

Lower Minnesota River East 1W1P

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: 3:00-5:00pm, Thursday, August 17, 2023

Location:

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

And

Virtual – Microsoft Teams

Attendees: Holly Bushman (Le Sueur County); Mike Schultz (Le Sueur SWCD); Greg Entinger (Le Sueur SWCD); Roger Bongers (Rice SWCD); Laura Amundson (LMRWD); Danny O'Keefe (Le Sueur County) (chair); Meghan Darley (Scott SWCD); Jeff Docken (Rice County); Rita Weaver (Scott County/SWMO); Linda Loomis (Lower MN River Watershed District); Troy Kuphal (Scott SWCD); Anne Sawyer (BWSR); Melissa Bokman Ermer (Scott County/SWMO); Steve Pahs (Rice SWCD); Brad Behrens (Rice County)

I. Welcome & Review Agenda - Policy Committee Chair

Chair O'Keefe called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm. Holly gave an introduction on the agenda and what will be covered in today's meeting.

II. Review and Approval of Agenda

Holly indicated that there is an addition to the Organizational Arrangement update.

Motioned by Docken; Seconded by Entinger to approve the agenda.

The Motion carried unanimously for the agenda to be approved as presented.

III. Review and Approval of July 20th Meeting Minutes

Motioned by Entinger; Seconded by Bongers to approve the July 20th meeting minutes.

The Motion carried unanimously for the approval of the July 20th meeting minutes.

III. Advisory Committee & Subcommittee Updates (Informational Item)

Subcommittee Updates

Urban & Shoreland Subcommittee: Monday, August 14th

Education & Outreach Subcommittee Meeting: Wednesday, August 16th during Advisory Committee meeting.

The Groundwater subcommittee meeting was highly attended. Holly received a lot of good input to incorporate into the plan. There will be an additional meeting on August 31st, for other entities including tribal communities to make sure they understand what this plan means for them.

Laura Amundson (LMRWD) asked for examples of what other 1W1Ps are doing for subcommittees.

Holly gave an update on the planning activities completed to date. The Advisory Committee (AC) has been working on additions to the implementation table and discussion occurred on plan administration and coordination ideas.

IV. Review Plan Content: Plan Administration & Coordination: Decision Making and Staffing & Organizational Structures or Formal Agreements Sections (Informational Item)

Holly gave a presentation on the Plan content requirements from a BWSR handout regarding Plan Administration and Coordination, there were discussions at yesterday's Steering Committee meeting. Holly gave examples of subcommittee types other 1W1P groups are using and indicated those decisions will need to be made eventually. Holly gave examples of some of the duties and processes subcommittees perform in other 1W1Ps partnerships. Holly recommended hiring out legal services because most county attorneys are busy with county work and have other priorities.

Holly gave examples of shared services that Le Sueur County is involved in. Holly gave examples of collaborations or partnerships that would be beneficial for the partnership. These decisions will need to be made eventually to be added to the Administration and Collaboration chapter in the plan. Cmsr. Docken indicated there are other 1W1Ps and examples that we could pull ideas from. Staff indicated the Policy Committee (PC) could consider setting aside funds (i.e. 20% technical assistance, 10% Education and Outreach).

Cmsr. Docken asked if there is going to be other sources of funding towards these projects. Mike indicated that there will be Clean Water Funds (state funding) and federal funding available once they start getting some feasibility studies done to show the funding needs for projects.

IV. Organizational Arrangement (Informational & Decision item)

Melissa gave an update on Scott County/Scott WMO choice to withdraw from the Plan implementation process. We will continue with the plan process but not join the plan implementation.

Draft Joint Powers Agreement

Holly included an example Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) in the packet and discussed some of the main points of the JPA. A discussion on what the name this partnership ensued. The Policy Committee (PC) agreed to have staff come up with the name suggestions.

Holly continued with discussing voting language in the JPA. Mike indicated we would need to consider how many entities join the implementation JPA to see what the quorum would be. Holly continued with discussing budgeting and funding section of the JPA and some considerations for the draft. Holly gave examples of the Cannon Plan and what their process is with member dues as an example. It was asked that Commissioners ask what their boards would like to see for JPA content. The JPA will go before all the boards for approval. Cmsr. O'Keefe asked what the Cannon 1W1P member dues have been used for. Staff indicated legal fees, outreach that wasn't grant eligible, match on lake management plans, and lake monitoring. Dues are revisited each year in the Cannon group plan. Holly advised to look over the Powers section to understand what powers the board would like to have.

Cmsr. Entinger asked about the Property section of the JPA. Mike responded that we would like to get the plan completed first and some of these questions may be better answered. Steve Pahs indicated that individual agencies (i.e. Rice SWCD), would purchase equipment, the entity would not purchase equipment itself. The equipment is then shared with the partners. Mike gave examples of other equipment the partnership shares.

Holly asked if there were any other examples the PC board would like to see regarding the JPA. Mike asked if the PC feels member dues necessary. No PC members were opposed to member dues. Holly indicated it would be important to have a backup plan for staff changes for specific positions of the partnership board.

The PC stated 60 days is realistic for the Withdrawal section of the JPA.

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

Holly provided a handout of the plan timeline. Staff will have ISG come to the PC in September to present the table. Staff will ask for a 60-day review in January. The PC will see a draft plan in October. ISG will start giving us sections of the plan to review. Holly indicated we may have pieces of the implementation plan to review in September as well as the Land & Water Resources Chapter and Ch. 2-3 for the PC to review. In November ISG will have a revised plan, so there will likely be no PC meeting. The official 60-day review will begin in January.

VIII. Updates & Next Steps

Updates & Next Steps

- Updates – Ch. 2 Issue Prioritization & Ch. 3 Priority Issues, Targeting, Measurable Goals will be made available in the next couple of weeks for the Policy Committee, Steering Committee & Advisory Committee to review and provide comments.
- Next Steering Team Meeting: **Wednesday, September 20th 1:30pm-3:00pm**
- Next Policy Committee Meeting: **Thursday, September 21st 3:00pm-5:00pm**
- Advisory Committee Meeting: **September 20th 10:00am-1:00pm**

IX. Meeting Adjourn

Motioned by Entinger, Seconded by Docken at 4:20 pm

The Motion carried unanimously for the approval to adjourn at 4:20pm.