in addition to staff attend.

VIII. Updates & Next Steps

Updates & Next Steps

- Next Steering Team Meeting: **Wednesday, July 17, 10:00am-1:00pm**
- Next Policy Committee Meeting (Tentative): **Thursday, August 15th 3:00pm-5:00pm**
- **BWSR Central Region Committee Meeting:** Monday, August 5th from 2:00pm-4:00pm
- **BWSR Board Meeting:** Thursday, August 29th at 9am

IX. Meeting Adjourn

Motioned by Schoenecker, Seconded by Bongers at 3:50 pm

The Motion carried unanimously for the approval to adjourn at 3:50pm.