



Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Policy Committee Meeting Packet

Date / Time:	July 6, 2023 11:00pm – 1:00pm
Location:	In-Person: Sherburne History Center – 10775 27 th Ave SE, Becker MN 55308 Remote option available, use MS Teams Calendar Invite link
Officers:	Chair: Tarryl Clark, Vice Chair: Shelly Binsfeld, Secretary: Jeff Burns
Note Taker:	Stephanie Hatzenbihler
1w1p Website:	https://www.millelacsswcd.org/1w1p/mississippi-river-st-cloud-watershed-plan/
Committee Representatives Invited:	Benton County – Scott Johnson, Benton SWCD – Wade Bastian, Meeker County – Danny Schiefelbein, Meeker SWCD – Bob Schiefelbein, Mille Lacs SWCD – Dan Campbell, Sherburne County – Andrew Hulse, Sherburne SWCD – Shelly Binsfeld, Stearns County – Tarryl Clark, Stearns SWCD – Tom Gregory, Wright County – Tina Diedrick, Wright SWCD – Jeff Burns
Individuals Copied:	Policy Committee Alternate Members, Steering Committee Members, Darren Mayers – BWSR, Brad Wozney – BWSR, Keenan Hayes – Mille Lacs County Staff, Robert Pennington – Mille Lacs County Staff, Amy Kowalzek – Morrison County Staff, Brittany Lenzmeier – Stearns SWCD Staff, Shannon Wettstein – Morrison SWCD Staff, Lance Chisolm – Morrison SWCD Staff Jacob Rischmiller, Paul Marston, Sarah Boser, Julie Blackburn - ISG

Meeting Preparatory Work

- Review board packet content

Meeting Objectives

- Decide on a Vision Statement
- Receive several project updates
- Approve Priority Waters for project



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Meeting Agenda				
Item	Page	Time	Topic	Task
1		11:00	Welcome and Introductions (Chair)	INFO
2	2		Review and approve agenda (Chair)	ACTION
3	3-7		Review and approve 05-04-2023 meeting minutes (Chair)	ACTION
4	8-10	11:10	Project Update (Cibulka) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timeline and Activities • Financial Report • TAC Liaison Report (TAC Liaisons) 	INFO INFO INFO
5	11	11:20	Vision Statement Selection (Cibulka)	ACTION
6	12	11:40	Watershed Boundary Adjustment (Cibulka)	INFO
7	13	11:50	Issue Statement Update (ISG)	INFO
8	14	12:00	Priority Waters Approval (ISG, Cibulka)	ACTION
9	15	12:30	Implementation Agreement Briefing, Q&A (BWSR, Cibulka)	INFO
10		1:00	Adjourn	ACTION

Supplemental Items

- [Watershed Highlight \(page 16\)](#) – A featured program, project, or activity from project partners.
- [Project Boundary \(page 17\)](#) – Project boundary map which may be a useful reference.
- [Policy Committee Meeting Norms and Guidelines \(page 18\)](#) – Best practices for MRSC 1w1p meetings.



MISSISSIPPI RIVER
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Agenda Item #3: May 4, 2023 Minutes



Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Proceedings of the Mississippi River – St. Cloud 1W1P Policy Committee Meeting held on May 4, 2023. Tarryl Clark called the meeting to order at 11:00am.

Date / Time:	May 4, 2023 11:00am - 1:00pm
Location:	<i>In-Person: Palmer Township Hall – 4180 105th Ave, Clear Lake, MN 55319 Remote option available, use MS Teams Calendar Invite link</i>
Note Taker:	Stephanie Hatzenbihler, Stearns SWCD
1w1p Website:	https://www.millelacsswcd.org/1w1p/mississippi-river-st-cloud-watershed-plan/
Voting Members Present:	Benton County – Scott Johnson, Sherburne County – Andrew Hulse, Sherburne SWCD – Shelly Binsfeld, Stearns County – Tarryl Clark, Stearns SWCD – Tom Gregory, Wright County – Tina Diedrick, Wright SWCD – Jeff Burns, Benton SWCD – Wade Bastian
Alternate Voting Members Present:	Mille Lacs SWCD – Kurt Beckstrom
Voting Members Absent:	Mille Lacs SWCD – Dan Campbell Meeker SWCD – Bob Schiefelbein Meeker County – Danny Schiefelbein
Partners and Staff Present:	Darren Mayers – BWSR, Stephanie Hatzenbihler – Stearns SWCD staff, Alicia O’Hare – Wright SWCD staff, Emily Forbord – Benton SWCD staff, Gerry Maciej – Benton SWCD staff, Dan Cibulka – Sherburne SWCD staff, Becky Schlorf– Stearns County staff, Jacob Rischmiller- ISG, *Kyle Weimann – Stearns SWCD staff, *Francine Larson – Sherburne SWCD staff, *Miranda Wagner - Sherburne SWCD

*Individuals joined via Zoom virtually.

Welcome and Introductions.

1. **Name, LGU.** Introductions of Policy Committee (PC) members, partners, and staff.

Review and Approve Agenda.

1. Approve Meeting agenda. **Motion by Beckstrom to approve meeting agenda as presented; second by Burns** Affirmative: Johnson, Hulse, Binsfeld, Clark, Burns, Beckstrom, Bastian. Opposed: None. **Motion carried.**

Review and approve 03-24-2023 meeting minutes.

1. Approve meeting minutes. **Motion by Johnson to approve meeting minutes as presented; second by Bastian.** Affirmative: Johnson, Hulse, Binsfeld, Clark, Burns, Beckstrom, Bastian. Opposed: None. **Motion carried.**

Project Update (Cibulka)

1. **Timeline & Activities (Cibulka)** This meeting's watershed highlight is from Benton County/SWCD. Cibulka presented overview and status in timeline map, planning partnership is currently on "Identify & Prioritize Resources/Issues." Cibulka shared that the PC will be starting the discussion on organizational structure for the implementation phase. The first Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) CAC meeting was successfully held on May 1, 2023
2. **Financial Report (Cibulka)** Cibulka presented the financial report. PC members complimented the format of the report. Maciej clarified that the planning administration role costs are billed quarterly and therefore it appears on this report that we are behind in billing costs; however, that is not the case due to the monthly vs quarterly reporting. Maciej also clarified that the color red means those funds have been exhausted.
3. **TAC Liaison Report (Binsfeld)** Binsfeld reported that the TAC members worked well together and the consultants, ISG, facilitated successful exercises that enabled all voices to be heard. The TAC approached reviewing and word-smithing issues statements for conciseness and plain language when possible. For technical language that was used, the TAC and ISG will explain and define in the plan narrative. The TAC added another meeting to ensure work tasks could meet timeline goals. Clark encouraged PC members to sign up and attend TAC meetings to serve in the liaison role.

Citizen Advisory Committee (Cibulka & Hatzenbihler)

Tina Diedrich and Tom Gregory joined the meeting.

1. Hatzenbihler and Cibulka reported on the successful CAC meeting that they co-facilitated. They presented highlights from the feedback CAC members provided and showed how the CAC input has been and will be incorporated into the issue statements and priority resource criteria. Cibulka previewed when the CAC will be brought together again to provide input and feedback as progress through the planning timeline occurs and milestones are reached.

DRAFT Issue Statements (Cibulka & Hatzenbihler)

1. **Intent of Issue Statements (Cibulka)** Cibulka provided an overview of the process and approach for developing issue statements.
2. **Discuss draft Issue Statements (Hatzenbihler)** Hatzenbihler presented the draft issue statements.
3. **Consider approval of draft Issue Statements or provide recommendations for revisions**
 - a. PC members provided the following recommendations for revisions
 - i. Discussion regarding SW1 Pollutant Runoff. Jeff Burns appreciated the piece of environment, economy and quality of life. Shelly, Wade, Tom felt the statement captures the current efforts and future work needed to address runoff. All noted it was a good statement
 - ii. Hydrology – some discussion regarding the terminology used. Suggestion by

- Binsfeld that the statement should address quality. General agreement on this
- iii. Internal load – Bastian suggested that the term “significant” be defined. Binsfeld, nutrient is mentioned twice, are we pulling it out twice intentionally? Gregory noted the importance of nutrients and recreation. Burns noted the connection between nutrients and recreation. Hatzenbihler noted more specifically the connection between large wake boats and potential impacts for internal nutrient resuspension. Binsfeld suggested that an alternative be presented for the 2nd word nutrient. Burns suggested that the 1st mention of nutrients might not be necessary, sediment release, recreation and invasive species all contribute to nutrient impairments. Hulse commented if the intention of the statement is focused on nutrient sources. O’Hare described the connection between legacy loading and recycling of nutrients. Johnson suggested taking Bastian’s comment of removing the first reference to nutrients. Clark agreed, general consensus that this first reference could be removed.
 - iv. GW Quality – Johnson questioned if the 2nd reference to “quality” is needed. Clark suggested that the term “drinking water quality” specifically implies drinking so it might be acceptable. Beckstrom noted the need for more data on groundwater. Burns noted that quantity and quality are critical issues that need to be addressed and was okay with the 2nd reference.
 - v. GW Quantity – Burns felt that the statement was “beautiful”. No further comments.
 - vi. Habitat/Nat Resources – Gregory asked about the term fragmentation. Hatzenbihler described the term and noted that the CAC also asked about it – it could be defined in the text following this statement within the plan. Burns noted the variety of parameters to assess ecosystem health and mentioned that tracking native species tracking is important to see the health overall.
 - vii. Soil health – Bastian asked about the statement and how we might address the parameters. Hatzenbihler responded that addressing these challenges could be met with management that can adapt to new conditions. Burns asked about land use and how it plays a role – for example farms have been developed into houses. Beckstrom noted a connection with altered hydrology. Hulse noted a connection to solar farms going in which should be taken into account. Binsfeld felt that the statement is a good summary, wind erosion and changing climate were specifically noted and perhaps the word development would be an appropriate term to call out as well. Clark noted that land use and development are related as well to altered hydrology, to which Burns agreed. Binsfeld noted that BWSR suggested wind erosion be an element to include and that might be why it was specifically called out. Suggested that wind erosion might be a separate issue from others such as climate trends. Binsfeld suggested some light revisions. Hulse felt that soil health was very important and could be called out separately. Clark noted that she felt the PC liked the content but could have separate statements. Clark asked if the team has what it needs to make any potential changes,
- b. ISG responded that the feedback was helpful and we should be able to modify it slightly and revisit.
 - c. Binsfeld was appreciative of the statements and noted she would like to see them happen.

1W1P Organizational Arrangements Presentation (MCIT)

(Scott Johnson left the meeting)

1. Karen Ebert, MCIT, joined the meeting virtually and presented the options for 1W1P Organizational Arrangements. This presentation is not legal advice and each entity would need to discuss with their own legal counsel. Local government units identified in the state statute are able to work collaboratively.
2. Cibulka shared that today is the start of the information and discussion. Next step is to have BWSR present case studies and answer questions during future meetings.

Vision Statement Survey Results (Cibulka).

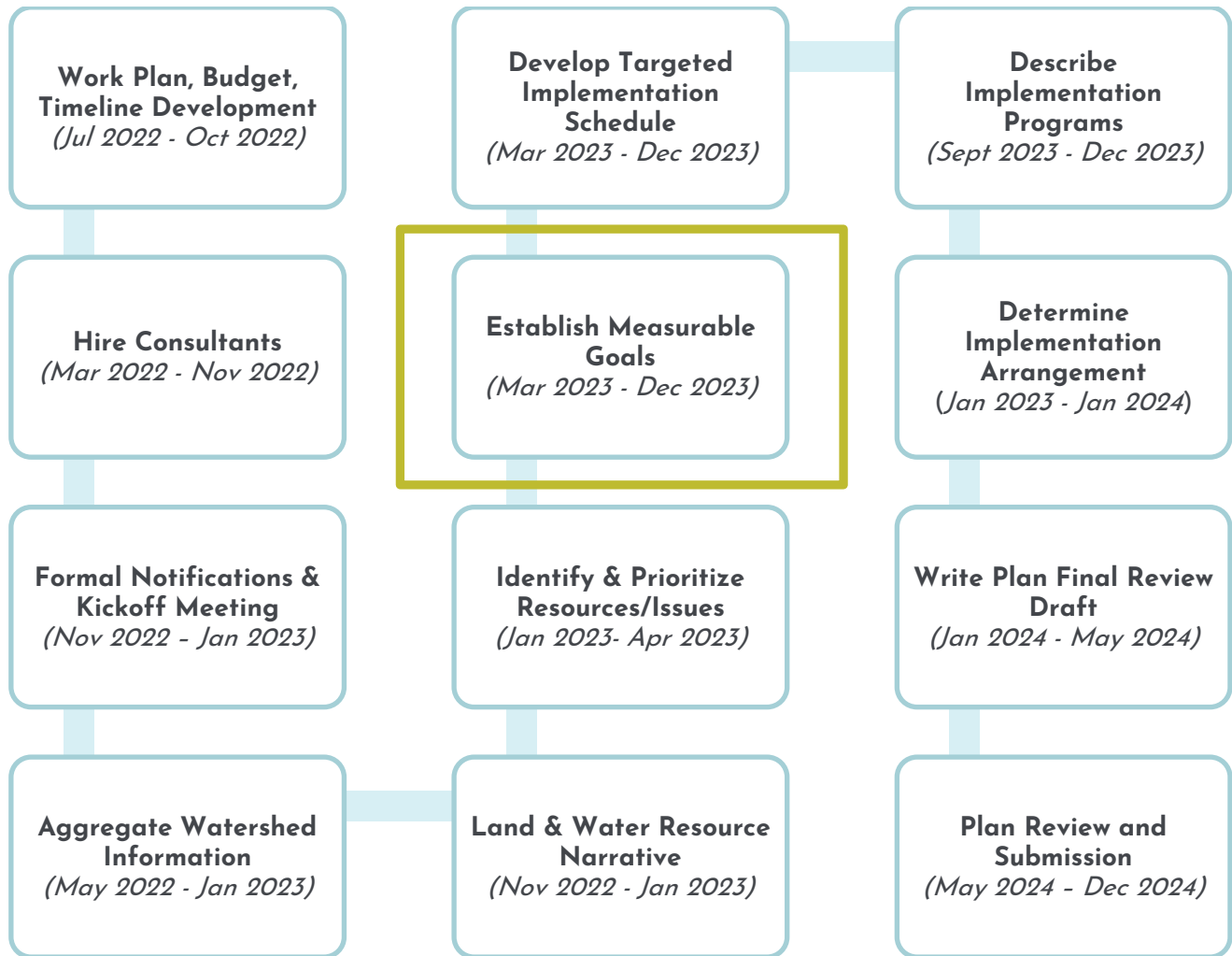
1. Cibulka presented the word cloud and themes from the survey responses that were completed by Policy Committee members and Citizen Advisory Committee members. Next step is for staff to assemble into draft statements. Clark requested that Cibulka send out the word cloud and frequency of words to Policy Committee members for review and to send feedback. Burns mentioned soil, land.

Clark adjourned the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Hatzenbihler, Stearns County SWCD, Water Plan Coordinator on behalf of Jeff Burns, Wright SwCD, Board Supervisor.

Agenda Item #4: Project Update - Timeline and Activities

Establish and Maintain Partnership (Nov 2021 - Dec 2024)



Completed Tasks:	Current Tasks:	Next Tasks:
1. Issue Statements (draft) 2. Resource / Issue Prioritization	1. Measurable Goals 2. Targeting & Mgmt Zones 3. Engage the CAC	1. Implementation Strategies 2. Implementation Programs



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Agenda Item #4 (continued): Project Update - Financial Report

Mississippi River St. Cloud One Watershed, One Plan Partnership GRANT BUDGET and TRACKING

This document is an attachment to the 1W1P grant work plan and will be put into eLINK.

		LEAD		ESTIMATED COST					
Plan Development Costs		Consultants	Partnership	Total	May-23	Total Avail	Total Expenses Nov 2022 - Dec 2023		
Pre-Planning									
Aggregate watershed information	Plan Writer	\$ 7,360.00		\$ 7,360	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,360.00		
Planning									
Write the land and water resources narrative	Plan Writer	\$ 6,400.00		\$ 6,400	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,400.00		
Identify and prioritize resources and issues	Facilitator, Plan Writer	\$ 17,360.00		\$ 17,360	\$ 8,575.00	\$ -	\$ 17,360.00		
Establish measurable goals	Facilitator, Plan Writer	\$ 14,240.00		\$ 14,240	\$ -	\$ 13,885.00	\$ 355.00		
Develop a targeted implementaiton schedule	Facilitator, Plan Writer	\$ 30,520.00		\$ 30,520	\$ -	\$ 30,520.00	\$ -		
Describe implementation programs	Facilitator, Plan Writer	\$ 6,840.00		\$ 6,840	\$ -	\$ 6,840.00	\$ -		
Determine plan administration and coordination	Policy Committee	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 3,280.00	\$ 4,880	\$ -	\$ 4,880.00	\$ -		
Write draft plan for review	Plan Writer	\$ 21,080.00		\$ 21,080	\$ -	\$ 19,820.00	\$ 1,260.00		
Consultant participation at committee meetings	Plan Writer	\$ 31,580.00		\$ 31,580	\$ 2,811.25	\$ 6,769.37	\$ 24,810.63		
Plan Review and Submission									
Conduct formal review		\$ 14,800.00		\$ 14,800	\$ -	\$ 14,800.00	\$ -		
Write final plan and submit to BWSR		\$ 5,320.00		\$ 5,320	\$ -	\$ 5,320.00	\$ -		
Other Costs									
Expenses: printing, travel		\$ 17,070.00		\$ 17,070	\$ -	\$ 17,070.00	\$ -		
SUBTOTAL: Plan Development		\$ 174,170	\$ 3,280	\$ 177,450					
Administration Costs									
	LGU Lead	Hourly Rate	Hours		Total				
Fiscal Coordination	Benton CD				\$ 4,160	\$ -	\$ 3,898.16	\$ 261.84	
Grant Reporting (Elink)	Sherb CD				\$ 560	\$ -	\$ 560.00	\$ -	
Grant Reporting (Elink)	Benton CD				\$ 1,040	\$ 63.10	\$ 750.15	\$ 289.85	
Note Taking	Stearns CD				\$ 4,400	\$ -	\$ 4,400.00	\$ -	
Policy /Advisory Committee Coordination	Sherb CD				\$ 14,700	\$ -	\$ 10,810.34	\$ 3,889.66	
Outreach Assistance	Stearns CD				\$ 2,200	\$ -	\$ 2,200.00	\$ -	
Website Development & Maintenance	M L SWCD				\$ 5,890	\$ -	\$ 5,678.01	\$ 211.99	
Meeting Expenses (facility, materials, food)					\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ 2,166.06	\$ 333.94	
Publication Expenses (notices, invitations)					\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	
SUBTOTAL: Administration					\$ 36,450		\$ 36,450.00	\$ -	
CONTINGENCY (add 10% to final amount)					\$ 21,390		\$ 21,390.00	\$ -	
TOTAL					\$ 235,290	\$ 11,449.35	\$ 172,757.09	\$ 62,532.91	
Actual Grant Amount Received "DATE" (50% Grant Total)							\$ -	\$ -	
ISG's 10% Reduction-withheld-not yet paid but included in Grant Total amount							\$ -	\$ -	



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Agenda Item #5: Vision Statement Selection

The Staff were provided the opportunity to develop Vision Statement options given the key words that were generated through previous exercises completed by the Citizen Advisory Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, and Policy Committee. The result was 10 Vision Statement options. The Technical Advisory Committee voted on a ranked-choice system in early June to narrow this list down to three options, which are presented below for final voting by the Policy Committee:

Option 1: *Collaborating to conserve, improve, and enhance our watershed.*

Option 2: *We envision a resilient watershed that sustains diverse ecological systems, provides clean water resources, fosters collaboration, and supports thriving communities.*

Option 3: *We envision a watershed partnership that fosters a collaborative culture working towards both meaningful change and measurable progress towards natural resource goals.*

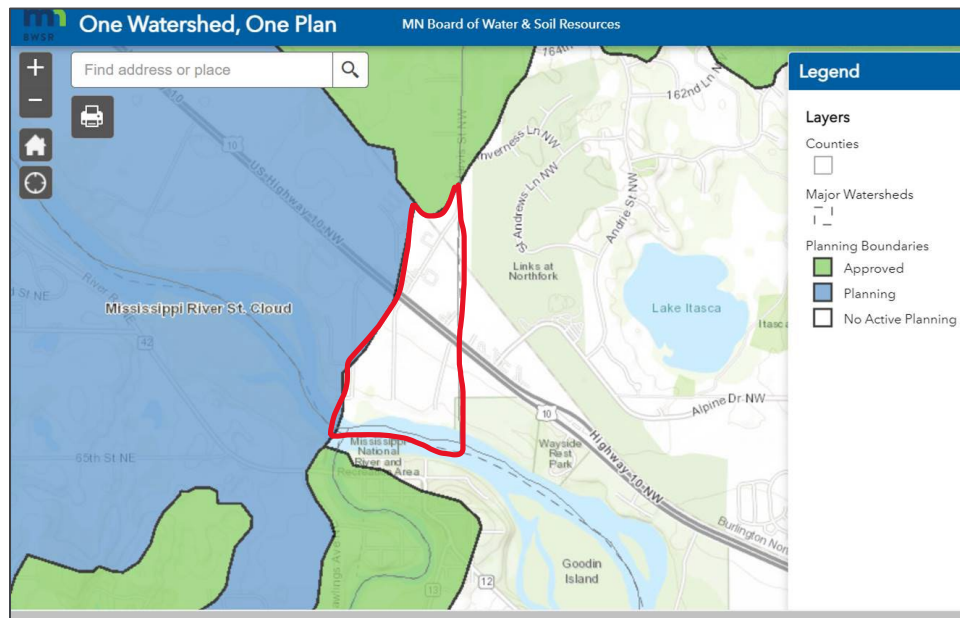
ACTION: Staff are requesting the Policy Committee to select a Vision Statement from the three options provided above either by consensus or by popular vote.

Agenda Item #6: Watershed Boundary Adjustment

BWSR staff, in reviewing 1wlp project boundaries, has found a small (~175 acres) area of Sherburne County that is not covered by the Mississippi River St. Cloud watershed project boundary. The area is unique as it is adjacent to the metro area where watershed management is handled differently - it could not be incorporated into those efforts. Continuing with the MRSC project utilizing the existing boundary would leave this segment without comprehensive watershed management plan coverage for Sherburne County. Figure 1 indicates the area referenced in this memo (approx. 45.250769, -93.517165).

BWSR staff have determined due to the very small area that the Technical Advisory Committee can, with unanimous approval, support a request for BWSR to make a boundary change on the watershed and make note of this change in the management plan which sufficiently addresses the issue. The Technical Advisory Committee discussed during a May 16, 2023 meeting and all staff were supportive of this boundary change. This notification is being brought to the attention of the Policy Committee as an information item, no action is necessary.

Figure 1. MRSC 1wlp Boundary - above referenced area outlined in red (~175 acres)





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Agenda Item #7: Issue Statement Update

Progress has been made on several Issue Statements, with refinements necessary on one last statement after development of measurable goals. ISG and staff will provide an update on progress made. Please reference related material in the included ISG memo.



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Agenda Item #8: Priority Waters Approval

The Technical Advisory Committee have worked hard to develop a process which can identify priority waters by using appropriate scientific, social, and professional judgement metrics. The metrics were evaluated several times using available resources as well as input from the Citizen Advisory Committee. With final metrics developed, a list was generated of priority waters for restoration and protection focus. Following this, professional judgement was applied to add or remove waters that held unique circumstances. The metrics used for determining priority waters are outlined in the table below. Please refer to the ISG memo provides the final list of priority waters.

ACTION: Staff are requesting the Policy Committee to approve the list of priority lakes and streams for the Mississippi River St. Cloud Watershed.

<p>Restoration Lakes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearly/Barely impaired waters • Watershed to Lake Area Ratio • Water Clarity Trend • Percent Disturbed Land Use • Public Access • Park or Public Land Adjacent 	<p>Protection Lakes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearly/Barely impaired waters • Watershed to Lake Area Ratio • Water Clarity Trend • Percent Disturbed Land Use • Lakes of Biological Significance • Public Access • Park or Public Land Adjacent
<p>Restoration Streams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Count of Impaired Aq. Life and Recreation Parameters • Nearly/Barely based on Biotic Community Scores • Altered Watercourses • Public Access • Park or Public Land Adjacent 	<p>Protection Streams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPCA protection streams database • Coldwater stream designation



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Agenda Item #9: Implementation Agreement Briefing, Q & A

BWSR staff will highlight several key points of MCIT's presentation from the May 4th, 2023 Policy Committee meeting. Important elements of JPEs and JPCs will be discussed with an opportunity to ask questions of BWSR staff, County and SWCD staff, and outline important questions to bring to county attorneys for future conversation.

Watershed Highlight



Mississippi One Watershed One Plan Highlight Policy Committee Meeting Packet

COVER CROPS

SUBMITTED BY WRIGHT SWCD

We have had 5 producers implement 244 acres of cover since 2017 in the Mississippi River St. Cloud watershed. Producers have had success planting cereal rye after corn silage harvest. They have also inter-seeded cover crops into standing beans and corn and planted clover with wheat in the spring. Some of these producers have used no-till planting in addition to the use of cover crops. There has been a steady increase in producers interest in these practices since 2017.





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Project Boundary



- Planning Boundary
- Clearwater River Watershed District
- Named Lakes
- Large Rivers
- HUC 10
- HUC 12
- County Boundries
- Streams





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MRSC Watershed Policy Committee Meeting Norms and Guidelines

Process Norms

- Follow Robert's Rules of Order
- Everyone will contribute to the conversation
- Strive for consensus and support the final outcomes/decisions
- Decisions will be based in sound science
- All voices count. All opinions are valid, but offer reasoning behind your thinking
- Ask clarifying questions to seek further understanding
- Note-taker is to capture highlights of the discussion and decisions made, but not detailed minutes

Preparation Norms

- Meetings will start / end on time
- Members will complete pre-work, read materials, and be prepared to meet
- Request additional information prior to meeting if necessary
- We will identify clear deadlines for when tasks are assigned to members and strive to meet them (both in developing materials and responding / providing feedback)

Communication Norms

- Be respectful and promote open communication
- Listen to understand
- Respect each other's opinions
- Stay on topic and pay attention
- Silence phones and exercise proper meeting decorum