

YELLOW MEDICINE **ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN** ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
May 4, 2016
MNDOT Conference Room, Marshall MN

Committee Members Present:

Gary Crowley, Roger Dale, Dennis Johnson, Dennis Klingbile, Robert Olson, Rodney Stensrud, and Dale Sterzinger.

Planning Work Group Members Present:

Jason Beckler and Mark Hiles-BWSR, John Biren—Lyon Environmental/SWCD, Emily Javens-YMRWD, Jolene Johnson-Yellow Medicine Environmental Office, LouAnn Nagel-Yellow Medicine SWCD, Kerry Netzke-Area II, Pauline VanOverbeke -Lincoln SWCD.

Agency Members Present:

Spencer Herbert-MDA, Amanda Strommer-MDH, Mike Weckwerth-MPCA, and Lucas Youngsma-DNR.

Others Present:

Ron Antony, Yellow Medicine County Commissioner.

Kerry Netzke called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Attendees introduced themselves.

Recap of the Previous Advisory Board Meeting

The last meeting of the Advisory Committee occurred on September 9, 2015. At that meeting, it was decided that the Planning Work Group should meet to address the Targeted Implementation Plan and explains why the Advisory Committee has not met since then. The Advisory Committee and Policy Committee had a joint meeting on September 30, 2015 where the SAM software was demonstrated. Since then, SAM has been utilized by the Technical Advisory Committee on December 15, 2015 to verify that the Measurable Goals could be attained by the suite of activities included in the Targeted Implementation Plan.

Recap of Work since the last Meeting

Emily Javens accepted the position as Administrator for the Yellow Medicine River Watershed District and has been serving in that capacity since February 29. Her knowledge and background of the YM 1W1P is priceless as she continues to serve on the Planning Work Group.

Due to the unforeseen delays, the MOA and grant agreement have been extended to June 30, 2017. A Change Order has been executed with RESPEC for an additional \$20,900 for consultant services. When the contract was signed, 12 meetings were envisioned. To date, the total meetings have surpassed 30. The change order amount was available in the grant, however it will decrease the number of paper copies of the final plan that were initially intended. All the pilot projects have gone over their estimated budgets, so the Yellow Medicine pilot is not unique.

Update on the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) and TMDL

Weckwerth noted that the TMDL and WRAPS documents were sent to St. Paul on April 27 for final review and approval. The Marshall office is awaiting that approval before starting the 30-day public notice. It is anticipated that the 30-days will start May 16 and run through June 15. Weckwerth was asked if any of the suggested comments that were offered by the Planning Work Group were included in the documents. He responded that some of the comments/revisions were included. Both documents are available on the MPCA website:

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-ws4-13a.pdf>

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-iw7-41b.pdf>

Weckwerth added that the Division Director was very impressed with the WRAPS document and the amount of work put into the effort by the local partners.

Revised Work Plan and Deadlines

Netzke recapped the important upcoming deadlines:

<i>Complete Revisions to the DRAFT Plan</i>	<i>May 15</i>
<i>Formal 60-day Review</i>	<i>May 16 - July 15</i>
<i>Public Hearing (no sooner than 14 days following end of Review)</i>	<i>August 1 – 15</i>
<i>BWSR Approval:</i>	
<i>Southern Region Water Plan Committee</i>	<i>August/September</i>
<i>BWSR Board of Directors</i>	<i>September 28</i>
<i>Local Adoption (w/in 120 days of BWSR Approval)</i>	

Review, Discuss and Form Recommendations on DRAFT Plan Document

Javens provided a handout which outlines the most significant parts of the Plan document. In addition, the DRAFT Targeted Implementation Plan (Chapter 4) was distributed and thoroughly reviewed with the Advisory Committee. The Planning Work Group will meet following the meeting today, to refine the Targeted Implementation Plan items.

Comments regarding the Targeted Implementation Plan include:

- 1) The cost/acre of the BMPs should be removed from each action item as those costs/payment rates will change over the course of the 10-year plan.
- 2) Removal of log jams and repairing sloughed streambanks are a logical approach to address the sediment issue. Javens noted that the YMRWD spends \$10,000/year on river maintenance; however this is not included in the document. An action item will be added that specifies this ongoing effort. Under Priority Concern 2, Objective 2: a geomorphological assessment is proposed that would use the Terrain Analysis to identify areas and support the prioritization of bank repair/restorations in each of the 7 priority subwatersheds.
- 3) A legend is needed to explain the acronyms used.
- 4) Priority Concern 1, Objective 1: more cover crops are over-wintering than before. It is felt that this trend will increase with time.
- 5) Priority Concern 2, Objective 1: for the “Administer Working Lands Initiative (WLI) Program” action item, there is a Prairie Coteau Local Technical Team (LTT) that oversees \$60,000/year for projects within their priority areas of the Prairie Core and Corridor. This language will be changed accordingly.
- 6) Priority Concern 1, Objective 4: the Environmental Offices, SWCDs and Drainage Authorities have seen increased coordination between their offices within the last 3 to 5 years. This is expected to only get better as time goes on.
- 7) Priority Concern 1, Objective 1: regarding the MN Water Quality Certification Program, the counties are being successful in achieving 10 applicants, however only 1 to 3 applicants are progressing with the certification. Conventional tillage practices and open intakes are nearly impossible to certify into this program. Consensus of the group was that the promotion of this program should continue with a goal of 5 applicants for the watershed. EQIP is setting aside special funding for those who do achieve certification.

Antony mentioned that there is a general fear of stricter regulations that may evolve from the development of these Plans. How do the elected officials dispel those fears? 1W1P is simply a new method of watershed

management based on watershed boundaries, rather than county boundaries. The Plan utilizes existing information and programs to apply to new goals that are measurable. Reportability and accountability already exist and this Plan will be no different in those respects. This Plan does have flexibility in that it will be reviewed every 2 years, and if different or more priority areas are necessary, the change can be made.

The section entitled “Regulatory Controls and Enforcement” is somewhat alarming to the reader. Hiles explained that this section is required which is meant to summarize the existing controls that are already in place and to identify any gaps in those controls. There is no new regulations being imposed with the Plan. It was suggested that this section be renamed “Existing Regulatory Controls” to not sound quite as alarming.

A motion was made by Robert Olson, and seconded by Dennis Johnson, to recommend the DRAFT Plan with the revisions to be made as discussed. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Steps

The Technical Implementation Plan will be revised as discussed and as amended this afternoon by the Planning Work Group. The recommendation to approve the DRAFT Plan document will be acted upon by the Policy Committee that will meet May 11, 2016 at 9:00 at the BWSR Conference Room -- Marshall, MN. Any last minute edits to the Plan document will be completed by May 16, 2016 so that the commencement of the 60-day review may begin. All ten 1W1P partners (Lincoln, Lyon, YM Counties – Lincoln, Lyon, YM SWCDs – YMRWD – Area II) will review and offer comments on the document during this 60-day period (May 16 – July 15).

With no other business, Netzke declared the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Netzke, Executive Director - Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects, Inc.