

Meeting Minutes

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting



ISG

Project Name: Mississippi River St. Cloud One Watershed One Plan

ISG Project Number: 28039

Date: Tuesday, August 15, 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), Willow Dean (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), Stephanie Hatzenbihler (Stearns SWCD), Becky Schlorf (Stearns County), Kyle Blazek (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), Todd Holman (TNC)

Partners and Staff Present:

Benton SWCD (Fiscal agent) - *Gerry Maciej (also representing Benton County), Emily Forbord, Sherburne SWCD* (Plan Coordinator) - *Dan Cibulka, Miranda Wagner, Stearns SWCD - Dennis Fuchs*, Stephanie Hatzenbihler* (note taker), **Sherburne County** - *Zach Guttormson**, **Stearns County** - *Kyle Blazek, Mille Lacs SWCD - Willow Dean*, Meeker SWCD - Joe Norman*

Other Attendees: *Sarah Boser (ISG), Paul Marsten (ISG), Brad Wozney (BWSR), Darren Mayers* (BWSR), Phil Votruba* (MPCA), Casey Field* (MDA), Chad Anderson* (MDH), Reid Northwick* (DNR), Kelly Herfendal* (ISG), Shelly Binsfeld (Sherburne SWCD Supervisor)*

*virtually

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

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Introduction & Project Status (~25 minutes)

- Icebreaker: What is one summer activity you plan to do before the end of summer?
- Timeline Check-in: [MRSC Committee Tracking](#)
 - GRAPS Timeline Update
 - Minor delay, but anticipate it will be ready for September TAC
 - WRAPS/TMDL Timeline Update
 - MPCA internal review of draft TMDL
 - Partner meeting scheduled for Monday, September 25
 - LSP Timeline Update
 - 1st Meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 29
 - anticipate 2nd meeting in October/November
 - anticipate 3rd meeting in December/January
 - Public comment period will follow 3rd meeting
- CAC Meeting Update
 - Stephanie and Dan provided an overview
 - Outcomes document added to google drive
- July Meeting Follow-up Items
 - Plan Timeline
 - We are on track to submit plan to BWSR in December 2024
 - Planning Grant ends on December 31st, 2024

Issue Framework (~15 minutes)

- Review issue framework, ensure all edits have been captured. Approval for bringing to PC.

- Reviewed changes as provided in 8.15.2023 TAC memo on page 6 for altered hydrology issue statement, desired future condition, and measurable goals
 - BWSR Henry Hoffman and DNR Jason Carlson were consulted on altered hydrology
 - Gerry posed a question on stream substrate and stream morphology that had been brought up during a small group meeting outside of the Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Committee. Measurable goal that focuses on stream substrate and stream morphology
 - MPCA staff Johnathon Newkirk and Phil Votruba
 - EHC Report
 - MRSC Stressor ID
 - Next Steps:
 - Gerry will send draft measurable goals to MPCA team with the intent for them to review altered hydrology
 - Gerry will submit to ISG (Paul and Sarah) and will set time on the September TAC agenda
- Reviewed CAC edits - recommending subcommittee
 - Stephanie offered to facilitate subcommittee to incorporate CAC recommendations
 - Timeline - subcommittee meets, sends changes via to TAC for first to five but if further discussion is needed then will set aside time at September TAC meeting
 - will try to have incorporated in advance of PC, but if not able then that's okay
 - subcommittee: Stephanie, Dan, Miranda
- Plan to take Issue Framework to PC meeting with at least two outstanding items
 - MPCA review of altered hydrology
 - Incorporation of CAC feedback

Implementation Strategies + Targeting (~120 minutes)

- Present implementation table, begin refinement process
 - Limiting factors we are working within: funds and capacity
 - start with quantifying efforts based on capacity
 - Pulled data from last 10 years from BMPs implemented through state and federal grant programs to establish baseline of capacity and funding
 - consultant model strategies that match existing implementation efforts and funding levels to develop pollutant reduction estimates (used MPCA Tableau)
 - Modeled outcomes of scenarios if increased implementation efforts
 - **The implementation table is not a detailed work plan (the table directs what to include in the work plan)**
- Discussion on implementation table timeline section: required to include bienniums
 - recommendation to lean towards the side of flexibility and less specific details
- Discussion on implementation table to include BMPs and non-BMPs programs or two have separate tables
 - going to start with separate tables, but once details in tables are clearer we will consider combining or partial combining due to management zone
- Discussion on lead partner, supporting partner
 - recommendation on two columns
- Activity
 - Step 1: Identify or review a level of effort that seems reasonable for 10 years for your jurisdiction and put that in column D. Review level of efforts for Management Zones that are within your jurisdiction
 - Step 2: identify when in the 10-year time frame it makes sense to put work towards these actions.
 - Step 3: Indicate if additional funding (above existing, locally available funds) will be necessary to meet the plan goals (Y/N) in comments column
- Homework assignment to continue building out implementation table will be sent this week
 - Targeting criteria will be presented at Steering Committee

Baseline Funding (~10 minutes)

- Review spreadsheet, explain homework
 - fill out spreadsheet for your LGU
 - review historic spending, provide best estimate for yearly spending
 - use implementation program descriptions and potential funding sources tabs for guidance
 - clarify whether SC would like to incorporate competitive funds
 - amounts should be county/organization-wide
 - ISG will adjust numbers to reflect percentage of area in watershed
 - due date - 9/1

Meeting Recap & Next Steps

- Recap any subcommittees that need to be formed and confirm their responsibilities

Adjourn

Cibulka adjourned the meeting at 4:10 PM.

Measurable Goals - Sub-committee Content

- Surface Water Issue Statement #2: Altered Hydrology - Altered hydrology changes the timing and volume of water delivered downstream impacting the environment, economy, and quality of life.
- Measurable Goals:
 - Peak Flow Goals:
 - No increase in 100-year, 10-day event peak flow (protection goal)
 - Reduce 100-year, 10-day event peak flows by 10% or 20% (restoration goal – can we convert to a acre-foot goal for tracking purposes? May have to.)
 - Base Flow Goals:
 - Maintain a mean daily flow of X cfs during (months) to support aquatic habitat for streams/subwatersheds in Table X.
 - Reduce / maintain the 10th percentile flows in X months for streams/subwatersheds in Table X.



Mississippi River St. Cloud Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Measurable Goals - Sub-committee Content



- Habitat and Natural Resources Issue Statement #1: Restoration, Protection + Preservation - Aquatic and terrestrial habitats are diminished due to fragmentation, degradation, and loss, which risks the stability of native species and ecosystems.
- Measurable Goals:
 - Increase protected landscape acres by X% in priority areas.
 - “Protected” can be further defined by the group but I would suggest permanent protection or longer-term program protection.
 - Restore landscape habitat acreage by X% in priority areas.
 - Standard contracts for tree planting, prairie planting, native plantings, etc. would apply.
 - Improve aquatic habitat within priority waterways as demonstrated by a X% increase in IBI scores in X waterbodies.
 - Focus would be on streams/lakes with IBI issues, would rely on Stressor ID reports/WRAPS/DNR/USFWS to determine applicable areas and BMP types.
 - Restore or permanently protect X units of shoreline habitat along priority waterbodies.
 - Can use priority lakes/streams for this goal along with TNC maps.