

YELLOW MEDICINE **ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN** KICK-OFF MEETING
MEETING MINUTES
April 13, 2015
Southwest Sportsmens Club, Minneota MN

NOTE: *This third kick-off meeting was called when it was discovered that there had been an error in the watershed resident addresses and not all residents have been notified of the previous meetings.*

Registration began at 1:30 pm with cookies and refreshments provided.

Kerry Netzke, Area II Executive Director welcomed the crowd at 2:00 pm. There were 74 people in attendance. Netzke introduced Emily Javens, PE from RESPEC. A brief question and answer period followed.

Emily Javens narrated her PowerPoint presentation which 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 2:30 pm, the audience was divided into two teams of those who wished to participate. The Watershed Game (Stream version) was played at two tables for the next hour. Lucas Youngsma, DNR Hydrologist – Marshall and Garry Bennett, DNR Hydrologist - Hutchinson 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 3:30 pm, the audience was reassembled at the tables with Emily Javens 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 4:00 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	Have buffer strips around lakes also.
	Cooperation	Involve fish and wildlife services.
	Debris	Remove trash (tires, etc) from the river.
	Drainage	Good drainage provided and productive agriculture provided.
	Drainage	I would like to be informed when tiling and itching is to be done upstream and down stream.
	Ecosystem	Lake water from pollution by water fowl notably cormorants on Hawks Nest Lake. The island's trees have been nearly destroyed by cormorant droppings. The whiteness of the droppings make the island look like it is buried in snow. This lake used to be an excellent habitat for muskrat and shorebirds. This lake is currently used for rearing fish. Fish are not the only wildlife that need habitat.
	Ecosystem	Fish and game/birds - nongame/invertebrates (food for fish)
	Ecosystem	The economic value of rain water that grows crops.
	Erosion	Soil erosion, stream bank erosion, lakeshore development, nitrate pollution.
	Erosion	Erosion control.
	Erosion	I think work should be done on rivers and ditch banks.
	Erosion	Maintenance and stabilizations of streambanks.
	Erosion/Debris	I would like to see the trees cleaned out of the river and the trees that are going to fall in be taken down before they take the whole bank.
	Flood Control	Flood Control.
	Flood Control	Need to control spring or heavy rain flooding.
	Flood Control	The retention structures control the flooding, but they do little to protect and control the pollution.
	Flood Control	Live mostly on Deer Creek Watershed.
	Flood Control	Flood Control.
	Funding	Water resources are very important. However, we must be careful some don't make it so expensive that we cause farmers to be put out of business. Taxes are very high now and we must recognize there is a limit what people can pay.
	Ordinances	Example of WHAT NOT TO DO: When a large corporation comes into the area to make some cash - weigh the long term costs of the effects to the river. (Washed sand operation). Someone permitted them to put a "temp" (?) culvert in the river. When the water came up in the spring it caused an ice jam and backed up water on my property. When the bank by the ice jam washed out, there was damage by a county bridge as well as damage to the river bank on my property. Should the company that put the culvert in the river be responsible? Or the agency that allowed them to do it? Location: Hwy 19 & Lyon Co. Road 13 North. The culvert is still sitting on their property at this time. They took it out of the river, but too late for me.
	Precipitation	Rain to produce crops.
	Recreation	Recreation.
	Urban Runoff	Areas of 100% runoff need more attention.
	Water Quality	Water quality.
	Water Quality	Fail to see the water quality aspect on .5, .3, .8 acre potholes that dot my fields. This is one of the dirty little secrets of the CRP Program.
	Water Quality	I think all the water needs to be protected, but should be controlled sensibly - one plan for one farm doesn't all fit to others.
	Water Quality	Pollution control.
	Water Quality	A less polluted waterway. All.
	Water Quality	Water quality to support.
	Water Quality	Control sediment to increase floral fauna capacity of the river reproduction of O2 levels.

Water Quality	Excess water needs to be kept clean.
Water Retention	Hold water back on the land (Especially in areas that are over aquifers.

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

Subcategory	Response
BMPs	I have buffer strips on most of my farmland, plus holding ponds and water retention.
BMPs	Come up with a plan and start. In this area, buffer strips, basins, waterways and enhanced tile outlets.
BMPs	DO NOT want to fence creek banks on pastures.
Buffer Strips	More use of CRP buffer strips (corral approach rather than the slick).
Cooperation	Cut fertilizer use in cities, golf courses, work places, etc.
Cooperation	There are numerous ways utilities (cities) can help.
Cooperation	Existing studies have been made by Corps, Universitys on runoff, recharge, etc.
Cooperation	I signed w/MPCA as a water quality sediment volunteer.
Cooperation	Educate lakeshore landowners.
Debris Removal	We try to clean up the dead trees as much as we can but most jobs are too big.
Debris Removal	Having tree falls removed.
Debris Removal	Help in planning tree work is a feasibility.
Drainage Management	Close intakes with more subsurface tile.
Drainage Management	Tiling to reduce surface runoff and slow down soil erosion into the creeks.
Drainage Management	Removing sedimentation in rivers to increase capacities and flow.
Drainage Management	How about tiling farmable wetlands to increase holding capacity.
Education	Biggest fear is loss of local control.
Tillage Practices	Leave as much as possible residue on the ground during fall tillage. Apply fertilizer in the spring.
Tillage Practices	Conservation/minimum tillage.
Tillage Practices	Use soil tillage methods that do the most to protect water resources.
Tillage Practices	Conservation tillage practices.
Water Quality	Lakes and streams in this watershed have been eutropic since glacial melt out. To bring the nutrient content to a lesser extent may indeed not be feasible.
Water Quality	I think it is a good idea to clean up our water so long as it doesn't become to expensive. As I don't live close to a stream or creek, I am not as directly involved as some who live close to one.
Water Retention	Water retention, dams.
Water Retention	I have installed sediment blockes and retention ponds.
Water Retention	Maintain retention basins.