

YELLOW MEDICINE **ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN** ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
July 8, 2015
Lyon County Government Center, Marshall MN

Committee Members Present:

Galen Boerboom, Roger Dale, Mike Gunlogson, Dennis Johnson-NRCS, Dennis Klingbile, Tyler Knutson-Yellow Medicine SWCD, Luke Olson-Lyon SWCD, Robert Olson-Lincoln County Environment Office, Rodney Stensrud, Dale Sterzinger-Lincoln SWCD, and Emma Volz-YMRWD.

Planning Work Group Members Present:

Jason Beckler, Matt Drewitz and Mark Hiles-BWSR, Jolene Johnson-Yellow Medicine Environmental Office, LouAnn Nagel-Yellow Medicine SWCD, Kerry Netzke-Area II, Cindy Potz-YMRWD, and Pauline VanOverbeke -Lincoln SWCD.

Agency Members Present:

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

Others Present:

RESPEC Consultant -- Emily Javens, Melissa Lewis-BWSR-St. Paul, Levi Campion-Lincoln NRCS, and John Boulton-YMRWD.

Kerry Netzke called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Attendees introduced themselves.

Flyover Video of the Yellow Medicine River Watershed

DNR Area Hydrologist Lucas Youngsma presented a 6-minute video developed by DNR which simulates a flyover of the Yellow Medicine River. The video starts at the headwaters and ends at the confluence with the Minnesota River. A video of the South Branch Yellow Medicine River is also available for viewing. Youngsma stated that the program links could easily be put on the website for access. The committee suggested that DNR develop a video of the Spring Creek tributary specifically. The committee expressed appreciation to Youngsma for providing this unique view of the Yellow Medicine River.

Update on the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS)

MPCA Project Manager Mike Weckwerth gave a brief status of the WRAPS development. The author of the document, Joanne Boettcher, is estimating that the draft WRAPS with incorporated TMDL numbers will be available in 7-10 days. MPCA received the updated HSPF model results on June 22. This slowed progress as the document was anticipated to be ready for review on June 30. When the draft becomes available, it will be provided to the work group for comments. After revisions are made, the document will then be released for public comment. The TMDL report is further along as the interval review has been completed. MPCA has begun the process of submission to EPA for comments. MPCA feels that HSPF model results/calculations may be off and are being reviewed for accuracy.

Recap of the Previous Advisory Board Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting on June 10 were provided via email. Javens provided a 2-page summary of the work completed at the last meeting listing Mission/Vision Statements, Priority Values for the Watershed, "Don't Forget" items to include, Targeting and Measurable Goals Ideas, and Implementation Plan Ideas.

Review List of Resources and Beneficial Uses and Gain Consensus on Issues Impacting Resources

Javens presented a synthesis of priority resources spreadsheet where the resources worth protecting/beneficial uses were listed. The committee discussed and added to the resources list.

Animal Agriculture was added as a resource worth protecting. Manure stock piles and spread of manure too close to water sources is an issue as well as overgrazed pastures which cause soil loss/erosion. With ample livestock production, an increase of cover crops (alfalfa, wheat, oats) is witnessed. The crop canopy in early May is important to keep the soil, especially at higher elevations, in place. A larger diversity of crops other than corn and soybeans is desirable.

Lake Shaokatan was also discussed at length as it has recently been choked by native vegetation to the point where recreation is impossible. Many feel this occurred as the water may be too clean allowing the sun to penetrate to deeper depths and allowing those native plants to thrive. Fish have been washing up on the shore for unknown reasons. DNR Shallow Lakes has been contacted regarding the problem, although little can be done as the vegetation is not invasive.

Groundwater contamination was discussed. Public wells are protected, however private wells are more unknown. Most residences are connected to Lincoln/Pipestone Rural Water; 95% of Lincoln County utilizes rural water. Private wells are reportedly high in sulfate and iron, and also high in nitrate at deeper depths. Groundwater quantity and recharge are more of an issue than contamination.

Boat pollution was mentioned as a potential issue. The conversation of oars to gas motors, increased wave action, and propellers stirring up bottom sediments were issues of concern mentioned.

Finish Prioritizing Resource Concerns

Using the spreadsheet developed by Javens, groups worked to prioritize resources by: committee vote, zonation results, comment letters, and local plan priorities. Once these numbers were established by the groups, discussion evolved into how to weight the scores. Consensus of the committee was to establish weight as follows:

*Citizen Comments	5%	
*City Comments	3%	
*Committee Vote	37%	*Comments will have a total weight of 45%
**Plan: YMRWD	7%	
**Plan: LQP County	7%	
**Plan: Lincoln County	7%	
**Plan: Lyon County	7%	
**Plan: YM County	7%	**Plans will have total weight of 35%
***BWSR Comments	8%	
***DNR Comments	3%	
***MDA Comments	3%	
***MDH Comments	3%	
***MPCA Comments	3%	***Agency Comments will have total weight of 20%

At 11:30, a lunch break was taken. The committee reconvened at 12:30 p.m.

Define How to Measure Progress Towards Goals

The committee was split into groups to discuss ways to actually measure progress towards the prioritized goals. Groups wrote down on large cards their ideas of measuring each goal.

Begin Targeting

The committee was broken into groups again and was assigned with the task of listing ways to target practices under the headings of: Lakes, Ag Land, Rivers/Streams, and Floodwater Storage. Each group rotated around the room and listed their own ideas under the headings. Javens will summarize these for the next meeting.

Next Meeting

August 5 has been scheduled as the next meeting date. This date falls within the 3-day FarmFest event which may conflict with some members. The date was agreeable with most of the committee members and consensus was to keep this date. It is planned to have the Policy Committee meet in the afternoon on August 5 to approve bills and to update them on the progress being made by the Advisory Committee.

With no other business, Netzke declared the meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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