

Snake River Watershed – Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 13, 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: Discuss project approval process for the Steering Committee. Proposed projects or projects in-development, budget review. Outreach – Meet n Greet

In Attendance: Deanna Pomije, Zach Guttormson, *Barb Pichel, *Mara Jade, *Erin Hoxsie, *Willow Dean, *Janet Smude,
*Mike Gainor *Remote attendees

Quorum today!

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: With tree sales upon us – If you were a tree, what tree would you be and why?

- Do we want to occasionally meet in-person/remote option at the Pine SWCD office in Sandstone?
In the discussion – yes, there's a possibility of physically having the meeting in Sandstone occasionally, just not the next, June meeting.

Agenda Topics:

1. Approve Agenda, Other Items...
Comments from Partnership Meeting – 4/22
2. Project approval process for the Steering Committee
Vote thru attendance at Steering Committee and/or via. email up to 1 week following Steering meeting (Quorum is 4/7)
In discussion it was agreed that if when a Steering Committee quorum of at least 4/7 members aren't present to vote on projects, then any projects will be sent out via. email to the full Steering group for all not present to weigh in via. email to all with their preferences expressed within 1 week after the meeting. If a quorum of email votes are not received within the week, then the decision of the present Steering Committee meeting prevails.
3. Any Project Proposals – projects in development
Deanna mentioned starting to put the ranking sheet into an excel spreadsheet version for easier use, more to come on this.
Budget review – Deanna briefly showed the budget balance on the various grant categories:

Grant Category (QB Acct Name)	Remaining
Admin - WBIF 2024	\$0.00
Edu/Info - WBIF 2024	\$8,100.00
Prog Devel - WBIF 2024	-\$11,000.00
Tech/Eng - WBIF 2024	\$40,000.00
Plan/Assess - WBIF 2024	\$53,118.00
Ag Practices - WBIF 2024	\$80,131.40
Livestock Waste Practices - WBIF 2024	\$30,701.50
Nonstructural Practices - WBIF 2024	\$20,883.60
Shoreline Protection - WBIF 2024	\$157,922.21
Forest Practices - WBIF 2024	\$38,286.60
Groundwater - WBIF 2024	\$1,740.30
Urban Practices - WBIF 2024	\$3,600.90
Wetland Restoration - WBIF 2024	\$17,403.00
SSTS - WBIF 2024	\$70,158.30

(grant budget balances after today's funding approvals accounted for)

Deanna presented a wetland restoration project in partnership with the USFWS at the headwaters of Mud Creek. The project is ~1 mile outside of a priority area for wetland restoration. Through clarification with BWSR staff this project as presented does not meet a water quality gain, not eligible for WBIF funds. Zach mentioned looking into what parameters other wetland restoration work have been funded with WBIF funds, noting some pollution reduction numbers using a wetland restoration (WRET tool).

Mara presented a critical area planting along (~12' buffer) Cross Lake. It ranked 60% with the following reduction numbers and funding request.

Est. Phosphorus Load Reduction	1.40 lb/yr
Est. TSS Load Reduction	1.65 TSS/yr

Total Estimated Project Cost	\$12,710
Match provided, match source (cannot be state funds)	\$5,059.31 by Pine SWCD \$3,177.50 by landowner
Requested Funding of SRWPP	\$4,473.19
Lifetime Cost-Benefit (\$ / lb. phosphorus removed)	\$12,710/16.5 lbs P total, or \$770/lb P for project's lifespan

Motion by Janet Smude, second by Mike Gainor to approve the above presented project by Pine SWCD for a total grant cost of \$4,473.19. Motion passed.

BWSR suggested the addition of maps (contours) and photos along with the ranking sheet to explain project proposals. Also to clearly list the plan's action items identified with the project.

4. Logo – 11 for consideration (thank you Erin)

Erin presented 11 new logo options for the watershed without a snake image. People expressed interest in the options numbered 4 & 6, ultimately choosing #6 with the circle shape, 3 trees, river shaped like the Snake and the spelled-out watershed partnership name at the bottom with the first letters bolded.

Motion by Mara Jade, second by Mike Gainor to recommend the #6 logo for approval at the next P'ship Board meeting – into the consent agenda. Motion passed.



5. Other Updates:

- a) Mapped priority areas complete – follow up comments
ArcMap, ArcApp, GIS layer

There was a suggestion to have these maps updated for the lake watersheds – to include the whole lake watersheds in the priority areas, including the watersheds of all the streams coming into the lake.

Motion by Mike Gainor to approve up to an additional \$1,000 for this revised update to the priority maps to include the whole lake watersheds. Seconded by Mara Jade. Motion passed.

- b) Mid-year reporting due June 30 (completed work: billed and unbilled work)
To satisfy this reporting:

Partner invoices and narrative update reports on completed contracted work due early June
Staff time invoices quarterly (Jan. April, June [2mo], Oct[4mo])

- c) Shared Watershed Forester – to be filled again between Pine & Kanabec SWCD

- d) Outreach Proposals - Input:

- Newsletter (Kanabec SWCD) estimating ~\$300
- Newspaper article
- Meet n Greet – Watershed Intro, seeking partner attendance
Location proposal 'Sapsucker Farms' east of Quamba Lake
Date: mid-June ?

The input on outreach activities included a targeted focus on the priority lake assn. – working to get materials included in their newsletters, reaching out to the priority lakes specifically to speak (virtual option) at their upcoming meetings as apposed to a meet n greet with the general public. Mara mentioned having a meeting set up with Cross Lake this Saturday. Suggestion to reach out to or borrow much of the outreach material that the Rum Watershed is creating.

Deanna has started a monthly meeting to discuss project collaboration for Kanabec, between the SWCD, NRCS and TSA. Please contact her if you'd like this to be expanded to the full Snake watershed.

Deanna mentioned briefly the Nannobubbles presentation from the MOLEAER company from 5/10. This involves using very small oxygen bubbles similar to deep water aeration techniques. There were representatives from 5 of the watershed's lake assn. (Cross, Pokegama, Fish, Ann & Knife). In the end, there was a lot of interest from the lake representatives. More research is needed on this concept prior to grant funds becoming available for this option. Some Nannobubble proposal are underway for use in MN, so the research begins.

6. Agenda for the next Partnership Meetings – 6/24/24 10:30 am

Agenda items:

- a. Approve Agenda & Meeting Outcomes, use a consent agenda
- b. Elections – new chair
- c. Open Meeting Law reminder (by-laws)
- d. Financial Update
- e. Policy Proposals, if any
- f. Project Proposals
- g. Contract for Services
 - Statements of Work, as needed
 - Others
- h. Others...

7. Next proposed Steering Meeting 6/6/24 as needed, 1:00 -3:00 pm – agenda ideas

Discuss when meeting warranted – every month or only when projects/agenda items

Future agenda items:

- Grant Assurance measures
What does the 5-year PRAP look like?
- Outreach collaboration
- Projects in development
- Reporting collaboration – spreadsheet for now or spatial option later
- Sub-watershed assessment learning from others (Chisago)

8. 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
 - Forestry practices - policy
- ✓ Etc.