

Meeting



ISG

Minutes

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting

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

ISG Project Number: 28039

Date: Tuesday, September 19, 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), 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), Kayli Overland (TNC)

Partners and Staff Present:

Benton SWCD (Fiscal agent) *Emily Forbord*, **Sherburne SWCD** (Plan Coordinator) – *Dan Cibulka*, *Miranda Wagner*, **Stearns SWCD** – *Stephanie Hatzenbihler* (note taker), **Sherburne County** - *Zach Guttormson*, *Addison Otto*, **Stearns County** – *Kyle Blazek*, **Wright County** - *Barry Rhineberger*

Other Attendees: *Sarah Boser* (ISG), *Paul Marsten* (ISG), *Phil Votruba** (MPCA), *Casey Field** (MDA), *Chad Anderson* (MDH), *Jeff Burns** (Wright SWCD)

*virtually

Cibulka called the meeting to order at 1:06PM.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Introduction & Project Status (~5 minutes)

- Icebreaker: Pumpkin Spice or Carmel Apple
- Timeline Check-in: [MRSC Committee Tracking](#)
 - Project Timeline - Next TAC agenda items
 - Implementation Table
 - Outreach and Education Program
 - Data Studies and Monitoring Program
 - Implementation Agreement
 - County Attorneys have been meeting to discuss and recommendation by Attorneys and Policy Committee thus far is to pursue a Joint Powers Entity
 - GRAPS Timeline Update
 - GRAPS needs one final draft review and is willing to offer a presentation during the October TAC Meeting.

Citizen Advisory Committee Feedback (~20 minutes)

- Altered Hydrology - supportive of issue statement recommendations, move culvert projects with water storage to implementation strategies.
- Internal Load Processes - supportive of replacing “sources” with “cycling”, support changes to desired future conditions, and targeting criteria
- Groundwater Quality - support moving partnering with landfills, power plants to data studies program, support keeping other changes to targeting criteria
- Habitat & Natural Resources - moving public ditches, right-of-way pollinator habitat to a narrative with strategies. MSHA habitat scores keep in targeting criteria. keep education and add to other issues as well.

Priority Implementation Areas (~110 minutes)

- Pollutant Runoff - nutrients
 - based on HSPF fate/transport analysis
 - used both TSS and TP to identify highest contributing areas to priority resources
 - where there was a discrepancy between TSS and TP in the category ranking, the higher of the rankings was used
 - subwatershed with priority resources were added to the “high” category
 - output points for priority stream reaches at the downstream end
 - lakes and streams were done separately and then combined, and the highest ranking was used
 - discussion on high, medium, low priority areas terminology, suggestion to high, medium, opportunistic
 - discussion on removing subwatershed boundaries (light gray outline)
 - discussion on showing maps by management zones
 - discussion on tiering resources
 - discussion on priority cutoff being high and opportunistic, all medium ranks on map become opportunistic
- Pollutant Runoff - e.coli
 - use count of animal units from feedlots under 300 au’s within 500 feet of surface waterbodies
 - recommendation of looking at all animals units, not limiting to 300 au’s or less
 - concern with Sherburne County’s portion of the map because there are many small hobby farms that don’t meet threshold to report and therefore aren’t counted in AU count.
 - recommendation of using the immediate drainage areas to the impaired waterbodies as the priority areas and look at E.Coli values with greatest exceedance
- Altered Hydrology
 - altered watercourses - % of stream length that remains unaltered
 - wetland storage loss - portion of the pre-settlement wetlands that remain
 - high on map shows location for restoration potential for either altered courses or wetlands
 - recommend separating items into two maps one for watercourses and one for wetlands, and move all medium areas to opportunistic label
- Internal Load Process
 - Data still being collected
 - Stephanie will reach out to Meeker County
- Groundwater Quantity and Quality
 - No analysis done yet, due to waiting for the GRAPS
 - map provided shows DWSMA, aquifer vulnerability, Anoka Sand Plain
- Habitat and Natural Resources
 - Landscape Stewardship Plan
- Landscape resiliency
 - working with NRCS to obtain data
 - recommendation on this should be a watershed-wide

Supporting Programs Introduction (~10 minutes)

- Vital to success of implementing the planned actions

- Outreach and Education
- Data, studies, and monitoring
- Policy and Regulation
- keep these opportunities in mind as you fill out BMPs
- Outreach and Education Discussion
 - Community-based social marketing
 - categories for programs areas
 - IAP2 framework
 - Subcommittee to discuss: Emily, Miranda, Stephanie

Homework Questions

- Baseline funding - exclude WBIF dollars for the other watersheds in your county
- cover crops, could previously enrolled operators do it again though WBIF - yes, but can set limits
- can provide feedback on item that we want to recommend remove or combine
- for categories, don't double count any actions, just select one and go with that

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.