



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

August 2nd, 2017

Rice County Government Services Building
320 Third St NW, Faribault, MN 55021

Policy Committee Members: Brad Anderson (Goodhue County), Jeff Beckman (Goodhue SWCD), Kevin Chamberlain (Dakota SWCD), Cletus Gregor (Le Sueur SWCD), Dan Hansen (Steele SWCD), Carrie Jennings (North Cannon River WMO), Galen Malecha (Rice County), Steven Rohlfling (Le Sueur County), Mike Slavik (Dakota County).

Also in Attendance: Brad Becker (Dakota County staff), Brad Behrens (Rice County staff), Ashley Gallagher (Dakota SWCD staff), Josh Mankowski (Le Sueur County staff), Jenny Mocol-Johnson (BWSR), Steve Pahs (Rice SWCD staff), Glen Roberson (Goodhue SWCD staff), Mike Schultz (Le Sueur SWCD staff), Brian Watson (Dakota SWCD staff), Camilla Correll (EOR).

1. Call to Order

Chair Rohlfling called the meeting to order at 9:05am.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Malecha, second by Anderson to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2017 Policy Committee meeting. Motion carried.

4. Invoices for Payment

Gallagher reviewed the financial summary. Revenue from Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) grant is distributed in 50%, 40% and 10% increments based upon project completion. Expenses are broken into three main budget items: administration and grant reporting, Policy Committee, Planning Work Group and consultant coordination, and Plan development. Plan development line items reflect the tasks from the consultant’s workplan and invoices.

Motion by Malecha, second by Slavik to approve invoices for payment. Motion carried.

5. Update on Workplan Progress

Correll presented on the schedule. We are currently wrapping up Task 1: *Aggregate existing watershed physical and spatial data* and into Task 2: *Prioritization, modeling and targeted*

mapping. There was a question about what goes into the mapping. The answer is multiple tools and surveys, and then overlaps are identified in order to establish priorities. Future tasks put us at a projected timeline of having a draft plan out for review by the summer of 2018 and a final plan approved by the end of 2018. Correll presented on and handed out a diagram that EOR has developed to help illustrate the prioritization process. There is a large amount of information being funneled into this plan.

6. Review First Series of Advisory Work Group Meetings

Correll provided a summary of the Water Conversations attendance and input received. Owatonna had 13 attendees and Northfield had 29 attendees, and between the two meetings there was representation from a wide variety of stakeholders. Meeting format included a brief presentation, followed by an exercise that allowed for small group discussion and generated input and priority concerns. Preliminary results were reviewed. There was a comment about 'Groundwater' category not fitting with the others. These were categories identified by participants in the Water Conversations and they are still being refined. The final summaries of both Water Conversations will be posted to the website and sent to participants.

7. Zonation Survey

Correll presented on the background of Zonation. It is a 'value based model' that is widely accepted. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has staff available for development of Zonation surveys and analysis. The five broad-scale categories were reviewed: Protect/improve waters of concern, reduce erosion and runoff, protect/improve fish and wildlife habitat, protect/restore shoreland and stream buffers, and protect/improve lands of concern. There was a question as to where groundwater fits. Correll stated it would fit into the category of protect/improve waters of concern. There were subsequent questions about groundwater and the layers presented and whether county geological atlases were being used, are Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) township testing results being utilized, and what goes into the layer to determine groundwater at risk to nitrate. The response was this information is not necessary for today's ranking, layers were just examples of what can go into the Zonation process. Correll will get more detailed information on what goes into each layer. Each Policy Committee member completed the survey. Correll shared the results from the 2014 Zonation Survey that was completed during the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) process. Areas that rose to the top as high priority were near streams in the lower lobe, west of Northfield, around the cities of Waseca, Faribault and Owatonna and around the lakes in the upper lobe of the watershed. These results may change based on input from the new Planning Work Group and Policy Committee surveys. EOR will work with the DNR to analyze results. Some Policy Committee members stated that they thought this was a good tool.

Brad Anderson left at 10:00 am.



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8. Next meeting

The next Policy Committee meeting was scheduled for November 8th, 9:00 am at the same location, Rice County Government Services Building.

9. Adjourn

Motion by Hansen, second by Malecha to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Galen Malecha".

Galen Malecha, Secretary
Cannon River Watershed 1W1P Policy Committee