



**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 December 7, 2023. Chair, Tarryl Clark called the meeting to order at 11:04am.

<b>Date / Time:</b>	<i>December 7, 2023 11:00am - 1:00pm</i>
<b>Location:</b>	<i>In-Person: Sherburne History Center, 10775 27th Ave SE, Becker, MN 55308 Remote option available, use MS Teams Calendar Invite link</i>
<b>Note Taker:</b>	<i>Stephanie Hatzenbihler, Stearns SWCD</i>
<b>1w1p Website:</b>	<a href="https://www.millelacsswcd.org/1w1p/mississippi-river-st-cloud-watershed-plan/">https://www.millelacsswcd.org/1w1p/mississippi-river-st-cloud-watershed-plan/</a>
<b>Voting Members Present:</b>	Benton County – Scott Johnson, Meeker SWCD – Bob Schiefelbein, Sherburne SWCD – Shelly Binsfeld, Stearns County – Tarryl Clark, Stearns SWCD – Tom Gregory, Wright County – Tina Diedrick, Wright SWCD – Jeff Burns, Benton SWCD – Wade Bastian
<b>Alternate Voting Members Present:</b>	
<b>Alternative Non-voting members present:</b>	
<b>Voting Members Absent:</b>	Meeker County – Danny Schiefelbein, Mille Lacs SWCD – Dan Campbell, Sherburne County – Andrew Hulse
<b>Partners and Staff Present:</b>	*Zach Guttormson – BWSR staff, Stephanie Hatzenbihler – Stearns SWCD staff, Gerry Maciej – Benton SWCD staff, Emily Forbord - Benton SWCD staff, Dan Cibulka – Sherburne SWCD staff, *Kyle Blazek– Stearns County staff, Alicia O’Hare – Wright SWCD staff, *Becky Schlorf - Stearns County staff, *Sarah Boser- ISG, *Francine Larson – Sherburne SWCD staff

\*Individuals joined via Zoom virtually.

### Welcome and Introductions.

1. **Name, LGU.** Attendance was taken by Hatzenbihler.

### **Review and Approve Agenda.**

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

### **Review and approve 09-07-2023 meeting minutes.**

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

### **Project Update (Cibulka)**

1. **Timeline & Activities (Cibulka)** Cibulka presented on the current step in the planning process and shared that we are on schedule to meet our timeline goals for plan reviews near the end of the planning.
2. **Financial Report (Cibulka)** Cibulka presented the financial report. Maciej shared that we are on track with our budget and with SWCD expenses have been lower than planned likely due to work accomplished prior
3. **CAC Meeting Report (Hatzenbihler)** Hatzenbihler presented on the 3rd CAC committee meeting attendance, discussion topics, and how the staff incorporated the feedback from the CAC.
4. **City of St. Cloud Involvement (Cibulka)** Cibulka reported that the City of St. Cloud staff which is a member of the Citizen Advisory Committee has been unable to join the meetings due to scheduling constraints. The city staff requested attending the Technical Advisory Committee to bring forward wastewater, stormwater, and urban drinking water expertise. Policy Committee members discussed how to incorporate input from other municipalities. County and SWCD staff have also been connecting with municipalities throughout the plan development.
5. **Implementation Agreement (Cibulka)** Cibulka reported that the attorney group has shared a draft implementation agreement to staff for review then submit comments and questions. The attorney group will be meeting again on January 17 to address comments and questions from partners. Policy Committee members would like to review the draft document and share their comments and concerns as an agenda item during the January 4th meeting.
6. **TAC Liaison Report (TAC Liaisons)** Cibulka showed the location for Policy Committee members to sign up to attend a TAC meeting. Binsfeld reported that the TAC is working well together, forming subcommittees as needed, and continuing to make progress on plan development.

*Wade Bastian, Benton SWCD, joined the meeting at 11:38am.*

### **Supporting Programs Framework**

- Data, Studies, and Monitoring (O'Hare and Cibulka)
  - Cibulka and O'Hare provided an overview of this supporting program that addresses data gaps, studies, and monitoring to help determine future locations for projects. The goal is to create a program that gives the implementation team the opportunities to identify needs while the plan is in implementation. Examples of activities in this program include: subwatershed assessments, internal loading in lake studies, project feasibility studies, monitoring and data collection to address data gaps, exploring water quality and public health concerns.
- Policy & Regulation (Cibulka)
  - Cibulka provided an overview of this supporting program that has limitations due to the

plan and the organization formed to implement the plan is not a regulatory body and doesn't have authority to direct actions to be taken by other regulatory bodies. This program can research and summarize existing regulations and policies that exist within the watershed, then make recommendations to partner agencies to

- Education & Outreach Program (Hatzenbihler and Forbord)
  - Hatzenbihler and Forbord presented the framework recommendation for the Education and Outreach supporting program. Policy committee members were supportive of the framework and provided additional ideas for consideration on activities.

### **Introduction to the Implementation Table (Boser and Cibulka)**

- Cibulka provided an overview of the implementation table format, as well as the process the TAC and SC are going through to add action items to the table and model the impacts on the action items to the water resources. Cibulka, Hatzenbihler, and Boser provided an overview of the review process the table format went through to be created. Binsfeld shared her experience looking at the fully written Rum River Plan's implementation table for the first time, and made the suggestion that it needs to be clear that the narrative goes with the table and should be used together. Binsfeld and Clark preferred keeping separate columns for the lead LGU and supporting partners. Johnson recommended the text should be written horizontal (left to right) and not vertical which makes it hard to read without turning the page. Burns recommended that the table should pair the actions with the relevant goals.
- Boser presented the draft table spreadsheet with actions listed. Policy committee members supported this approach and the table format.

### **Multi-benefit Analysis (O'Hare)**

- O'Hare provided an overview of the need for the multi-benefit analysis, what a multi-benefit analysis and how it is created, the watershed multi-benefit analysis has 15 layers that represents all priority issues, averaged scores to reach subwatershed level scores.
- Binsfeld asked about the need to verify the results of multi-benefit analysis with the TAC knowledge on the places that they know where the work needs to be done.
- Clark asked about if the analysis includes costs or measuring impact
- Bastian asked about if the analysis shows projects upstream impacting/benefitting downstream
- Binsfeld requests that the TAC review each of the layers that make up the multi-benefit analysis to verify data quality and support inclusion in the analysis.

### **Watershed Complimentary Programs Overview (Cibulka)**

- Cibulka provided an overview on the Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategies (GRAPS), Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS), Landscape Stewardship Plan (LSP).
  - GRAPS - comprehensive document on a watershed scale on groundwater resources and produced by the MN DNR and MDH
  - WRAPS/TMDLs - comprehensive document on watershed scale on surface water resources and produced by the MPCA
  - LSP - comprehensive document on watershed scale on forestry and wetland resources which is focused on protection goals and produced by BWSR and MN DNR

Burns announced that he is retiring at the end of 2023.

Next meeting is anticipated for January 4, 2023 at 11am.

*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.