

**Snake River Watershed**  
**Technical Advisory Committee**

Meeting [Minutes](#)

November 18, 2024, 10:00 am-11:30 am



**Invitees:**

Snake River Watershed Plan Partnership Technical Advisory Committee

Snake River Watershed Plan Partnership Steering Committee

SWCD & County staff

BWSR staff

**Location:**

In-Person Meeting:

10:00 am-11:30 am  
Kanabec County Courthouse Rm 3  
317 E Maple Ave, Mora, MN 55051

Virtual Option:

[Google Meet joining info](#)

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/vbf-hxop-qey>

Or dial: (US) +1 484-552-3267 PIN: 291 571 039#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/vbf-hxop-qey?pin=6863004206066>

**Purpose:**

1. New Staff Introductions
2. Review Status of Watershed Plan
3. Check in with Partner Agencies Goals for Watersheds

Attendance: Sienna Storm, Jeff Weiss, Kelly Condif, Aicam Laacouri, Paul Swanson, Erin Hoxsie, Amy Timm, Barb Peichal, Shannon, Mary Poelman, Jaren Peplinski, Emily Larsen, Miranda Nicholes, Zach Guttormson, Chad Anderson, Susan Shaw, Janet Smude

## AGENDA

	Topics	Assigned	Time
1	Introductions	Staff/ Members present	10 min
2	Building Partnerships <a href="#">Best Practices for Agency Contributions to 1W1P</a>	Mary Poelman Watershed Coordinator	5 min
3	Snake River Watershed <a href="#">Link to 1W1P Snake River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan</a>  Cities, Lakes, Streams, People	tbd	10 min
4	Agency Round Table: - What, Who and How?  Current Technical Advisory Committee	All Agency Participants	
	Agency: MPCA	Miranda Nichols	5 min
	Agency: BWSR	Zach Guttormson	5 min
	Agency: DNR	Jeff Weiss	5 min
	Agency: MDA	Aicam Laacouri	5 min
	Agency: MDH	Chad Anderson	5 min
5	Planning 1W1P Snake River  Where are we currently? Where are we going (current timelines)? How do we get there?	Mary Poelman Watershed Coordinator	10 min
6	General Discussion - Comments, ideas, etc.	All Participants	tbd
7	Next Meeting: May 8 2025 1:30- 4:30pm		2 min

## MINUTES Snake River Watershed – Technical Advisory Committee

1	Introductions  Introductions conducted with a fun fact for each participant	All Present	
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1. Hello Everyone: Thank you for attending
  1. Name, Agency you are from
  2. Ice Breaker:

2	Building Partnerships  Brief discussion on roll of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) in the implementation of Watershed Based Implementation Funds (WBIF) and Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning (CWMP)	Mary Poelman Watershed Coordinator	5 min
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2.

From BWSR: “Best Practices for Agency Comments on Water Plans” ([Link](#))

“ Participation in Advisory Committees. The advisory committee is where agency staff have the most ability to influence the direction of the plan. This is where information and ideas can be discussed and vetted most thoroughly, and compromise and understanding can hopefully be achieved. This is also where various drafts of the plan are generally presented, and informal comments can be provided. For BWSR, knowledge that an agency has participated in the advisory committee adds additional weight or influence to a decision on the plan, especially if particular items are not addressed.”

Practical and Valuable Comments	Less Valuable Comments
<p>The following types of comments can be very valuable to the planning effort:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Feedback on the legality or statutory authority of a proposed action or strategy in a plan, and/or consistency with an agency rule or policy</li> <li>■ Identification of opportunities for agency collaboration, including when an agency might be willing to lead and/or funds are available through the agency to accomplish a strategy or action</li> <li>■ Identification of alternative methods to identify or accomplish a goal</li> <li>■ Identification of data not reviewed or properly considered, or data that may validate a potential concern or issue</li> <li>■ Work that can or will be done in the future to improve the plan</li> </ul>	<p>The following types of comments are less valuable to the planning process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Individual comments that have not been vetted or delivered as an agency perspective</li> <li>■ Comments that question a method without suggestions for an alternative method</li> <li>■ Editorial comments, especially in early working drafts of plans, unless the text is unclear</li> </ul>

3	<p>Snake River Watershed Cities, Lakes, Streams, People</p> <p>Presentation on 'Priority Lakes and Streams' in the Snake River Watershed to orient new TAC members and Snake River Watershed Plan Partnership (SRWPP) staff to areas of the Snake River Watershed.</p>	Mary Poelman Watershed Coordinator	10 min
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3. Presentation on the Snake River Watershed to orient everyone to our area and goals

4	Agency Round Table: - What, Who and How?  Current Technical Advisory Committee	All Agency Participants	
	Agency: MPCA	Miranda Nichols	5 min
	Agency: BWSR	Zach Guttormson	5 min
	Agency: DNR	Jeff Weiss	5 min
	Agency: MDA	Aicam Laacouri	5 min
	Agency: MDH	Chad Anderson	5 min

4. For each of the agencies present:

If someone within the watershed had a question/project that they needed technical advice on, where would they turn to within your agency?

Brief discussion of your agency, what departments that may be applicable to watershed implementation, potential opportunities for collaboration/ permitting/ oversight etc.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)- provided the participants with a brief overview of the MPCA staff and resources available for watershed staff. Expressed interest in 1W1P amendments to assist as needed in the process. Discussion of Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Reports. Also noted several grants that were available and the What's in My Neighborhood Tool.

Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)- discussed providing the partnership with information and guidance on WBIF. Discussed their role as the primary partner for work plan amendments. Noted that the funding requires that the actions taken by the partnership meet assurance measures. Encouraged water storage projects that could be partnerships with non-governmental organizations (ngo's) such as The Nature Conservancy (TNC) as well as other governmental entities including Fish and Wildlife Service and Tribal Nations.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)- discussed their role as focusing on the implementation process of the CWMP and provided updates on restoration work focusing on stream channels; specifically mentioning sedimentation issues and modeling efforts of the DNR. Discussed groundwater appropriations such as irrigation and discussed other forest management goals. Mentioned that DNR staff would be touring the watershed and were interested in the Snake River geomorphological project from Mora to the outlet of the St. Croix and the identification of areas for targeting resources.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)- discussed clean water initiatives including Township Testing Program (TTP), pesticide sampling, Nutrient Management Initiative (NMI), AgBMP handbook, Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP), AGBMP Loan, Source Water Protection Initiatives including: Wellhead Protection Plans, and Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategies (GRAPS). Noted

several grants including the Source Water Protection Grants. Discussion was pointed towards the DNR Tool for the Watershed Health Assessment Framework (WHAF) to view pollution sensitivity of near surface materials and benefits of stacking data for prioritization and health monitoring of the watershed.

MDA- Emphasised in discussion groundwater goals. Noted the challenges of seeing all the reports , and studying all of the information that is already produced for our area. Encouraged the leveraging of funds for our partnership goals, emphasising ongoing communication between MDH- and BWSR.

5	<p>Planning 1W1P Snake River</p> <p>Where are we currently? Where are we going (current timelines)? How do we get there?</p>	Mary Poelman Watershed Coordinator	10 min
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5. Presentation on Snake River Goals, Tracking, Work Plan Dates, what is working, what isn't working

Brief presentation on the overall goals, and current tracking of the Snake River Watershed Plan Partnership (SRWPP).

6	<p>General Discussion</p> <p>- Comments, ideas, etc.</p>	All Participants	tbd
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6. General Discussion:

General discussion was held. Discussion points included: Pokegama SWA and interaction of Pokegama Lake with the Snake River. Targeting of practices on a parcel and landowner level. Potentially easily completed projects including: mailings for easement enrollment, planting trees, and ramping up outreach and education potentially with additional staff capacity.

7	<p>Next Meeting: (nominally) May 8 2025 1:30- 4:30pm Actual (Oct 6, 2025)</p>	Mary Poelman Watershed Coordinator	2 min
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