

Meeting Notes

Implementation Planning Committee



Project Name: Mississippi River St. Cloud Comp Plan Implementation
Date: Wednesday, December 17th, 2025
Time: 1:00pm - 2:30pm
Location: Virtual via Microsoft Teams
Invitees: Implementation Planning Committee (primary and alternates), BWSR staff
Attendees: Miranda Wagner, Francine Larson, Emily Forbord, Alicia O'Hare, Mike McMillin, Matt Danzl, Siena Storm, Joe Norman, Stephanie Hatzenbihler, Barry Rhineberger, Zach Guttormson, Noah Czech.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

General Updates and Discussion

30 MINUTES

- Reminder – project [guidelines](#) and [checklist](#) resources
- [CRP tracking sheet](#) now available
- Soil health goal update
- Follow up on hydro conditioned model – any updates from partners?
- Attorney quotes

Action Needed: *No action required, information and discussion only*

Note that the CRP incentive is for the Continuous CRP program, not the general sign-up. FSA began processing these on a batching period basis in 2025, unsure what the process will be in 2026. This is likely a one-time grant so 2026 is our only shot for spending the dollars. Question regarding if there are spot-check or other assurances required as these are state dollars. Zach looked into this during the call and reported the following feedback from Jason Moeckler: *“as this program is incentivizing program participation, only proof of enrollment (CRP-1 form) is needed for the watershed partnership to process payment. If you're concerned the practice won't be installed or your relationship with USDA isn't good, I would suggest they have the landowner sign a release of information form so the LGU can access the Federal data to ensure the project was installed to specs. You could also consider conducting your own inspections if working with USDA is difficult.”*

Noteworthy items from Committee Discussion:

Dan has received a MRSC Watershed dataset from Jake Galzki with University of MN. Additionally, Sherburne SWCD has completed a windshield survey of ~130 fields in two townships that can serve as a smaller scale example of regional soil health. **Dan will be analyzing the data and producing a summary report in early January**, the IPC can discuss a potential soil health goal to adopt at the January IPC meeting.

No updates on hydro-conditioning a dataset for the MRSC, will revisit this later.

One quote received from an attorney firm so far. Another request will be sent to hopefully get more quotes for comparison at the January IPC meeting.

Pollutant Reduction Calculation Standards Review

15 MINUTES

- Review [standards document](#) and add comments (if any) to document prior to meeting
- IPC approval for Pollution Reduction Calculation Standards

Action Needed: *Discuss draft standards and approve*

The team reviewed and discussed the standards document. A question arose on the ratio of acres input for the BEET planner tool, the directions are a bit unclear. **Dan will contact MPCA on guidance for this.** Question over how to estimate outcomes from irrigation projects, after discussion **Stephanie offered to connect with Miranda and Zach on models for irrigation.** Additions made for SSTS projects, and projects that might require literature or table values (carp management, alum treatments, etc.). Consensus reached on this document to use as our standard for pollution reduction reporting.

Noteworthy items from Committee Discussion:

Individual Partners Cost Share Policies

10 MINUTES

- Reminder to send you office's Cost Share policies document to Fiscal Agent and Coordinator.
- Counties – do separate policies exist or can they adopt their SWCD's policies?

Action Needed: *No action required, information and discussion only*

A reminder was shared to send your office Cost-Share policies to Stephanie. When policies are updated these should be sent in as well.

Noteworthy items from Committee Discussion:

A question regarding county departments arose, where they may not have a "Cost Share Policy" because they often do not engage in the typical practices that SWCDs do. But county staff might request funds for work they perform, which could include planning studies or septic replacements. **Stephanie will connect with Kyle to see what is needed from the fiscal agent's standpoint and report back.**

FY27 WBIF Funding Request

30 MINUTES

- Funding "Wish List" sheet is now [available](#)
- Each office can begin entering fund requests on the "FY27 Request List" tab of the spreadsheet (anticipated deadline of January 13th).
- Discussion topics to include:
 - JPE funding needs
 - Education and outreach needs and approach
 - "Large project" discussions
 - Other?

Action Needed: *No action required, information and discussion only*

No proposed outcomes necessary for the funding request (this is new for the workplan)

Discussion about the process to determine allocation for each office. Consensus reached to use the similar allocation model as used for FY25 WBIF planning. Further discussion regarding whether we should set a dollar amount for Education and Outreach, or for Project Development, for each partner or to have each partner propose what they believe they will need to meet plan goals. Each office is in a different stage, has differing amounts of area in the watershed, and different needs. Consensus reached for each office to propose funding requests for each category of work, including EO and PD, and for the IPC to discuss in January.

**Noteworthy items
from Committee
Discussion:**

Timeline for FY27 funds: Earliest date for funding request submittal is July 1st, 2026. JPE Board could approve funding request and internal work plan at June Board meeting, then we submit in early July. BWSR works on a monthly batching period. Next steps would be to develop the Work Plan and execute the agreement. If all goes smoothly, things could be ready for approval in Aug/Sept.

A reminder that as each office is developing their funding request wish list, please look at the Implementation Tables in the plan to ensure you are following the timeline and outcomes that are in the approved plan. Dan has added an Excel spreadsheet of the Implementation Tables to the [Google Drive](#).

Each office should submit their FY27 WBIF funding request in this spreadsheet by January 13th so the IPC can discuss on January 21st.

Next Steps

5 MINUTES

- Identify follow-up assignments

Action Needed: *No action required, informational only*

**Noteworthy items
from Committee
Discussion:**

Follow up actions identified in **red font** above.

Meeting Notes

Implementation Planning Committee



MRSCWE Schedule of Activities		
Month - Year	Joint Powers Board (1st Thursday of month, 11am - 1pm)	Implementation Planning Committee (Third Wednesday of month, 1pm-3pm)
Oct-25	<i>No meeting</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finalize CRP Incentive Policy 2. Plan tracking tool proposal 3. Invoicing and match discussion 4. Soil Health Goal discussion
Nov-25	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve CRP Incentive policy 2. Approve MCIT paperwork 3. Consider 2026 meeting dates 5. Updates on Soil Health goal, attorney selection, current activities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Updates 2. Pollutant reduction calculators 3. Plan tracking tool discussion
Dec-25	<i>no meeting</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Updates (reminders, CRP incentive sign-up, soil health goal, hydroconditioning, attorney quotes) 2. Pollutant Reduction Calculation Standards 3. Individual District Policies 4. FY27 WBIF funding request / budget
Jan-26	<i>no meeting</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve draft FY27 WBIF funding request and internal work plan 2. Attorney quotes 3. Implementation tracking update/discussion 4. Soil health goal
Feb-26	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider attorney proposals 2. Record retention policy 3. Soil health goal 4. FY27 WBIF draft request 	

Parking Lot

The Parking Lot tracks that come up during meetings which will be discussed at a later date.

If and when to address miscalculations in the CWMP Implementation Tables.

Implementation Tracking (what to track, review/discuss proposed tracking approach).

Future Board Meeting Informational Topics:

- Education and Outreach Committee plans and updates (and inputs!).
- Outline of a process for delisting a waterbody.
- Round-robin or one Member sharing updates on projects.
- Clean water council information.
- Overview of the cost of equipment for establishing cover crops or other practices.
- Discussion or workshop with board about internal loading, lake candidacy, etc.