



**MISSISSIPPI RIVER
ST. CLOUD
WATERSHED**

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:	<i>May 4, 2023 11:00am - 1:00pm</i>
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:	<i>Stephanie Hatzenbihler, Stearns SWCD</i>
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.