

# Meeting Minutes

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting



ISG

Project Name: Mississippi River St. Cloud One Watershed One Plan  
ISG Project Number: 28039  
Date: Wednesday, May 3, 2023  
Time: 1pm - 4pm  
Location: Sherburne History Center, Remote Option Available Upon Request

Invitees: Gerry Maciej (Benton County), Emily Forbord (Benton SWCD), Greg Schultz (Meeker County), Joe Norman (Meeker SWCD), Susan Shaw (Mille Lacs SWCD), Dan Cibulka (Sherburne SWCD), Francine Larson (Sherburne SWCD), Lynn Waytashek (Sherburne County), Zach Guttormson (Sherburne County), Dennis Fuchs (Stearns SWCD), Kyle Weimann (Stearns SWCD), Cole Loewen (Stearns County), Becky Schlorf (Stearns County), Barry Rhineberger (Wright County), Luke Johnson (Wright SWCD), Alicia O'Hare (Wright SWCD), Darren Mayers (BWSR), Brad Wozney (BWSR), Casey Field (MDA), Chad Anderson (MDH), Reid Northwick (DNR), Phil Votruba (MPCA), Chris Hogge (USDA-NRCS), Steve Karel (USFWS), Cody Carlstrom (USFWS), Kayli Overland (TNC), Stephanie Hatzenbihler (Stearns SWCD)

Partners and Staff Present: **Benton SWCD** (Fiscal agent) - Gerry Maciej (also representing Benton County), Emily Forbord, **Sherburne SWCD** (Plan Coordinator) - Dan Cibulka, **Stearns SWCD** - Kyle Weimann, **Sherburne County** - Zach Guttormson, **Stearns County** - Cole Loewen, **Wright SWCD** - Alicia O'Hare, **Wright County** - Barry Rhineberger, Stearns SWCD - Stephanie Hatzenbihler (note taker), Becky Schlorf (Stearns County)(virtually)

Other Attendees: Darren Mayers (BWSR), Brad Wozney (BWSR), Steve Karel (USFWS), Julie Blackburn (ISG), Paul (ISG), Jacob (ISG), Phil Votruba (MPCA), Reid Northwick (DNR), Chad Anderson (MDH)

*Cibulka called the meeting to order at 1:05PM.*

## Priority Resources

- Draft Resource Activity
  - ISG gave an overview of the activities to discuss
    - Lake Metrics - large group discussion
    - Stream Metrics - small group activity and then large group discussion
  - Lake Metrics
    - Water Quality
      - There will be two separate rankings: one for restoration and one for protection
      - Nearly/Barely criteria
        - also includes shallow lakes and deep lakes
        - uses total phosphorus data
        - discussion about including IBI, FBI data under habitat metrics
      - TMDL status
        - Removed
      - Lake size drainage area ratio
        - Unchanged
        - discussion about large range of drainage areas
        - discussion on quartile breaks, which will be determined by data
      - LPSS priority class
        - Discussion about lakes that don't have the data on this criteria
        - Terms preferred improving and degrading
        - data includes clarity trends
      - LBCA
        - replaced with percent disturbed land
        - disturbed land data set came from state
          - discussion on pasture inclusion

- discussion about point value assigned to % disturbed and the potential to make an measurable impact to the locations that have a higher % disturbed
        - recommend higher point values to areas that have a lower % disturbed
    - Lake Health Score
      - replaced with Lakes of Biological Significance
    - After discussion, remaining concern is about the flow through lakes that have a large drainage area
  - Recreation
    - reduce weight of this category relative to water quality
    - goal is regional significance, access to more people
  - Professional Judgment
    - reduce weight of this category relative to others
    - discussion on political support section
    - Partners will need to add professional judgment scores for protection lakes into spreadsheet when provided
  - 50% water quality, 25% recreation, 25% professional judgment
  - Scenarios
    - will run numbers with some point caps in recreation and professional judgment categories
    - consider zero points for professional judgment categories
- Stream Metrics
  - There will be two separate rankings: one for restoration and one for protection
  - 3 small groups - Jacob, Dan, and Paul each facilitated a group
  - Summary
    - Aquatic Life - 1, 1, 1
    - Aquatic Rec - 1, 4, 1
      - challenge is the ability to make a measurable difference
      - E. Coli that naturally occurs and reproduces
      - what actions are possible
      - adding a threshold to focus on severity (acute vs. chronic)
        - look at average and high from monitoring
      - explore source tracking mechanism for E. Coli
      - consider combining aquatic rec and life
    - Nearly/barely - 1, 3, 5
      - most potential for success stories
      - may indicate habitat issue rather than WQ issue
    - Flows into unimpaired waterbody - 3, 4, 5
      - helps to ID priority protection waters
    - Higher Feasibility - 3, 6, 6
    - Stressor ID - 4, 5, 6
    - Other:
      - degree of altered hydrology
      - LSP work
      - drinking water impacts
      - water quantity in streams
        - land alteration
        - drainage systems
      - Invite DNR to provide summary of hydrology report

## Issue + Issue Statements

- Finalize Statements
  - Surface Water - pollutant runoff
    - same as in memo

- adding clarity to statement or in narrative
- adding human health elements to statement or in narrative
- adding detail to the term pollutant to statement or in narrative
- Surface Water - altered hydrology
  - same as in memo
    - include in statement or narrative - flashy streams, difference in management objectives (ditch vs trout stream), ditches present challenges and opportunities, and building on success of previous projects
- Surface Water - internal load processes
  - same as in memo (but add an "s" to source)
    - statement is more technical, is it possible to simply
    - Have a "did you know" bubble that defines the technical items
    - add an "s" to source
- Groundwater - Quality
  - same as in memo
- Groundwater - Quantity
  - same as in memo
- Habitat & Natural Resources
  - same as in memo
    - development is a key driver - can address in narrative
    - define terms - can address in narrative
- Landscape Resiliency - soil health
  - revised statement - remove increased precipitation due to being redundant
    - Landscapes are threatened by wind erosion and changing climate trends which have harmful impacts on soil health, land productivity, and natural resources.
  - discussion on the previous data collected through MRSC IWIP efforts that justifies adding this issue statement
- Next step is to bring the issue statements to the Policy Committee.
- Partnership Feedback on Activities
  - The TAC is interested in more time to review and edit the "landscape resiliency - soil health" statement
- Fist to Five on Statements

## Next Steps

Upcoming Technical Advisory Committee meeting: Tuesday, May 16 1-4pm

- Materials will be sent by Tuesday, May 9 for TAC review

## Adjourn

*Cibulka adjourned the meeting at 4:10 PM.*