

## Minutes

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting

Project Name: Mississippi River St. Cloud One Watershed One Plan  
ISG Project Number: 28039  
Date: Tuesday, May 16, 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** – Dennis Fuchs, **Sherburne County** - Zach Guttormson, **Stearns County** – Cole Loewen, **Wright SWCD** – Alicia O’Hare, **Stearns County** - Becky Schlorf, Sherburne SWCD - Miranda Wagner\*, **Stearns SWCD** - Stephanie Hatzenbihler (note taker)

Other Attendees: Paul Marston (ISG), Jacob Rischmiller (ISG), Darren Mayers (BWSR), Brad Wozney (BWSR), Phil Votruba\* (MPCA), Chad Anderson\* (MDH), Casey Field\* (MDA)

\*virtually

*Cibulka called the meeting to order at 1:03PM.*

### Introduction & Project Status

- Icebreaker
- Timeline Check in
  - Flow of information chart update
  - Finalizing issues and moving into targeting
- LSP
  - Cibulka will check in with Lindbergh on contract status
  - Anticipate meeting 1 in July, meeting 2 in September, meeting 3 in October
- Vision Statement
  - Input received through exercise conducted by Policy Committee, Citizen Advisory Committee, and Technical Advisory Committee
  - Six draft statements have been created.
    - TAC invited to add additional options: [Vision Statements.xlsx](#)
  - Voting will be conducted and top 3 will be brought forward to the next Policy Committee
- Watershed Boundary Change
  - TAC supportive of updating watershed boundary to include additional 145 acres and will follow BWSR guidelines on how to accept change
  - TAC can accept change and send notice of acceptance to change boundary

## Priority Resources

- Review and comment on priority rankings and scenarios provided.
  - Lakes
    - Need to add Lake George in Stearns County
    - Some other lakes may have been missed, please notify ISG
    - Willow Lake
    - Julie Lake and Orono Lake - databases are inconsistent in shallow or deep lake status
    - Interested TAC members can review all lake data points in google drive spreadsheet
    - ISG will share any noticed data errors with appropriate state agencies
    - Comments:
      - Scenarios
        - Cibulka prefers scenario 3 with inverse percent disturbance, prioritizing lakes with lower disturbed drainage areas
        - Loewen understands scenario 3 for protection lakes, but questions the value for restoration lakes
        - O'Hare proposed adjusting weights of the different water quality criteria to help address multiple priorities. If data gaps exists that should come out as action item
        - O'Hare pointed out scenario 1 & 2 are almost mathematically the same.
      - Professional Judgment Criteria
        - O'Hare feels that weight on professional judgment criteria should be much lower
        - Maciej doesn't like the subjectivity of the professional judgment criteria, but would be in consensus if it was weighted much lower
        - Marston posed the question on does professional judgment help prioritize projects that have some education and outreach, some project development already accomplished.
        - Mayers suggested that political and local support can come into play more during implementation. Wozney asked if the political and local support criteria address the "squeaky wheel" and potentially get in front of it and plan for it.
        - Consensus that some professional judgment criteria should be included
        - Cutting Professional Judgment in half - no, more discussion
          - currently focused on political and local support, proposed focusing more on staff knowledge (in survey momentum towards goals)
          - reduce political and increase staff knowledge aka moment towards goals
        - ISG proposes looking at additional scenarios
          - Professional Judgment but remove political support and have 10 points momentum towards goal, 10 points local support (consensus to look at this scenario)
          - No Professional Judgment in ranking (consensus to look at this scenario)
  - Water Quality Criteria
    - Discussion on nearly/barely water criteria
      - concern about lakes with high nutrients becoming low priority
      - Cibulka supports increasing weight on this item
      - O'Hare recommends weighing nearly, barely and water clarity trend
    - Discussion removing biological significance criteria for restoration
    - Fist to Five on increasing priority if lakeshed has lower disturbance
    - Loewen suggested that if we are having very specific weighting that we should be prepared to explain to others why that was decided.
    - Fist to Five on keeping the same weight on water quality metrics, but removing lakes of biological significance for restoration lakes
    - Discussion on data used for water clarity trend
  - Recreation Criteria

- Cibulka shared that the CAC was divided in if public access is important and valuable
  - no other comments
  - Fist to Five to maintain criteria as is, noting that for lake restoration it will be a 1/3 of the ranking score (80 points for water quality, 40 points for recreation)
- Tier and breaks
  - Recommendation looking for a natural break
  - Suggestion to have only two tiers
- Streams
  - Interested TAC members can review all lake data points in google drive spreadsheet
  - ISG will share any noticed data errors with appropriate state agencies
  - Comments - restoration
    - Professional Judgment Criteria
      - Fist to Five to adopt approach discussed during lakes
    - Water Quality Criteria
      - HSPF HUC 14 flow network, models what is coming to the stream reach and in stream processes, end point is where it goes to the next reach, if loading is high compared to neighbor reaches then it is shown as a hotspot
      - Discussion on streams having multiple issues and connecting the water quality criteria for ranking to those issues
      - Discussion on flows into an unimpaired reach
      - Fist to Five on removing HSPF and the flow to unimpaired reach and not replacing with anything (ISG will show this scenario)
      - Fist to Five on removing HSPF, but keeping flow to the unimpaired and no dataset manipulation (ISG will show this scenario)
      - Fist to Five on removing HSPF, but keeping flow to the unimpaired and prioritize reaches that have the same impairment parameter
    - After reviewing the two scenarios, fist to five removing HSPF and the flow to unimpaired reach and not replacing with anything
    - Discussion on how the Mississippi River mainstem fits into ranking
      - impaired for mercury, bacteria, and industrial contaminants
      - wild and scenic river
  - comments - protection
    - Willow Creek in Stearns - concerns expressed about it not showing up on the list, a lot of working has been done to protect and care for trout
    - Unnamed creek in Sherburne - has been delisted for fish and invert.
    - consideration for coldwater streams
    - St. Francis River in Benton
- ISG will share a final draft water resource ranking and plans to develop a survey to incorporate professional judgment and take TAC comments

## Issue Statements

- Review comments from Policy Committee
  - Landscapes are threatened by wind erosion and changing climate trends which have harmful impacts on soil health, land productivity, and natural resources.
    - Action - tillage
    - Need to tweak

## Measurable Goals

- Intro to Measurable Goals
  - postponed to next meeting

## Next Steps

Upcoming Technical Advisory Committee meeting: Tuesday, June 20 1-4pm

## Adjourn

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