

# Meeting Agenda



Lower Minnesota  
River East  
Watershed

ISG

## Advisory Committee

Project Name: Lower MN River East One Watershed One Plan

ISG Project Number: 27009

Date: March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Time: 10am-1pm

Invitees: Joe Mulcahy (Met Council), Barb Peichel (BWSR), Anne Sawyer (BWSR), Travis Hirman (MDA), John Frietag (MDH), David DePaz (DNR), Brittany Faust (MPCA), Joni Giese (Prior Lake Spring Lake WD), Vanessa Strong (Scott County/WMO), Melissa Bokman (Scott County/WMO), Meghan Darley (Scott SWCD), Troy Kuphal (Scott SWCD), Linda Loomis (Lower MN River WD), Brad Behrens (Rice County), Steve Pahs (Rice SWCD), Mike Schultz (Le Sueur SWCD), Holly Kalbus (Le Sueur County), Bailey Griffin (ISG), Paul Marston (ISG)

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## INTRODUCTIONS

- Name
- Entity/Agency
- What is your favorite place you've traveled?

## PURPOSE + GOALS

- Finalize setup for measurable goals (how many goals, metric, scale, etc.)
- Initial discussion for development of strategies and implementation table

## DISCUSSION TOPICS

### Review outcomes from PC Meeting

5 MINUTES

- Approval of priority resources

### Storage and Habitat Targeting

20 MINUTES

### HSPF Model Updates

10 MINUTES

### Measurable Goals & Strategies – Small Groups Activity for Surface Water Quality and Surface Water Hydrology

60 MINUTES

### Small Group Recap

10 MINUTES

### Measurable Goals & Strategies – Small Groups Activity for Habitat and Groundwater

60 MINUTES

### Small Group Recap

10 MINUTES

### Next Steps

5 MINUTES

# Memorandum

Lower Minnesota River East - Advisory Committee



To: Lower MN River East Watershed Advisory Committee  
From: Bailey Griffin, Project Manager; Paul Marston, Environmental Scientist - ISG  
Date: March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Subject: Targeting, Measurable Goals, and Strategies

The following memo provides updates based on the outcomes from the February Advisory Committee (AC) meeting. Most of the upcoming AC meeting will be used to finalize the framework for the measurable goals and develop initial strategies for the implementation table.

## STORAGE PRIORITY AREAS

The Steering Team met for an additional virtual meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, to discuss storage priority areas and measurable goals in more detail. The outcomes from the meeting determined that the priority areas for storage implementation would match the priority streams and their watersheds as these areas were determined based on the need for stream stability and erosion. Storage and reduced peak flow rates will help to achieve desired stream stability, reduced erosion, and improved water quality. Public drainage system subwatershed areas will not have independent targeting, though drainage systems in the priority areas for storage will be included for consideration.

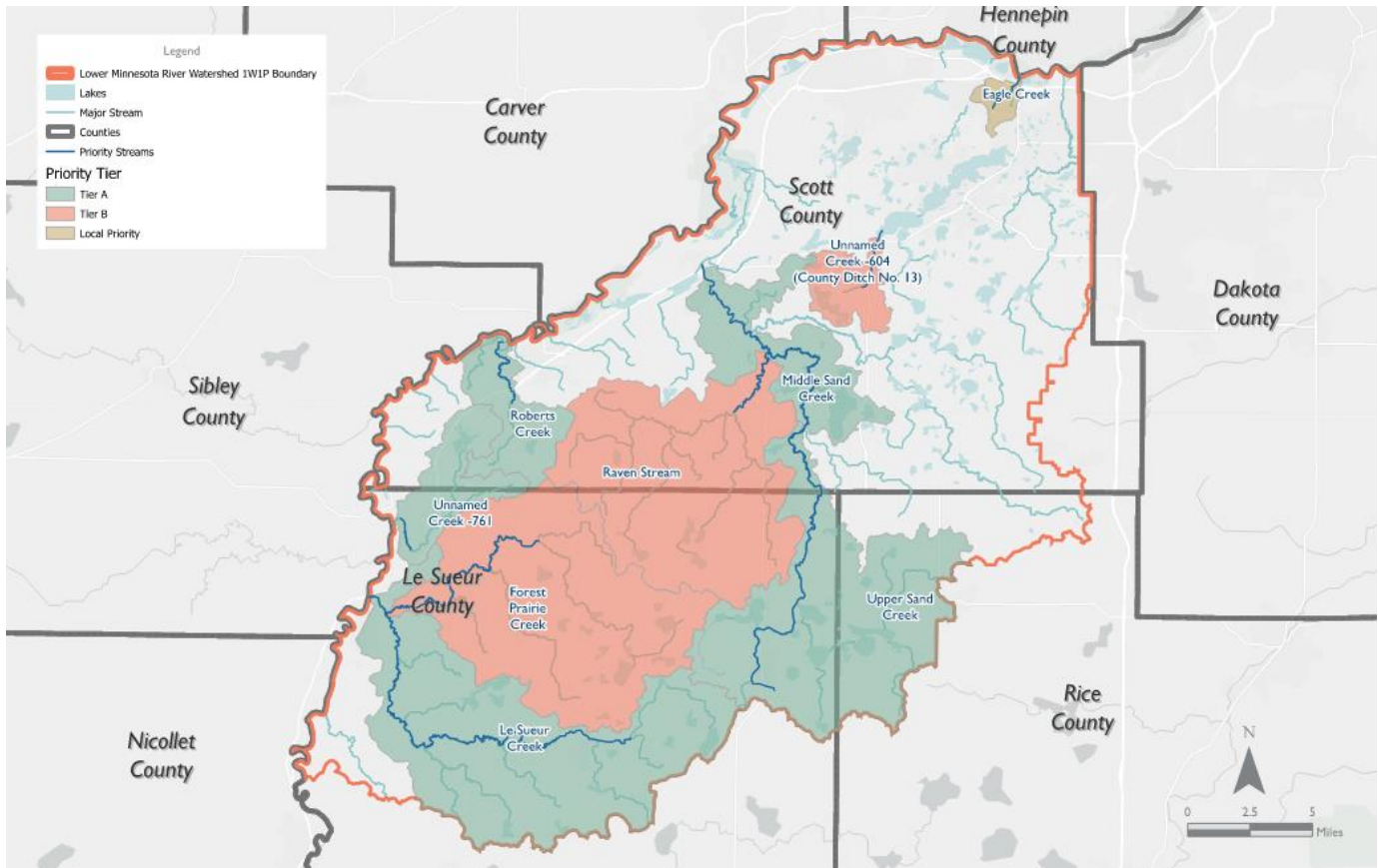


Figure 1: Priority Stream and Their Watersheds by Tier

# Memorandum

Lower Minnesota River East - Advisory Committee

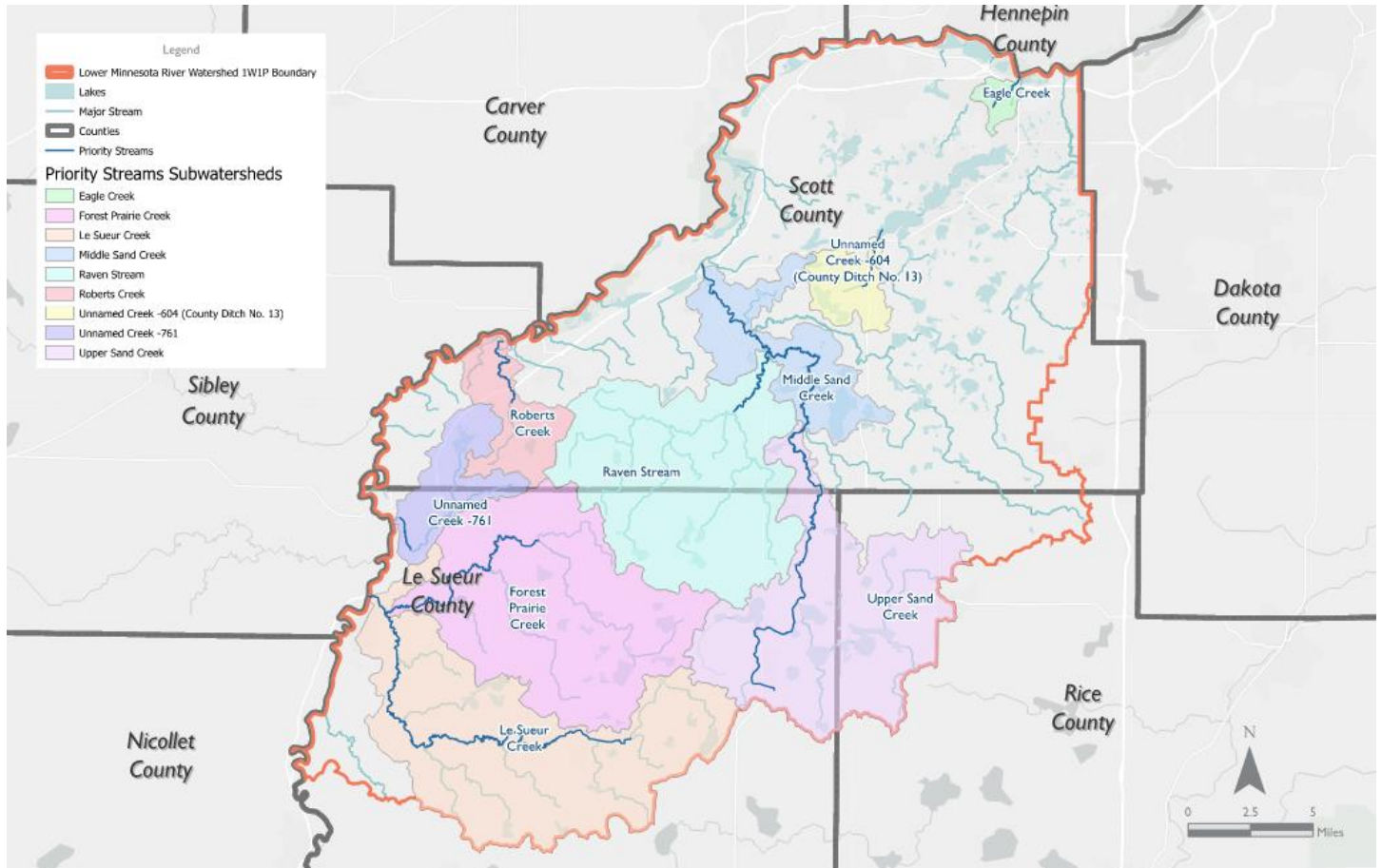


Figure 2: Priority Streams and Their Watersheds



## HABITAT PRIORITY AREAS

The Steering Team discussed the priority areas for habitat following the February AC meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The outcomes of the discussion were to simplify the priority areas since this is not the highest resource concern for the Plan. Priority areas for habitat will focus on riparian areas within 1,500 feet buffer of streams and rivers within the priority streamsheds.

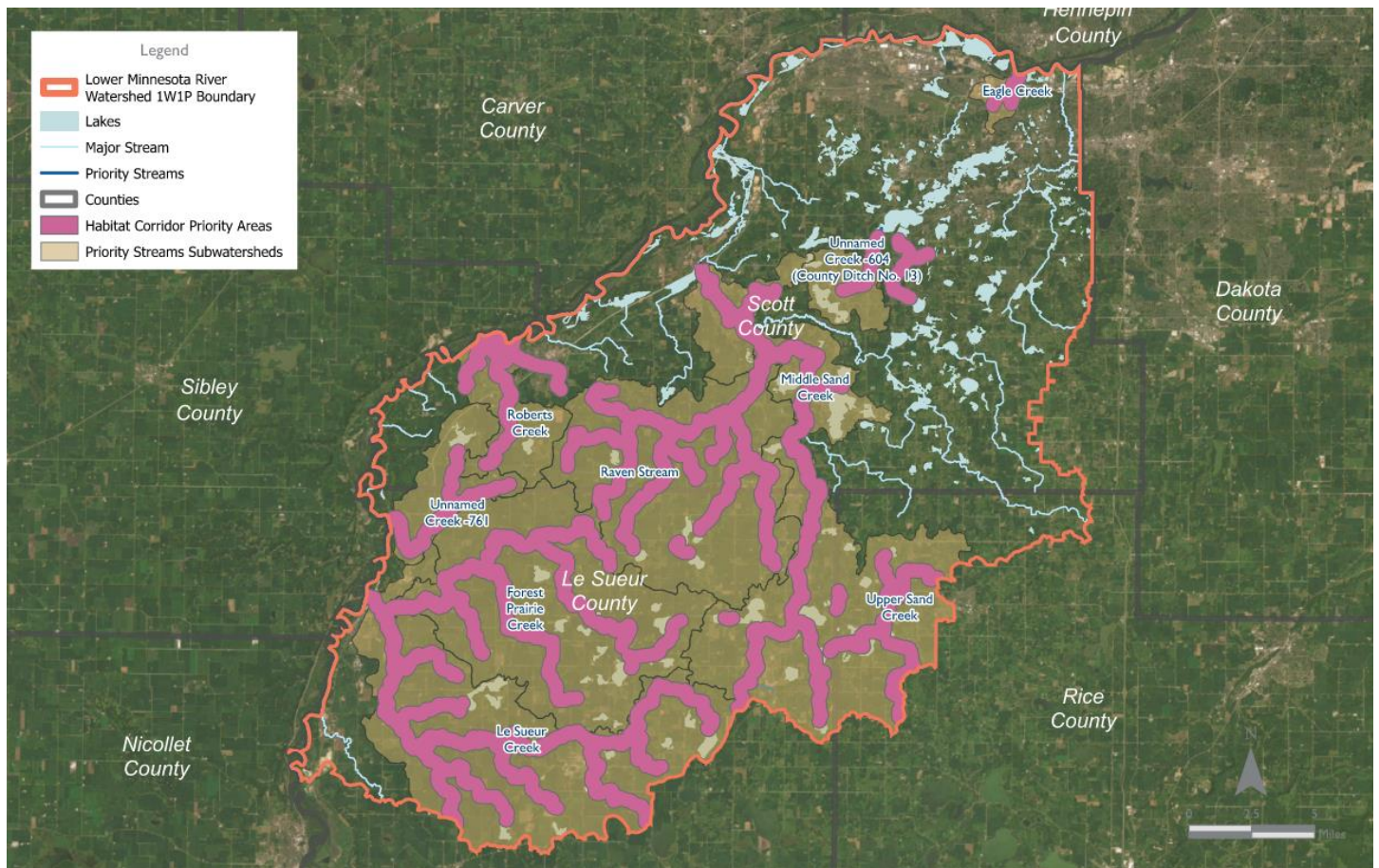


Figure 3: Habitat Priority Areas



## MEASUREABLE GOALS

### Surface Water Quality

Issue Statement: Lakes, streams, creeks, wetlands, and the Minnesota River are threatened or impaired by various pollutants which cause harmful impacts to aquatic life, habitat, and recreation.		
Goal #1	Sediment / Erosion	Reduce upland and near channel erosion to priority streams by X tons per year.
Goal #2	Nutrients in Impaired Lakes	Reduce total phosphorus (TP) loading to priority impaired lakes by X pounds per year.
Goal #3	Nutrients in Unimpaired Lakes	Maintain total phosphorus (TP) levels in unimpaired priority lakes.
Goal #4	Chloride	<b>**Needs more discussion**</b> # of education and outreach widgets
Goal #5	E. coli	<b>**Needs more discussion**</b> # of practices (SSTS replacements, management plans, other practices) widgets
Goal #6	Nutrients in Streams	<b>**Needs more discussion**</b>

### Surface Water Hydrology

Issue Statement: Hydrology has been significantly altered within the watershed due to land use changes which has altered flow rates, drainage, volumes, and storage causing flooding, erosion, and downstream impacts.		
Goal #1	Altered Hydrology	Reduce the X-year peak flowrate by X% at the outlet of the priority streams. (tracking towards goals will be through ac-feet of storage - not through monitored flows - see Goal #2.)
Goal #2	Storage	Implement X-acre-feet of storage in the priority stream subwatersheds.

### Groundwater Quality

Issue Statement: Groundwater quality is impacted by naturally occurring and human-introduced pollutants which impacts the safety of drinking water supplies.		
Goal #1	Groundwater Protection - Nitrates	No net increase in known groundwater well nitrate concentrations across entire Planning Area.
Goal #2	Groundwater Protection -	Reduce nitrate inputs to groundwater by X pounds per year in priority areas for groundwater protection.
Goal #3	Groundwater Protection - Source Contamination	Minimize groundwater source contamination by implementing X SSTS repairs/replacements and sealing X wells.



## Groundwater Knowledge

Issue Statement: There is insufficient knowledge, data, and understanding of groundwater quality and quantity which is needed in order to protect vulnerable areas, resources, and communities within the watershed.		
Goal #1	Nitrates	<b>**Needs more discussion**</b> # of education and outreach widget to improve understanding of nitrate sources in priority areas
Goal #2	Groundwater Contamination	<b>**Needs more discussion**</b> # of education and outreach widget to improve understanding of groundwater contamination and management in the general public as well as political representatives.
Goal #3	Data Collection and Monitoring	<b>**Needs more discussion**</b>

## Habitat Restoration

Issue Statement: All existing habitat types within the watershed, especially lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands/fens, forests, and prairies, have been reduced, degraded, and fragmented due to land use practices, pollutants, altered hydrology, and invasive species.		
Goal #1	Riparian Restorations	Increase perennial cover by # acres and/or X miles within 1,500-foot wide corridor on rivers and streams within priority stream subwatersheds.
Goal #2	Aquatic Connectivity	Remove # barriers that limit aquatic connectivity.
Goal #3	Invasive Species	<b>**Needs more discussion**</b>
Goal #4	Upland Habitat	<b>**Needs more discussion**</b> Increase perennial cover and wetlands for upland habitat benefits

## Habitat Protection and Preservation

Issue Statement: Habitat that contains high ecological value is threatened due to land use changes, poor water quality, and altered hydrology. These impacts affect all existing natural habitat types, especially aquatic habitat, forests, native prairies, trout streams, and wetlands/fens.		
Goal #1	Permanent Protection	Increase the amount of land in permanent protection though conservation easements by X-acres.
Goal #2	Identify High Value Natural and Cultural Resources	Complete a study(s) to identify high value natural and cultural resources, determine sensitive habitat areas, and establish strategies for protection.

## MEASURABLE GOALS: SMALL GROUPS ACTIVITY

We will be dividing into small groups to further refine measurable goals. There will be two rounds of small groups.

### Round 1:

#### Surface Water Quality:

- Steven Pahs
- Meghan Darley
- Anne Sawyer
- Brittany Faust
- Bryan Spindler
- David De Paz
- Joe Mulcahy
- Joni Giese

#### Surface Water Hydrology:

- Holly Bushman
- Mike Shultz
- Linda Loomis
- John Freitag
- Barb Peichel
- Melissa Bokman
- Brad Behrens
- Travis Hirman

### Round 2:

#### Groundwater:

- Holly Bushman
- Barb Peichel
- Mike Schultz
- Linda Loomis
- John Freitag
- Melissa Bokman
- Travis Hirman
- Anne Sawyer

#### Habitat:

- Steven Pahs
- Meghan Darley
- David De Paz
- Joe Mulcahy
- Brittany Faust
- Bryan Spindler
- Joni Giese
- Brad Behrens

## MEASURABLE GOALS & STRATEGIES: SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

### Phase 1: Measurable Goals Small Group Activity:

- **Purpose:**
  - To review outcomes from February AC meeting to confirm accuracy
  - Continue discussion on areas that need clarification
- **Desired Outcomes:**
  - Finalize framework for the measurable goals
- **Instructions:**
  - Review outcomes from February AC Meeting – start with items that note **\*\*Needs more discussion\*\***
  - Review number of goals per issue statement – Are there too many? Is there something missing?
  - Review wording of goal and metric that is used to measure.
  - Review scale of goal – would it be helpful to refine goals or make more specific goals for individual areas, subwatershed, or resources?
  - Note any monitoring, studies, or models that will be used to track goals and determine numeric components. Keep in mind the capacity, level of effort, costs, and frequency of these methods for tracking.
  - If time allows, develop key strategies that will be a starting point for implementation table development.



## Phase 2: Strategies Desired Outcomes from Small Group Activity:

- **Purpose:**
  - Develop initial list of strategies necessary to meet goals
- **Desired Outcomes:**
  - List of strategies will be initial bank of strategies to build out implementation table
- **Instructions:**
  - Large paper board will be provided to each group for each issue statement
  - Paper board will be divided into 4 categories: BMPs, outreach and education, policy, and data/studies/monitoring
  - Individuals will place sticky notes on the paper board for all strategies to consider that may help meet measurable goals. Considerations should not be limited at this time based on political, social, financial, or other present barriers to implementation.
  - Sticky dots will be used to identify high priority strategies efforts needed to meet measurable goals or “shifters” that are necessary to meet measurable goals

## NEXT STEPS: IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

Once we have the framework for measurable goals, along with an established approach for setting the goals, and determined methods for modeling, ISG will begin to frame up the development of the numeric values associated with measurable goals. This may include models, widgets, or previously completed studies. Next, we will begin the initial steps of creating an implementation table. This will include discussion on allocation of funding, programs, and setting up formatting of the implementation table.