

Snake River Watershed – Steering Committee

Meeting Agenda

Feb. 12, 2024, 9-11 am

Invitees: local SWCD & county staff, BWSR staff

Location: In-person meeting at Kanabec SWCD office: 2008 Mahogany St Ste 3 Mora MN 55051
With a Remote Google Meeting option – login details

Purpose: Updates & follow-up on board approvals and fiscal management. Proposed project guidance, summarized write-up, coming Monday. Potential projects eligibility - KSWCD. Preparation for 2/26/24 Partnership Board Meeting.

Remote Google Meet login:

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/fid-wjke-tku>

Or dial: (US) +1 413-341-4543 PIN: 871 934 639#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/fid-wjke-tku?pin=6500257834606>

Regular scheduled meetings:

Steering – 2nd Monday, 9-11 am

TAC, as needed 1-2 x/yr. (2nd Thurs. 1:30-4:30 pm)

Partnership Board – 4th Monday, morning, 10:30 am after SRWMB if held or at 9 am if no SRWMB meeting

Intro. Question: If you have 24 hours to plan for the zombie apocalypse—what do you do?

Agenda Topics:

1. Approve Agenda, Other Items...
2. Update on Contracts for Services (ML SWCD website outreach, \$1,900)
Any interest in contracts for projects < \$20,000?
Update on Board approved rain barrel outreach & priority area mapping – any potential grant modification
Update Amish outreach 2/23, groundwater & nutrient management
3. Project Vetting follow up
Set low ranking number (30%) to start with, minimum to pursue as a project
4. Follow-up on fiscal grant training – policy suggestion, etc.
5. Project Policy proposal – draft write up (to come on Mon.)
(more formal write up of our previous Steering project guidance discussions)
6. Potential Projects (2), eligibility – Kanabec SWCD
Any other Project Proposals or Service Contracts...
7. Discuss the agenda for the next Partnership Meetings – 2/26/24 ~10:30 am, after the SRWMB meeting starting at 9 am

Agenda items:

- a. Approve Agenda & Meeting Outcomes
 - b. Contract for Services
 8. Master Contracts:
 - 1) Statements of Work Amendment: Outreach, \$6,900 – Mille Lacs SWCD
 - 2) Others
 - c. Present recommendations for Project Implementation Guidance, seeking input and/or approval
 - d. Set new date / time for partnership meetings
 - e. Others...
9. Next proposed Steering Meeting 3/11/24 as needed, 9:00 am-11:00 pm – agenda ideas

Future agenda items:

- Outreach collaboration
- Reporting collaboration – spreadsheet for now or spatial option later
- Shoreline Restoration – How to stream line work (for our March agenda) invite TSA input
 - Outreach Workshops, Do-It-Yourself Materials, Demonstration Projects
- Sub-watershed assessment learning from others (Chisago)

Access to our new Google Drive for sharing Snake Plan data:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-FlfKVjFepIWnggxNln5gPtg7L1UFv3g?usp=sharing>

Running List of Technical Policy Questions for Consideration:

Recommendation on projects <\$20,000: Have the Steering Cmte. review the ranking of each project and vote on funding.

Question	Options / Comments
<p>1. What cost-share rates do we want to offer for any of the following? (Still need to be cognizant of meeting our 10% match, through landowner’s project portion and NRCS.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most BMPs – 75% • Forestry practices - • Those certified thru MAWQCP – <p>A conclusion was discussed to have each LGU decide or follow their own cost-share policy for each practice category. To offer 75% and provide up to 90% for unique circumstances as warranted. Some mentioned what their LGU’s policies were, for example offering more funding for Ag. projects where the landowners do some of the work themselves. Labor can be used as match if documented.</p> <p>We discussed low-income landowners and how to ensure they are a part of our project work. It was suggested that US Rural Development (adjusted gross income requirement) may have guidance on what is considered low-income individuals.</p> <p>May plan to just write up some guidance to follow on this for example to be cognoscente of us meeting the 10% match as a whole on the grant.</p>
<p>2. Non-Structural Practices (cover crops, reduced tillage, perennial plantings)</p> <p>*Follow-up Question – 1x upfront payment on a 3 yr. mgmt. practice (LSC – leaves this at the discretion of ea. LGU)</p>	<p>Recommendation: LSC & Rum watershed has set rates they offer to offer more consistency between watersheds.</p> <p><u>We started here for the 12/18 Meeting:</u></p> <p>During the discussion it was suggested to leave this question of paying the 3 years of payments upfront to the discretion of each LGU, who would have the risk in any non-compliance contract holders.</p>
<p>3. Funding on Forest Stewardship Plans (many SWCD charging \$9/acre and \$300/plan)</p>	<p>Rates set based on DNR rates</p> <p>To follow suite with what other watersheds are doing here would be to offer this \$9/acre and \$300/plan for Forest Stewardship Plans cost share rates. These rates would be offered whether or not a SWCD or private sector did the planning work.</p>
<p>4. Prescribed Grazing</p> <p>a) Shown reduction #s – conversion from row crop to pasture</p> <p>b) No reduction #s, soil health benefits? – improved pasture only</p>	<p>a-c)</p> <p>Suggested to let the ranking do its job. & each LGUs to make these individual calls.</p> <p>Yes, to offer cost-share funding for all component practices associated with prescribed grazing.</p>

c) Wells (cost ~\$10,000), expensive practice with little environmental gain	
5. Nutrient Management Do we also want to fund Comprehensive Nutrient Mgmt. Plans, includes a farmstead assessment pre-planning for feedlot work?	Ok, to offer this cost-share funding
6. If a practice falls on a priority area line or watershed line, do we fund it?	Yes, to offer funding for projects that benefit the watershed even if only part is in the watershed or priority area – may discuss this with neighboring watershed (who is best to take this on given the capacity and funds available)
7. Buckthorn control (popular) – do we want to require/encourage follow-up planting or another practice (not eligible as stand alone practice)	<u>12/18 Meeting Discussion stopped here.</u> Yes, use ranking to encourage projects with buckthorn control with other practices such as tree planting.
8. Discussion around streamlining 'Shoreland Restoration Projects' (possible March Steering discussion) <u>Initial Priority Lakes:</u> Teir 1: Ann, Fish, Cross, Pokegama Teir 2: Quamba, Knife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use demonstration sites and/or public workshops (or specific to each lake assn.) • Do It Yourself Materials • Others...
9. Deed Recording requirement? (maybe projects over \$20,000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This sounds good
10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
11.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

Next Steering Meetings, proposed agenda items, list to tackle:

- ✓ Project Tracking / Reporting (excel spreadsheet, ideas from BWSR Academy, Stearns SWCD)
- ✓ How to better streamline shoreland restoration, include TSA (optional 2024 discussion)
- ✓ Others...

Partnership Board Discussion List for review over time:

- ✓ Contract for Services – Statements of Work for party implementation roles
- ✓ Project Vetting Process
- ✓ Project Implementation Guidance from technical steering recommendations
- ✓ Etc.