

YELLOW MEDICINE **ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN** KICK-OFF MEETING
MEETING MINUTES
March 10, 2015
Southwest Sportsmens Club, Minneota MN

NOTE: *This meeting has been postponed from March 3, 2015 due to blizzard conditions.*

Registration began at 5:30 pm and dinner was catered by the Ole' Time Café from Ivanhoe.

Kerry Netzke, Area II Executive Director welcomed the crowd at 6:00 pm. There were 37 people in attendance. Netzke introduced Karen Terry and Doug Malchow, Watershed Educators from the University of Minnesota Extension Service.

Karen Terry narrated a PowerPoint presentation that had been provided by RESPEC. This presentation gave a history of water planning in Minnesota, reviewed the **One Watershed, One Plan** process, and outlined the steps and timeline to produce the new document by December 2015.

Following the presentation at approximately 6:30 pm, the audience was divided into two teams. The Watershed Game (Stream version) was played at two tables for the next hour. Karen Terry and Doug Malchow facilitated the game tables. The game allows participants to how a variety of land uses impact water and natural resources, to increase their knowledge of best management practices (BMPs), and to learn how their choices can prevent adverse impacts.

At 7:30 pm, the audience was reassembled at the tables with Doug Malchow leading the information gathering session. The audience was broken into small groups to discuss and share their answers to these questions:

- 1) What do you value most about the water resources in the Yellow Medicine Watershed?
- 2) What water resources need to be protected or enhanced?
- 3) What steps are you personally willing to take to protect or enhance water resources in the Yellow Medicine River Watershed.

Responses to these questions are attached.

A brief question and answer period followed.

With no other questions, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry Netzke
Area II Executive Director

Question: What do you value the most about the water resources in the Yellow Medicine River Watershed? What water resources need to be protected or enhanced?	Subcategory	Response
	BMPs	Add additional filter strips and blind intakes on tile systems installed
	Debris Removal	A clean open flow of the river free of dams or obstructions caused by logs & debris
	Debris Removal	Rivers & Streams need to be clean and unobstructed from dams, fallen trees and manmade obstructions.
	Debris Removal	Unobstructed clean flow of water
	Eco system	Ability to have productive land balanced with potential wildlife habitat
	Erosion	Ditch bank erosion
	Erosion	Erosion, excessive run off
	Erosion	Ground Water, clean rivers & streams, lower sediment, clean lakes.
	Erosion	Having good drainage system to reduce erosion
	Erosion	Keep banks from washing out
	Erosion	Less pollution entering streams & river
	Erosion	Less sediments entering streams, river and open ditches
	Erosion	Our river banks need to be protected or restored.
	Erosion	Our rivers & drainage ditches
	Erosion	Protect water ways from flooding erosion
	Erosion	River ditch bank erosion
	Erosion	Soil Erosion
	Erosion	Stabilize ditch banks
	Erosion	Water Resources need to be protected by more grass waterways along lakes & streams
	Erosion	Water run off
	Erosion	Waterways run off
	Flood control	Must try to stop other watersheds flowing over the top and running into the Yellow Medicine Watersheds. (Lots of top soil runs into the river.) * This will help stop the flooding in the Yellow Medicine River keep the ground on the land.
	Flood control	Spring Creek - it's clarity & ability to convey run-off without flooding
	Ground Water	Clean Ground water
	Ground Water	Clean Ground water
	Ground Water	Ground Water
	Ground Water	Ground water quantity, protect from over utilization
	Ground Water	Protect groundwater
	Ground Water	The ground water in some areas of the county need to be protected from fertilizer
	Hydrology	Base flow, restore to healthy contribution levels
	Lakes	Protect Cottonwood Lake
	Protection	All resources need to be protected/enhanced
	Recreation	Boating & Swimming
	Recreation	Clean river water for recreation & wildlife
	Recreation	Clean water for recreation
	Recreation	Enhance wildlife habitat along water courses.
	Recreation	Fish & Wildlife

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Recreation	I love to fish, camp and hunt. I have noticed the lakes going down hill dramatically over the last 3 years are School Grove, Dead Coon, Lady Slipper, Cottonwood, Yankton, Goose, Wood Lake, Island and Sarah. Pretty much every lake around here that I go to has gone to shit. Several people I know have gotten sick just swimming in some of the lakes around here.
Recreation	River for recreational fishing
Recreation	Spring Creek hunting & fishing
Sediment	A clean, sediment free river
Water quality	Availability of water for drinking, household, etc. (clean water)
Water quality	Clean ground water for drinking
Water quality	Clean ground water for drinking is appreciated. We need to protect this resource.
Water quality	Clean unpolluted water in ground water and streams.
Water quality	Clean water
Water quality	Clean Water
Water quality	Clean Water
Water quality	Good clean water to keep lakes clean
Water quality	Ground water
Water quality	Ground water to have good water from shallow wells
Water quality	Need to get a way to clean up the water
Water quality	Protect the ground water.
Water quality	Streams need to be protected from chemicals/pollution
Water quality	Water quality all around
Water retention	Flood attention, ability to store water on land.
Water retention	More dam projects
Well Sealing	Seal old wells.
Wildlife	Clean water for fish
Wildlife	Wildlife and fish

Question:
 What steps are you personally willing to take to protect or enhance water resources in the Yellow Medicine River Watershed?

Subcategory	Response
BMPs	Alternative intakes.
BMPs	Assist implementation to achieve goals and gain multiple benefits
BMPs	Basins or terraces.
BMPs	Blind intakes
BMPs	Careful use of fertilizer
BMPs	Feed lot run off
BMPs	Fertilize at variable rate
BMPs	Follow nutrient management plans
BMPs	Follow university recommendations, include corn covers to build up soil health
BMPs	Good farming practices protection soil erosion
BMPs	Grass waterways
BMPs	Grass waterways on ditch banks
BMPs	Help remove open intakes

BMPs	I would be willing to install tile intake systems to minimize sediment entering streams.
BMPs	Install blind intakes
BMPs	Manage manure application
BMPs	Not mowing ditches clear to the bottom
BMPs	The only one not discussed is possible corn crops, reduce tillable, building better health improves filtration, reduces run off and more
BMPs	Underground intakes
BMPs	Variable rate fertilizing
BMPs	Variable rate fertilizing
Buffer strips	Buffer strips
Buffer strips	Buffer Strips
Buffer Strips	Buffer zone along river banks
Buffer Strips	Buffers
Buffer strips	CREP acres along the river
Buffer strips	CREP acres next to river
Buffer strips	Filter strips along creeks and waterways
Buffer strips	Filter strips on county ditches
Buffer strips	Maintain 1 rod buffer on all drainage ditches and rivers
Buffer Strips	Use butter strips along waterways and rivers.
Cooperation	Attend meetings, pursue collaborative efforts where the combined efforts exceed the sum of the individual parts
Cooperation	Contact your local watershed district if you see any problems occurring down stream.
Cooperation	Ensure that I protect the drainage way on my property
Cooperation	I will do whatever it takes to clean up this area.
Cooperation	Let's not turn it into the environmental control
Cooperation	Willing to follow the plan set out from these meetings.
Cooperation	Work on water plan
Cover crops	Cover crops
Cover crops	Cover crops near river
Cover crops	Try Cover Crops
Cover crops	Use cover crops
Education	I will write a letter to elected officials and I will continue to make people aware of the situation around here.
Education	It is not all the farmer's fault
Education	Look for new ideas to address sediment & nutrient management resources of the landscape
Erosion	We need to prevent erosion where it starts and not buffers to try to stop it as a last resort.
Funding	Contact Senator & Representatives to urge them to provide funding.
Septic	Proper septic
Soil Health	Soil Tests
Soil Health	Test Soil for Proper application
Terracing	More terracing on 2T soil
Tillage Practices	No till crops
Tillage Practices	No till crops
Tillage Practices	Reduce tillage
Tillage Practices	Reduce tillage
Tillage Practices	Reduce tillage practices

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Tillage Practices	Soil conservation measures such as not till, less tillage.
Water Quality	I have noticed that over the last 3 years our lakes are horrible and I want to get them back to where they were 10 years ago.
Water Quality	I will go door to door and speak with the farmers around each of those lakes if I have to. The run off is killing this area.
Water Quality	More water improvements
Water Retention	Find ways to slow down the flow of water during heavy ran. West Yellow Medicine County is 800' to 900' high than East Yellow Medicine.