

Rum River "One Watershed, One Plan"

Policy Committee

Meeting #4

Coming together to identify shared goals.
Planning together to leverage unique capacity.
Working together to achieve results.

November 20th, 2019

5:00-7:00 PM

Mille Lacs County Historic Courthouse,
 lower level, conf. rm D, 635 2nd Street
 SE, Milaca MN 56353

Facilitator:

Jamie Schurbon- Anoka CD

Note taker: Maggie Kuchenbaker,
 Mille Lacs SWCD

Invited:

Aitkin County- Laurie Westerlund
 Aitkin SWCD- Bob Janzen
 Anoka CD- Steve Laitinen
 Benton County- Warren Peschl
 Benton SWCD- Wade Bastian
 Crow Wing County- Bill Brekken
 Crow Wing SWCD- Diane Jacobson
 Isanti County- Greg Anderson & Terry Turnquist
 Isanti SWCD- Al Koczur
 Kanabec County- Dennis McNally
 Kanabec SWCD- Kevin Belkholm
 Lower Rum River WMO- Todd Hass
 Mill Lacs County- Genny Reynolds
 Mill Lacs SWCD- Kurt Beckstrom
 Morrison SWCD- Dale Scholl
 Sherburne County- Lisa Fobbe
 Sherburne SWCD- Kerry Saxton
 Upper Rum River WMO- Matt Downing

Copied: Steering Committee, Policy committee Alternates; Jason Weinerman- BWSR; Barb Peichel- BWSR; Francine Larson- Sherburne SWCD; Maggie Kuchenbaker- Mille Lacs SWCD; Greg Williams- LRRWMO; Nancy Riddle- Sherburne County; Dan Weber- Sherburne County; Consultants-Julie Blackburn, RESPEC; Jen Kader, Freshwater.

Pre-work:

- Review Enclosed Materials
- August 22nd meeting minutes
 - Grant Budget
 - DRAFT Policy Committee Letter
 - Issue Statements Memo

Agenda Items

Topic	Purpose	Lead	Time
Approve agenda	INFO/DECIDE	Chair	2.5 min.
Approve, 2019 August 22nd minutes	DECIDE	Chair	2.5 min
Project Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget (Cibulka) • Project Progression (Determan) • Outreach/Kickoff meetings (Shaw) • Technical Advisory Committee -Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy Committee Liaison (Fobbe) - Other (Kader) 	INFO	Planning Team	20 min.
Membership Provisions: Article II Item 5 (Policy Committee Member Absences)	DECIDE	Policy Committee	10 min.
Land and Water Resource Inventory presentation	INFO/DECIDE	Hayes	15 min
Draft Issue Statements	DECIDE	Consultant	20 min
Vision Statement	INFO	Consultant	30 min
Implementation Advisory Committee -request to add Ag representative	DECIDE	Shaw	5 min
Next Steps & Next Meeting: discuss agenda topics for next meeting.	INFO	Determan	5 min
Adjourn	DECIDE	Policy Committ	

Rum River "One Watershed, One Plan"

Policy Committee Outcomes Meeting #3		Coming together to identify shared goals. Planning together to leverage unique capacity. Working together to achieve results.
August 22, 2019 5:00-8:00 PM		
Mille Lacs County Historic Courthouse, lower level, conf. rm D, 635 2 nd Street SE, Milaca MN 56353		
Facilitator:	Jamie Schurbon, Anoka CD	Note taker: Maggie Kuchenbaker, Mille Lacs SWCD
Voting Members Present:	Bob Janzen – Aitkin SWCD Steve Laitinen – Anoka SWCD Wade Bastian – Benton SWCD Jim Chamberlin – Crow Wing SWCD Greg Anderson – Isanti County Al Koczur – Isanti SWCD Dennis McNally – Kanabec County Todd Haas – Lower Rum River WMO Jake Janski – Mille Lacs SWCD Lisa Fobbe – Sherburne County Kerry Saxton – Sherburne SWCD Matt Downing – Upper Rum River WMO	
Alternates Present:	Jerry Turnquist – Isanti County Barbara Burandt – Sherburne County	
Partners and Staff Present:	Barb Peichel – BWSR Dan Cibulka – Sherburne SWCD Susan Shaw – Mille Lacs SWCD Tiffany Determan – Isanti SWCD; Jamie Schurbon- Sherburne County Nick Smetana – Kanabec SWCD	
Voting Members Absent:	Laurie Westerlund – Aitkin County Warren Peschl – Benton County Bill Brekken – Crow Wing County Kevin Belkholm – Kanabec SWCD Genny Reynolds – Mille Lacs County Dale Scholl – Morrison SWCD	

Welcome and Introductions; Approve agenda:

Schurbon brought forth an item to be added to the agenda. **Approval of the updated agenda, adding policy member liaison to the advisory committee discussion after election of chair and vice chair.**

Minutes:

Motion by Greg Anderson to approval of June 27, 2019 outcomes as presented; second by Lisa Fobbe. Affirmative: All. Opposed: none. **The Motion Carried.**

Budget review:

Cibulka presented an updated financial report to the board.

Update on project progression and work accomplished:

Determan presented an update on the project progression. Highlighting that the advisory committee members have been finalized and contacted, the land and water resource narrative has been completed by Hayes, outreach will continue throughout the planning process and the consultants are compiling various watershed studies.

Review plan timeline:

Schurbon presented the timeline to the board. The draft watershed plan should be completed by October 2020, it will then be submitted to BWSR for review, upon their review it will be submitted to the State of Minnesota for approval.

Kick off meeting summary:

Shaw reported that Jen Kader, Fresh Water Society, is working to summarize the data collected at the three meetings. The three meetings had good attendance and participation (Anoka 26 attended, Princeton 25 attended, Onamia 15 attended). Kerry Saxton reported he attended the Anoka meeting and the majority of the concerns from landowners was regarding the activity on the Rum River. Jake Janski reported he attended the Onamia meeting and the main goal of the landowners was preservation, they voiced concerns regarding lack of education and the solution was enforcing the current laws. Dennis McNally reported he attended the Princeton meeting and heard a lot of good ideas and good conversations throughout the evening.

Review/approve updated draft of bylaws:

Cibulka presented the by-laws. Discussion. The by-laws will be updated with the recommended edits. Board agreement that if the chair and vice chair are unable to be at a meeting, staff will facilitate the meeting. **Motion by Todd Haas to approve by-laws with suggested edits from the Board;** second by Al Koczur. Affirmative: All. Opposed: none. **The Motion Carried.**

Elect Chair and Vice Chair:

Motion by Jake Janski to nominate Lisa Fobbe as chair; second by Wade Bastian. Affirmative: All. Opposed: none. **The Motion Carried.**

Motion by Todd Haas to nominate Matt Downing as vice chair; second by Al Koczur. Affirmative: All. Opposed: none. **The Motion Carried.**

Liaison to the Advisory Committee:

Determan reported that the first advisory committee meeting is scheduled for September 9 at 12:30 at Mille Lacs County. Discussion of who would be the liaison. Decision of the board that the Chair and Vice Chair will share the position of liaison to the advisory committee.

Next Steps & Next Meeting:

Determan presented next steps:

- Next meeting will be on September 26, 2019 from 5:00-8:00 at Mille Lacs County
- Land and Water Resource Inventory presentation

- Review Outcomes from the kickoff events.
- Discuss overall need and purpose/set vision for the long term outcome and how this plan can get us there.
- Overview of data aggregation process:
 - Commonalties
 - Gaps of data
 - Priorities
 - Implementation strategies

Motion by Steve Laitinen to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 pm; second by Wade Bastian.
Affirmative: All. Opposed: none. **The Motion Carried.**

DRAFT

As of 11/14/2019

Executed Grant 4/24/2019
Must be used by 6/31/2021

FY2019 Rum River 1W1P

			Grant Amount	Total Expenses Incurred	Available Balance
A	Administration				
1	Administration		\$ 34,389.00	\$ 6,841.26	\$ 27,547.74
	Subtotal		\$ 34,389.00	\$ 6,841.26	\$ 27,547.74
B	Plan Development				
1	Consultant		\$ 164,800.00	\$ 11,953.12	\$ 152,846.88
2	LGU		\$ 37,178.20	\$ 16,279.87	\$ 20,898.33
	Subtotal		\$ 201,978.20	\$ 28,232.99	\$ 173,745.21
C	Contingency				
1	Contingency		\$ 23,637.00	\$ -	\$ 23,637.00
	Subtotal		\$ 23,637.00	\$ -	\$ 23,637.00
	Total Grant		\$ 260,004.20	\$ 35,074.25	\$ 224,929.95

Match Required	Match	Balance
\$ -	\$ 12,586.16	\$ (12,586.16)
\$ -	\$ 12,586.16	\$ (12,586.16)
\$ -	\$ 12,586.16	\$ (12,586.16)

DRAFT

Date
NAME
TITLE
LGU
ADDRESS

Dear XXX,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Policy Committee of the Rum River One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) Policy Committee. Our committee represents the 18 local government units that entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to participate in the planning process which includes the designation of a representative to the Policy Committee including LGU. The committee consists of elected officials – Board Commissioners to represent the Counties and Board Supervisors to represent the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Watershed Management Organizations. Our committee has met XXX times since forming in June 2019, and our records indicate that both the primary and alternate representatives of LGU have missed the past XXX meetings in a row.

Article II, Item 5 of our Policy Committee bylaws indicates: *“The Policy Committee will request the respective local unit of government participant to replace their primary and alternate member if that representative organization misses two (2) consecutive meetings.”* The desire of our committee is to have all parties present with an equal voice, to collectively make decisions that benefit the natural resources of the Rum River Watershed. We greatly wish for the LGU’s voice to be present as well!

The Rum River 1W1P Policy Committee would like to extend an invitation for the existing representatives of LGU to participate at our next meeting (meeting date). If this is not an option for them, we would request of LGU to select new representatives who are able to attend these meetings and partake in the shared planning project.

Attached are the Policy Committee bylaws for your reference. For further clarification on these bylaws, on 1W1P, or other questions, you may contact the Project Coordinator Tiffany Determan at 763-689-3271.

We hope to hear from you and move forward in a collaborative nature to better protect the resources of our Rum River Watershed.

Respectfully,

Lisa Fobbe
Sherburne County Commissioner
Chair, Rum River 1W1P Policy Committee

RUM RIVER 1W1P MEMORANDUM

Date: November 13, 2019

To: Rum River 1W1P Technical Committee

From: Julie Blackburn, RESPEC (julie.blackburn@respec.com or 651.605.5705)
Jen Kader, Freshwater (jkader@freshwater.org or 651.313.5807)

RE: Process used to develop the Rum River 1W1P Surface Water, Groundwater, and Natural Resources issue statements.

This memorandum presents the process used to develop the Rum River 1W1P Surface Water, Groundwater, and Natural Resources issue statements which the Policy Committee will discuss and act on at the November 20, 2019 meeting.

DATA COLLECTION AND AGGREGATION

An extensive amount of data was collected, aggregated, and categorized from a number of sources. All the data were entered into a master spreadsheet and then categorized according to Resource Category and Subcategory (Table 1). The sources of data included:

- Existing plans, reports, and studies,
- Comment letters that were submitted during the official comment period, and
- Input from the public that were obtained at three kick-off meetings and through an on-line survey.

CATEGORIZATION

After organizing all the data points into the Resource Categories, each data point was categorized according to whether the data referred to one of the following criteria: values, concerns, or strategies. The values and concerns for each resource category were considered in drafting the issue statements. Strategies will be considered later in the 1W1P process.

DEVELOPING THE ISSUE STATEMENTS

Fifteen draft issue statements for Surface Water (8), Groundwater (3), and Natural Resources (5) categories were developed and provided to the Technical Committee in advance of their October 14, 2019 meeting. At the October 14 meeting, the Technical Committee provided feedback regarding what they liked, disliked, and needed to be changed or added to the draft issue statements. The draft issue statements were revised and based on the feedback provided, 10 issue statements for Surface Water (3), Groundwater (3), and Natural Resources (4) were submitted to the Technical Committee for review at the November 6, 2019 meeting where several small changes were made.

Issue statements have not been developed for the Emerging Issues, Quality of Life, and Leadership resource categories. These categories are more relevant to *how* we address the issue statements for the physical resources (surface water, ground water, and natural resources). Generally, where issue statements may be relevant for the Emerging Issues, Quality of Life, and Leadership categories, these issues are already addressed in the existing issue statements.

Table 1: Resource Categories

Surface Water
Altered Hydrology
Drainage System Management
Erosion & Sediment Control
Flooding & Floodplain
Protect Surface Water Resources
Stormwater Management
Surface Water Quality
Water Rate & Quantity

Groundwater
Drinking Water Supply
Groundwater Quality
Groundwater Quantity
Infiltration & Recharge
Protect Groundwater Resources
Other

Natural Resources
Manage, Enhance, and Restore Habitat
Fish Habitat
Wetland Habitat
Upland Habitat
Invasive Species
Preserve Prime Farmland
Preserve Sites of High Ecological Value
Protect Soil Health
Other

Emerging Issues
Chlorides
Climate Change and Resilience
Contaminants of Emerging Concern
Land Development & Changes
Reduce Pesticide & Fertilizer Impacts
Other

Quality of Life
Aquatic Consumption
Aquatic Recreation
Public Safety
Other

Leadership
Administrative Priorities
Collaboration
Financing
Maintenance
Policy and Regulation [or Land Use Management]
Public Outreach
Stakeholder Involvement
Other

SURFACE WATER RESOURCES

1) Water Rate and Quantity (Altered Hydrology)

The increased and accelerated runoff due to land management and stormwater and drainage systems has caused flooding, streambank erosion, and low base flow which affects aquatic habitat. Additionally, there is a concern regarding water level management, the loss of water storage, and lack of rate control that has exacerbated these impacts. This risk may be compounded due to increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events.

2) Surface Water Quality

The lakes and streams are threatened or impaired due to excess pollution including E.coli, nutrients, and sediment. These excess pollutants can cause low oxygen and eutrophication, impact aquatic life and recreational use opportunities, and degrade downstream resources.

3) Protect Surface Water Resources

There are many high-quality water resources in the Rum River watershed that are threatened by changing land use, altered hydrology, and pollution. Protecting these resources, including cisco lakes, wild rice lakes, the Wild and Scenic Rum River, and others from the threat of degradation is of primary concern.

GROUND WATER RESOURCES

1) Drinking Water and Groundwater Quality

Groundwater and drinking water supply are impacted by human actions, including manure and fertilizer application, use of sodium and chlorides, land management, and non-compliant septic systems.

2) Drinking Water and Groundwater Quantity

There is a significant increasing groundwater withdrawal trend resulting from expanding communities, agricultural irrigation, and non-crop irrigation. In addition to this increased demand on drinking water sources, there is also concern about the loss of recharge areas and water retention.

3) Vulnerability of Groundwater Resources

There is not enough awareness or understanding of groundwater-surface water interaction and the extent to which land management decisions impact groundwater quality and quantity. More information is needed to identify and target vulnerable areas in protecting groundwater resources from pollution.

NATURAL RESOURCES

1) Fish Habitat

Fish habitat and fisheries are threatened by poor water quality resulting from increasing runoff, pollutant loads, and sedimentation. Riparian areas lack vegetation and habitat features there are barriers to fish passage.

2) Invasive Species

Invasive species threaten the health and quality of upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic ecosystems and need to be prevented and controlled and their impacts mitigated.

3) Preserve Sites of High Ecological Value, and Manage, Enhance, and Restore Habitat

Existing habitat areas are at risk of being reduced in size and quality due to fragmentation, invasive species, and other impacts. Habitats with high ecological value, particularly those that provide habitat for rare and endangered species, should be protected. More options, guidance, and resources are needed to manage habitat for wildlife, ecosystem, watershed health, and enjoyment purposes for generations to come.

4) Upland and Wetland Habitat

Changes to upland habitats through intensifying land use and resulting pollution from urban, agricultural, and industrial uses negatively impact water quality and habitat. Wetlands, forests, and other ecosystems that can protect water quality should be managed, enhanced, and restored.