

OUTCOMES:

Rum River Watershed Comprehensive Management Plan – Implementation Planning Committee Meeting

Date: January 8th, 2024

Time: 12:30-2:30 PM

Location: Virtual Meeting **Zoom Meeting**

Meeting called by: Planning
Partners

Type of meeting: Work
Planning Meeting

Facilitator: Tiffany Determan

Note taker: Molly Clyne, Mille Lacs SWCD and Lydia Godfrey, Isanti SWCD

Attendees:

Voting members:

Tiffany Determan, Isanti SWCD
Lydia Godfrey, Isanti SWCD
Jamie Schurbon, Anoka SWCD
Dan Cibulka, Sherburne SWCD
David Wick, Sherburne SWCD
Susan Shaw, Mille Lacs SWCD
Willow Dean, Mille Lacs SWCD
Lynn Gallice, Mille Lacs SWCD
Molly Clyne, Mille Lacs SWCD
Kyle Fredrickson, Aitkin SWCD
Sam Seybold, Aitkin SWCD
Emily Fobord, Benton SWCD
Perry Bunting Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Other:

Scott Soderman, Isanti County
Jake Janski, Mille Lacs SWCD, JPE Board Representative
Colleen Werdien, Anoka SWCD, Board Supervisor
Andrew Hulse, Sherburne County, Commissioner
Michelle Jordan, BWSR
Barb Peichel, BWSR

1. **Welcome and Introductions** led by Tiffany Determan, Isanti SWCD
 - a. Introduced Molly Clyne as the new Watershed Coordinator/Organizer

2. **Planning Team Updates**
 - a. **Administration**
 - i. Budget update from Jamie Schurbon. He described that we have encumbered well over 60% of WBIF funds. Most of the partners have invoiced their funds but a few still need to do so, and they should do that within the next week or so.
 - ii. The FY23 WBIF Supplemental funding request was sent out by Tiffany Determan, which included funding for a shared land protection employee with Isanti and Mille Lacs, as well as funding for well sealing. She also requested that partners review the Member Folder to see if anyone needs to be added into the contact list. Board members also may be changing in January, so we should let her know as soon as they change.
 - b. **Implementation Tracking**
 - i. Dan Cibulka mentioned that he and David Wick sat down with Ben who gave them a template form to use in ArcGIS platforms for implementation tracking. The version they imagine moving towards for the Rum will be less specific than the imagined district version. They are learning the ins and outs of the program and plan to reconnect with Ben in January. There may or may not be a guest access for the ArcGIS, so additional access may need to be purchased if partners want to add/do their own projects—he is looking to understand this a bit more.
 - ii. Cibulka and Lydia Godfrey are going to be doing the first-year report for education and outreach and give some summary statistics for projects they've approved and funded and the status of projects. He will need to get information from each of the partners for this. They also want to know all the work that the partners have done that wasn't funded through WBIF but are helping to move the needle on WBIF goals. He will be putting together and sending out a spreadsheet to send to partners—he's hoping to do this within the next week or two.
 - c. **Education and Outreach**

- i. Godfrey mentioned that she will start the first-year report date soon. She also described the upcoming January 27th event called Conservation County, a partnership between Isanti, Mille Lacs, and Sherburne SWCDs. This is an event at the Coffee Corner in Princeton from 9-12pm for general audiences.
- ii. Schurbon mentioned that 2024 will bring some animated outreach videos about topics like soil health and forestry.
- iii. Molly Clyne will be reaching out soon for ide about community groups in each district that the partners know about/think are cool groups.

3. 4th Quarter Funding Requests

a. Mille Lacs SWCD PD

- i. Structural residential and urban BMPS were previously voted on for funding but there have been some changes. Lynn Gallice said that the changes are noted in the comments of the funding requests spreadsheet. This received a vote of "FUND"
- ii. Project development was brought to discussion because the requested amount didn't meet the 40k minimum. Original request was \$14,625. Schurbon suggested looking at the scoring in the work plan to make sure we are applying it correctly. With the funding request, there will be a little bit of money remaining from WBIF for Project Development. Members voted "FUND."

b. Mille Lacs SWCD TE (Line 47)

- i. Discussed the increase in Tech/Engineering to \$30k. This price includes survey design and installation of 300 ft of shoreline restoration and protection buffers. Depending on how big the project is, Lynn Gallice will either design it herself or contract it out. The amount not encumbered in WBIF is lower, so they would be shifting money to fund this request. This would be the first time the partners would need to shift and it falls under the 50k limit. This was voted as "FUND."

c. Sherburne SWCD Forestry Practices (line 50)

- i. Discussion to answer these questions/topics: 1. Need to verify that the forestry practices being applied for are eligible for use of WBIF funds. 2. Does this request fit within our current WBIF E-Link Workplan goals? 3. Verify cost-share rates.
- ii. 1. Determining if the request fits the work plan. Michelle Jordan from BWSR provided insight on whether 380 and 612 are eligible for WBIF funding. She said nothing excludes them from being eligible but need to check that they have water quality benefits. Determan asked if it fits within the existing workplan or if language changes are required. David Wick explained what people were interested in and discussion occurred about whether the plan is considered agroforestry and if it benefits a water source.
- iii. 2. This isn't agroforestry, but WBIF Work Plan says include but not limited to agroforestry and silviculture. If they were to decide to do this, they would need to review their policies.

- iv. 3. Cost share at 80% in the work plan but David Wick suggested doing it per seedling like in the LCCMR. This project perhaps fits in with the DNR Cost-Share. More discussion is needed—more guidelines needed before we can decide if tree planting is yes/no.
- v. Resulted in formal withdraw of funding request for the time being.

4. Buffer Planting Equipment Discussion

- a. Aitkin SWCD questioned purchasing buffer equipment with WBIF which determined they couldn't. They propose including establishment of a buffer program with WBIF FY25—will include this proposal when the process for FY25 funding begins.

5. 2024 Work Plan – Other Funding

- a. Determan sent out a spreadsheet to inquire about funds that are not WBIF that will be still assisting in WBIF Goals for 2024. She envisions coming up with some simple numbers and text description to show the board that the plan is big but we're also using other money to accomplish some of these goals. She requests that partners go in and add in their projects. She wants partners to complete this by January 12th.

6. Member Project Updates

- a. Skipped due to time. Tiffany Determan will be sending out the agenda for the board meeting on January 18th, so she recommends double check and update project status on the project status spreadsheet.

7. Other

- a. Sam Seybold mentions doing the drone inventory and putting the parcel info into something similar to a RAQ score, so prioritization scores will be done soon.
- b. Determan mentions that a lot of emails will be sent out soon.
- c. At the March IPC meeting, Determan thinks we can have a rough breakdown of how we want to spend the FY25 meeting to come to a consensus with at that meeting. She proposes that this meeting be in person at the Mille Lacs Courthouse.
- d. Large amount of money still available in the Urban BMP pot, says Schurbon.

8. Wrap-up and Next meeting

- a. Upcoming in February might be cancelled if nothing is needed but keep it on the calendar for now.