

# Lower Minnesota River East One Watershed One Plan

## Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2023

**Attendees at meeting:** Holly Bushman (Le Sueur County), Mike Schultz (Le Sueur SWCD), Meghan Darley (Scott SWCD), Troy Kuphal (Scott SWCD), Brad Behrens (Rice County), and Melissa Bokman-Ermer (Scott County/WMO)

### Welcome & Review Agenda

- The Lower Minnesota River East Meeting was held on July 19, 2023. The meeting was held virtually. Holly briefly went over the agenda. The main goals of the meeting were to further discuss the advisory committee meeting, continue developing funding and budget amounts for the plan, and review implementation activities with their associated measurable goals.

### Advisory Committee Meeting Recap and Discussion

- Holly stated there were a few activities that were noted at the Advisory Committee that did not account for additional nutrients that may be of value to the plan.
  - One of those items was internal loading within the priority lakes. If the priority lakes have TMDLs, there should be internal loading estimates that we would be able to include as part of the goal in reduction of phosphorus. For those priority lakes that do not have TMDLs completed, there are estimates included within the WRAPS.
  - There other item was estimating Sediment loading from gullies, streambanks, and ravines. ISG had mentioned at the meeting that determining loads for sediment reductions for bluff and in/near channel erosion is very tricky because it is a case-by-case basis and we do not a lot of studies out there that identify priority areas of where the practices will take place. BWSR had recommended that we put some kind of reduction within the plan and can always reassess at the 5-year amendment mark.
- The steering committee was in concurrence with including additional reduction goals with these pollutants to help better align with our priorities and represent a fuller picture of what is occurring within the priority areas.
- Another topic that was brought up at the Advisory Committee meeting was whether we wanted to keep the activities and goals broader within the priorities area (lumping together), instead of breaking them down into specific subwatersheds.

- The benefit of keeping the activities broader is it allows flexibility in implementation efforts and would make reporting significantly easier. However, the steering committee realizes that we often work on subwatershed scales and have discussed creating some kind of tracking document to hold us accountable to make sure we are getting the work done and finding the funds to implement the work. We would like a more specific/detailed breakdown of the activities within different subwatersheds and include as part of the Appendix.
- Another item we discussed that came up at the Advisory Committee meeting was the Subcommittee Meeting for Groundwater. There were proposed amendments to the groundwater priority areas. Holly attended that meeting and provided an update for the steering committee.
  - Additional implementation activities were proposed to help protect groundwater priorities areas such as manure management and stormwater management.
  - Additionally, 3 more townships and a DWSMA were added to the priority area. The justification was to help further prevent future increases in groundwater contamination in areas that are not at the highest risk, but still pose a significant risk to groundwater contamination.
  - The steering committee was in concurrence with the changes in the groundwater priority areas and activities.
- Lastly, the steering committee went over the education and outreach subcommittee. This first meeting for the education and outreach subcommittee was intended to capture any additional activities that may have been missed including ones that others may implement now (specifically municipalities).
  - Barb had mentioned there a few different approaches to education and outreach. We can be very specific about goals (ex: 5 workshops for soil health and 2 demonstration tours) or keep things broader (ex: X workshops and X tours), and create an education and outreach plan that would further define the goals. Again, if we keep the activities broader it will allow more flexibility in implementation efforts and utilizing funds.
  - The Steering Committee agreed to keep the education and outreach activities broader.
  - At the next education and outreach meeting, the Steering Committee would like education and outreach staff to be present to help formulate language for activities.

### **Funding/Budget of One Watershed One Plan**

- Funding is another section of the plan that is required. Not only do we have to develop costs for each activity, but also need to develop different budgets based off of the

different types of funding that will be utilized to complete activities. This will likely take multiple months to complete. The steering committee reviewed the funding worksheet that was developed to make sure all the potential funding sources that would be utilized to help fund implementation activities were listed.

- There were just a few additional sources that were included within the list; Regional Conservation Program Partnership (RCPP) and Climate Smart.
- Holly stated additional funding goals are to develop/refine costs for implementation activities. So far, we do not have any implementation activities such as education/outreach, plans, studies, and habitat within the implementation table, but likely will see this at the August meeting.
  - The steering committee went through the remainder of the existing draft of the implementation table to make sure measurable goals and costs were appropriate for each activity.

#### **Timetable for Reviewing Plan Content**

- Holly shared a timetable that ISG developed for the remainder of planning efforts. Within the next few months, ISG will be developing and sending out sections of plan for the SC, AC, and PC to review. One of the first sections of the plans ISG will work on is the Plan Implementation Programs section. Holly wanted to check in with the Steering Committee to see how the summary for each LGU is progressing. Sounds like staff have started on this. Holly sent a deadline of Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup> for the Steering Committee to send her the summaries.
- At our next meeting, we will be discussing the Organizational Arrangement, Decision Making, Staffing, and Collaboration sections of the plan. Hopefully we will be able to develop some recommendations for the Policy Committee for the August meeting.

#### **Updates & Next Steps**

- The next steering committee meeting will be held on **Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>** from **1:30pm-3:00pm.**
- The next policy committee meeting will be held **Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>** from **3:00pm-5:00pm.**
- Next Advisory Committee Meeting will be held **Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>** **10:00am-1:00pm.**