

Snake River Watershed – Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 8, 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

Attendees: Deanna Pomije, Zach Guttormson, *Barb Pichel, *Mara Jade, *Josh Tank, *Erin Hoxsie, *Mitch Gindele,
*Susan Shaw, *Emily Larsen *Remote attendees

Purpose: Proposed projects, logo discussion, payment voucher and brain storm on outreach ideas. Preparation for 5/27/24 Partnership Board Meeting.

Regular scheduled meetings:

Steering – 2nd Monday, 9-11 am

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

Partnership Board – 4th Monday, 9:30 am if no SRWMB meeting, (10:30 am, if held after the SRWMB meeting)

Intro. Fun: World’s best tongue twister, supposedly; ‘Pad kid curd pulled cod.’ Give it a try.
With the solar eclipse happening today; we shared experiences with past solar eclipses.

Agenda Topics:

1. Approve Agenda, Other Items...
Overview of Partnership Meeting – 4/5
[Reviewed briefly the outcomes of this last P’ship meeting for those unable to attend.](#)

2. Comments on Priority Maps, versions, training, edits
 - Arc GIS
 - Webmap
 - Webapp

The group reviewed the details of Mara’s comments for edits to the maps provided by Mitch Brinks. She was suggesting a watershed-wide attribute listing those action items planned for watershed-wide. Another suggestion was to add in the lake watersheds (HUC 8) instead of those action items linked to the lake itself. Deanna also mentioned in the map app. there are items that seem to be missing. She’ll seek clarification from Brinks on these.

Another item was more of a question on a priority map in the upper Pokegama Creek Watershed. Here she questioned why more of the watershed wasn’t listed as a priority even though it shows a worse IBI score. ("Streams and rivers in this figure were chosen based on biological impairments or because of their known recreational value." -Barb) In the discussion it was mentioned that items like this could be noted for plan updates at our plan’s 5-year mark. Deanna also mentioned noting a mapping error previously to be noted at our plan’s 5-year mark. We can also still use our project ranking system to discuss projects that are out of the priority areas.

3. Open Meeting Law compliance
[Discussed the need to get back in compliance with the open meeting law by posting meeting minutes on our watershed webpage.](#)

4. Brain Storm - Outreach Ideas

Our laundry list of outreach ideas suggested:

- Meet & Greet, social aspect with drinks possibly (the Rum did one in Princeton)
- Do a press release to the local newspapers
- Focus on shoreland project promotion as this is a big portion of our budget (utilize the Kanabec COLA group)
- WCMT radio, Mike has a contact he'll send to Deanna
- Deanna mentioned K-SWCD is currently doing articles for their annual newsletter now
- Josh is planning on doing a targeted forestry outreach campaign

5. SRWPP Partnership Logo

Erin presented her logo concept of a snake silhouette over the watershed boundary. It looked great; however, it was commented that a snake may bring on negative connotations. (blue snake tattoos were suggested)

- c) Update Amish outreach 2/23, nutrient/supplements management (17 attended)
10. Forestry Practices with WBIF funds – to discuss at a future Steering meeting
11. Agenda for the next Partnership Meetings – 4/22/24 9:30 am
Agenda items:
- a. Approve Agenda & Meeting Outcomes
 - b. Policy Proposals - Buffers
 - c. Project Proposals
 - d. Contract for Services
 - Statements of Work, as needed
 - Others
 - e. Request MCIT to present to the Board on expectations of a public entity / JPE
 - f. Others...
12. Next proposed Steering Meeting 5/13/24 as needed, 9:00 am-11:00 pm – agenda ideas
 Discuss when meeting warranted
 Future agenda items:
- Revisit our by-laws to make sure we're on track
 - Outreach collaboration
 - Projects in development
 - Reporting collaboration – spreadsheet for now or spatial option later
 - Sub-watershed assessment learning from others (Chisago)
13. Meeting Evaluation
 What worked? What didn't? Suggestions for change?

Let me know how I can help with watershed outreach or project development. I'll have more time for coordination efforts once the District Manager position is filled. -Deanna

Access to our Google Drive for sharing Snake Implementation details:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/OAH_uSPLSkOSqUk9PVA

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

- ✓ Project Tracking / Reporting (excel spreadsheet, ideas from BWSR Academy, Stearns SWCD)
- ✓ Others...

Partnership Board Discussion List for review over time:

- ✓ Project Proposals - Contract for Services
- ✓ Project Implementation Guidance continued from technical steering recommendations

- Forestry practices
- ✓ Etc.