

Snake Watershed Partnership Meeting Outcomes – April 22, 2024, 9:30am-11:30 am

Location: Kanabec Co. Courthouse or Remote Google Meeting

Board: Bob Hoefert (Mille Lacs SWCD), Kevin Belkholm (Kanabec SWCD); Tom Roeschlein, Rick Mattson (non-voting) (Kanabec Co); Terry Lovgren (Pine Co); Michael Cummins (Pine SWCD), Dan Gravely (Atkin SWCD)
*remote attendees

Staff:

Kanabec SWCD: Deanna Pomije; Pine SWCD: Mara Jade; Pine Co: Erin Hoxie; BWSR: *Barb Peichel, Zach Guttormson

Cross Lake: Don Duetsch; Pokegama Lake: Kathy Nielsen, Jill Jakusz

Purpose for the meeting

Buffer policy proposal & Snake River assessment proposal

9:35 Roll Call – Belkholm chairing

Belkholm led the group in a round robin with everyone introducing themselves by answering an ice breaker question of if you could have a super-power, what would it be?

*Approval of Agenda

Motion by Lovgren, second by Gravely to approve the agenda as presented.

Affirmative: Belkholm, Cummins, Lovgren, Gravely, Hoefert, Roeschlein

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

*Approval of the 4/5/24 Outcomes

Motion by Lovgren, second by Gravely to approve the 4/5/24 outcomes as presented.

Affirmative: Belkholm, Cummins, Lovgren, Gravely, Hoefert, Roeschlein

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

Pine SWCD Proposal: Snake River assessment for projects

Jade presented her proposal of hiring an engineering assistant consultant, along with Pine SWCD staff to complete an assessment along the main stem of the Snake River to identify potential projects and provide a geological history of the landscape and help staff understand how this impacts the watershed’s resources. Project cost: \$15,000. She also mentioned a large shoreland erosion project on the Snake River that’s in development. This is a large bluff actively eroding ~1 ft. per year on a ~60 ft. tall bank, estimated to cost over \$200,000.

It was mentioned that a previous assessment of the Snake River was done in the early 1990s. Pomije will look around for this older data to compare to today’s assessment.

Motion by Lovgren, second by Cummins for the completion of an assessment using a consultant on the main stem of the Snake River as presented, contracted for \$15,000 with the Pine SWCD.

Affirmative: Belkholm, Cummins, Lovgren, Gravely, Hoefert, Roeschlein

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

Public Input: In discussion on lake depths, Rick Mattson mentioned that the sheriff's dept. tracks depths at Grasston, Hwy 19 and Cross Lake. Hwy 61 and Cross Lake also have a USGS water elevation monitor, on a website.

Project Funding Flow Chart - reviewed

Jade and Pomije reviewed with the board a funding work flow for projects; where projects are ranked for eligibility and reviewed by the Steering Committee and then depending on the cost of the project either approved by the Snake Partnership Board or the Steering Committee. This helped to clarify the process for everyone.

Motion by Hoefert, second by Cummins to approve the project funding flow chart as presented.

Affirmative: Belkholm, Cummins, Lovgren, Gravely, Hoefert, Roeschlein

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

Proposed Shoreland Buffer Policy:

Jade presented a proposed new buffer policy that contains a sliding scale on the percent of cost-share funds available based on the width of the buffer. Where the wider the native buffer being installed – the higher the percent of cost-share funding available for the project.

- For shoreline buffer plantings with an average width equal to or less than 10 ft, a cost share rate of 50% will be used.
- For shoreline buffer plantings and average width of 11 ft to 25 ft, a cost share rate of 75% will be used.
- For shoreline buffer plantings greater than an average width greater than 25 ft, a cost share rate of up to 90% may be used.

Through discussion additional language was asked to be included in the policy such as spelling out it as a native planted buffer, including ag. and explaining that this buffer policy is above and beyond what is required by law under the MN state's buffer law.

It was agreed to table approval on this policy until the next Partnership meeting when the new language requested has been added.

Lake Treatment Discussion:

It was announced that on 5/10 the Moleaer Company will be here to present the lake treatment option of using Nannobubbles to address lakes' internal load and high algae concerns. Meeting details will be sent out. No lake treatment decisions have been made; we are just proposing this meeting to hear about this option.

Organically a discussion ensued on the potential for lake treatments in the watershed. With input from others, Pomije summarized on some of the past work in reviewing internal load treatment options for Ann Lake. She also presented a graph showing the various lakes in the watershed comparing each lakes' watershed vs. internal load contributions.

2024 Meeting Schedule

9:30 am unless otherwise noted

Basement room of the Kanabec Courthouse

April 22, 2024

June 24, 2024 - cancelled

July 22, 2024

Sept. 23, 2024

Nov. 25, 2024

Next Meeting:

June 24, 2024 – cancelled, not sufficient agenda items to warrant a meeting

July 22, 2024, 9:30 am start

Future Agenda Items:

Review / approve buffer policies

MCIT presentation: open meeting law and risks/recommendations as a new Joint Powers Entity

Motion by Cummins, second by Gravley to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 am.

Affirmative: Belkholm, Cummins, Lovgren, Gravely, Hoefert, Roeschlein

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed.

*Adjourn Meeting at 11:35 am

Snake River Phosphorus Reductions to Meet Lake TMDL Goals

