

Snake River Watershed – Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 6 2025, 2:00pm-4:00 pm



Invitees:

Local SWCD & county staff, BWSR staff

Attendance:

Erin Hoxsie*, Jaren Peplinski*, Emily Larsen, Mary Poelman, Nick Foss, Jessica Barbosa Oliveira, Kelly Condif DNR, Barb Peichel BWSR, Krista Arne, David Banta*, Siena Storm*

*Voting members

Location:

In-person meeting at Kanabec SWCD office: 2008 Mahogany St Ste 3 Mora MN 55051

Video call link: <http://meet.google.com/bam-qgik-hjw>

Or dial: (US) +1 502-667-4238 PIN: 479 537 515#

More phone numbers: <https://meet.google.com/tel/bam-qgik-hjw?pin=2761399208395&hs=1>

Purpose:

Set goals and Priorities for 2025 Q1

Check in with Partners and current Projects

Reviews recommendations for policy on multiple year project funding and WSP Renewals

	Topics	Assigned	Time
A	Approve Agenda/ Minutes	Mary KSWCD	5 min
1	Budget Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly Invoicing Q4 deadlines Payment of MCIT Insurance for 2025 	Erin PCo	5 min
2	Proposed Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forestry Project: Buckthorn Removal (for pre-approval with changes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> attached Packet Project will be sent out for 1 week review to SC Members- Project approved without 1 week review necessary <p>Proposal brought by JP/ EH - Approved* no objections</p>	Nick PSWCD	15 min
3	Current Projects Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check in on any desired projects <p>No updates on Projects</p>	tbd	5 min
4	Policy Updates: <p>Multiple year project funding How to bill for projects that will take longer than current grant funding?</p> <p>WSP for 10 year renewals- Will the partnership cover these plans/ What is the rate that the partnership will cover?</p>	Jaren KSWCD	10 min
5	Partner Updates/ Feedback: <p>Discussion: Setting Priority Activities/ Goals for Q1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PPT <p>Member Checkin</p>	Mary KSWCD	30 min
6	Outreach Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forestry Outreach Event Planning - Nick Foss Forestry Mailer- Priority Areas Shoreline Mailer- Priority Areas 	tbd	10 min
7	Future Meeting Times	Mary KSWCD	5 min

AGENDA TOPICS:

- a. **Prior Meeting Minutes Approval**
 - i. Minutes 12.09.2024
- b. **Approve Agenda**

Introductions from staff for @jessica barbosa oliveira and what is your favorite winter beverage?

Packet Location:

[2025.01.06 Agenda Packet](#)

1. **Budget Review**

Erin C. Hoxsie , noted the folks look for the voucher for the Q4 billing. Due Jan 31 2024
Noted that MCIT Insurance was being paid for the 2025 year.

2. **Project Review**

Nick Foss presented on the Buckthorn Removal Project : for SC approval with the addition of Rye Annual crop for yearly seeding with buckthorn removal.

Discussion was had on the Advantages of Rye vs Oats or other native plant (e.g. prairie Smoke) in seeding for Annual cover during years of buckthorn removal. Noted the Allelopathic effect of rye was potentially beneficial in working against Buckthorn Allelopathy.

It was noted that the rye seeding will add to the cost estimate of the project as it was brought forward, however because seeding for the native mixes was included in this cost estimate it was estimated that the final version of the cost estimate might actually be lower than currently planned.

Discussion was had on the grant funding cycles and the ability to fund buckthorn projects over the 3 year timeframes. It was noted in this scenaria (2) that the funding for the wbif would need to be for all 3 years of the project.

- note it was not discussed if this 3 years of payments will be made in one lump sum or yearly based.
- flowchart on funding buckthorn was added to the share drive for streamlining future project planning to be edited / updated as policy is formalized or changed.
-

Proposal brought by JP/ EH - Approved* no objections

Please Submit with Projects:

1. SOW/ funding request

Template SOW

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1S2bv1Ba4Z1doP2_RM2pJchjxGEgcghws/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=115886762896760527439&rtpof=true&sd=true

Template SOW (ReadMe)

https://docs.google.com/document/d/101w_5q-6i8HMQqMkSuuMK91cEh882Jg/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=115886762896760527439&rtpof=true&sd=true

2. Priority Area Map (within SOW)
3. Project Description/Timeline (within SOW)
4. Ranking Sheet

Template Ranking Sheet

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sR6nwZQ9PZg2iDjLlgmd2dBavi0leaK1/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=115886762896760527439&rtpof=true&sd=true

3. Current Project Updates

No updates on Projects

4. Policy Updates

KSWCD discussed the Buckthorn project flow chart and the advantages of using this type of visual for planning projects that span longer than the 3 year grant cycle. Also the need for building projects that are stand alone projects within a grant funding cycle.

It was noted that we should look at policy to prioritize projects with 2 phases (different grant years) to add a higher ranking for projects that have successfully completed phase 1.

Discussed 10 year renewals on FSP and what a “ New “ plan was defined as. KSWCD position is that renewals are treated exactly like new plans as they are required by practices that need a WSP and they are expired the landowner would be required to get one if theirs expires.

BWSR noted that workplan and cwmp did not specifically deal with the issue of “new” plans and that they would checkin and make sure that BWSR was on the same page with renewals equating to new plans for cost share purposes.

Was brought up to refer to all plans as new plans and remove from discussion “ renewal” as this did not mean anything different from the planning perspective.

5. Partner Updates/ Feedback:

Discussion: Setting Priority Activities/ Goals for Q1

- PPT

These are goals not limits :)

Discussion of Q1 goals and setting point of contacts for folks on these projects was discussed.

1. Shoreline (160,000)- Emily, Krista,possibly bring in Lynn, Janet
Capacity and priority areas were discussed. Brining in lake associations for outreach. noted that there was 1 project in Kanabec, a couple in Pine that might be promising. Townhall meetings (presentations)

Q1 Goals :

Outreach Goals:

1. Vendor Lists/ Plant Lists
2. Priority Area Mailing

3. Demonstration Planning

Projects

1. 5 Site Visits
2. 2 Projects Contracted

2. SSTS Septics (70000) David Banta , Mary Poelman, Jaren Peplinski, Barb Peichel, bring in Ryan Carda, Zach BWSR

- requirements for septics were noted :

-

” WBIF Grant Policy = Eligible activities are limited to identified imminent threat to public health systems (ITPHS) and systems that fail to protect groundwater. Land occupiers must meet low-income thresholds. Low-income guidelines from U.S Rural Development are strongly encouraged as the basis for the definition of low income.

https://bwsr.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2023-08/FY24_25%20WBIF%20policy%20final.pdf”

WBIF Work Plan - Description: Provide cost share for upgrading or new Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) based on BWSR's FY 24-25 Policy for funding SSTS practices. SRCWMP Ref.: p. 3-10, SWQual-26; p. 3-26, GW-9 Initial focus targeting SWQual-26 in fig. 3-4, p. 3-7, HUC 12 areas of priority streams and then secondarily into additional priority areas of the SRCWMP as needed.

Outreach Goals:

1. 3 Outreach Activities
 - a. Possibly flyer for low income
 - b. work with counties on existing lists? - reducing bottlenecks
 - c.

Project Goals:

1. 2 new projects

3. Planning and Assessments

1. Ann Lake Treatment Reassessment- goal is to have this started
2. Pokegama SWA- goal is to have presentation on what it is/ moving forward/ how it is being used Possibly to set some Q2 - goals?
 - a. Send out Pokegama SWA

4. Forestry Practices (5000+38000) Nick Foss, bring in Heather Donoho, Paul, Janet, Susan

Barb BWSR-> Great about mailings - about how many landowners will that be sent to? Nick Noted about 280

1. Outreach
 - a. Planning Workshop/ District Lands
 - b. Mailer- Prepared to be sent out
 - c. Stewardship Plans for SWQual 19
 - d. Tree Sales Outreach (Possible print advertisement)
2. Project Goals-
 - a. 6 Forestry Stewardship Plans
 - b. 3 Practices (Buckthorn, Plantings, etc)

5. Ag- Nonstructural BMP's (30000)- Jessica, Jaren, Sienna, bring in Heather Donoho

KSWCD- noted that they are building Soil health program capacity and had money for this purpose / outreach etc

1. Outreach

- a. 1 Outreach Material (Flyer?) - Non WBIF?
- b. 1 Townhall event series in Snake
2. Planning'
 - a. Obtaining JAA- steps and point in process for folks?
3. Projects
 - a. no specific projects goals were set (but this could be updated for Q1)

6. Outreach Plan

7. Upcoming Meeting Times

Regular scheduled meetings Upcoming :

Steering – 1st Monday, 2:00-4:00 pm

Feb 3, 2025 2:00 PM - Noted time for next meeting and Mary asked folks to remember to submit items for the JPE meeting if we are having it within the next 2 weeks for inclusion in the Agenda.

March 3, 2025 2:00 PM

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

May 8 2025 1:30 PM

Partnership Board, 4th Monday, 9:30 am

Jan 27, 2025- 9:30 am

Discussion was had on the meeting times of the JPE and whether Jan JPE meeting was necessary or if we should wait to the February meeting. BWSR was excited to note that the JPE was willing to be flexible with meeting only when necessary.

Due to boards committees being assigned in January might be necessary to push our meeting to Feb for an onboarding of the board. Mary to follow up with LGUs for board selections.

Possible dates for board appointments

Pine Co- Tomorrow?(1/7)

KSWCD- 15th

Discussion of Board Onboarding Packet development:

Suggestions for including videos / links for the board to learn about 1W1P

<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/one-watershed-one-plan-videos>

Possibly a presentation to the new board about the 10 year plan goals, what folks are currently working on. Also linked the 2-page board flyer from the Rum JPA.

<https://www.millelacsswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Rum-River-Orientation-Sheet-with-logo.pdf>