

Cannon River

One Watershed, One Plan

"Aligning local water planning on major watershed boundaries with state strategies towards prioritized, targeted and measurable implementation plans"

Minutes

Policy Committee Meeting

June 5, 2019

Faribault Library

11 Division St E, Faribault, MN 55021

Policy Committee Members: Brad Anderson (Goodhue County), Jeff Beckman (Goodhue SWCD), Kevin Chamberlain (Dakota SWCD), Richard Cook (Rice SWCD), Cletus Gregor (Le Sueur SWCD), James Hedeem (Belle Creek WD), Dan Hansen (Steele SWCD), Galen Malecha (Rice County), Mike Slavik (Dakota County), Steven Rohlfig (Le Sueur County), Sandy Weber (NCRWMO)

Also in Attendance: Brad Becker (Dakota County staff), Brad Behrens (Rice County staff), Haley Byron (Waseca County staff), Ashley Gallagher (Dakota SWCD staff), Eric Gulbransen (Steele SWCD staff), Beau Kennedy (Goodhue SWCD staff), Dale Oolman (Steele County staff), Glen Roberson (Goodhue SWCD staff), Mark Schaetzke (Waseca SWCD staff), Mike Schultz (Le Sueur SWCD staff), Brian Watson (Dakota SWCD staff), Jennifer Mocol-Johnson (BWSR)

1. Call to Order

Chair Rohlfig called the meeting to order at 9:10 am.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Malecha, second by Anderson to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Slavik, second by Beckman to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2019 Policy Committee meeting. Motion carried.

4. Financial Summary

Gallagher mentioned that there were no invoices received since the last Policy Committee meeting, which is why there are no items in the financial summary column for this meeting.

Motion by Hansen, second by Hedeem to approve the financial summary. Motion carried.

5. Revised Plan and Response to Comments

A presentation was provided to highlight some of the changes to the Plan based upon the comments received during the 60-Day comment period. The presentation also took a reflective look at the process up to this point, and wrapped up with a summary of the next steps. There were questions on the BWSR 90-Day review timeline. There is currently no meeting date set for the BWSR Southern Region Committee, and this could affect the timeline as BWSR has 90-Days to review, or their next scheduled meeting. Policy Committee members will be informed of the

Southern Region Committee meeting date once it is set, as members are encouraged to attend. There was also discussion on how BWSR has been involved throughout the process and had many comments from the 60-Day review that were addressed, and the Policy Committee hopes there are no concerns that arise during the 90-Day review. This led to discussion on what-if BWSR does not approve the Plan. There would be an opportunity to revise the Plan and re-submit.

Motion by cook, second by Anderson to approve the Draft Plan for submittal to the BWSR's for 90-Day Review. Motion carried.

6. Implementation Vision

A. Purpose, Mission and Vision

Staff took guidance from the last Policy Committee meeting and revised the purpose, mission and vision. The new versions were in the meeting materials and were read to the group. There was general consensus and support for the versions as presented. Official action will be taken once the Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board (CRWJPB) is final.

B. Cost-Share Policy Structure

Staff took the guidance from the last Policy Committee meeting and created a flow-chart of how projects would progress. The flow-chart was included in the meeting materials. Members felt that this process reflected their discussion at the last meeting.

C. Potential Committees

There was discussion on how many times the Policy Committee or future CRWJPB envisions meeting and whether they see a need for committees. There was a preference towards quarterly with allowing flexibility for more or less depending upon need. Some ideas of committees included a projects committee, finance committee or measurable goals committee. There was a general consensus that committees could be used in the future, but for now the group prefers to meet as a whole. This allows for everyone to learn and eventually specialties may emerge. It was noted that in this initial start-up phase meetings may be needed more than quarterly. Decision: Met every other month (6 times a year) and write bylaws with flexibility for adding committees.

7. Watershed Based Funding Overview

A presentation was provided on the BWSR's local government engagement process as they develop Watershed Based Funding (WBF) policy. The presentation included an overview of BWSR's transition plan from the pilot program, their process for developing WBF policy, and how the WBF policy may affect the Cannon River planning area as it involves both metro and non-metro areas. There were some questions and comments throughout the presentation:

- How does the metro split up their allocation? Followed by a comment that it seems no matter how money is allocated, it could be considered 'double-dipping'. If the major watershed is fully contained within the metro area, all partners will be required to meet at least once annually to decide how their allocation will be used for priorities identified under local plans which are considered "equivalents" to a plan under 1W1P. Looking ahead, the watershed fully contained within the metro may not have to develop cost-

share policies, develop agreements, involve their local elected or appointed boards, etc. -as required under 1W1P.

- Was land use considered as an option for use in allocation formulas? It was discussed in the realm of property values or tax values.
- Do urban areas have more rules? In essence, yes, such as MS4 cities. Clean Water Funds cannot go to any required practices under State law.
- There was discussion on the formulas using 50% land area, and whether that was too high. In northern MN, with the many public lands they have, they fought for more equal formulas. Some thought that public lands should already have conservation plans in place and other funding sources. The argument from the northern counties is that they are trying to protect resources.
- There was discussion on the example formulas that have 'resource density' in them and how difficult it would be to determine what resources and what density means. For example groundwater may or may not have a lot of weight which would affect many southeast or southwest counties.
- The statewide goal is to shift competitive clean water fund dollars to more reliable and stable Watershed Based Funding. By 2025 BWSR anticipates the state will be covered by Watershed Based Plans (1W1P).

8. Cannon River Agricultural Collaborative

There was originally going to be a kick-off event planned for late June, however the group is going to further develop their action plan and communications plan before hosting a kick-off. When a new date is set, it will be brought to the Policy Committee.

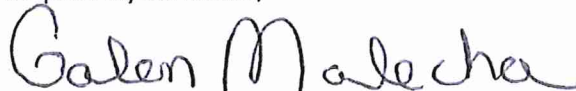
9. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting was set for September 4th, 2019 at 9:00am.

10. Adjourn

Motion by Malecha, second by Cook to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:25 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Galen Malecha, Secretary

Cannon River Watershed 1W1P Policy Committee