

YELLOW MEDICINE **ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN** ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
August 5, 2015
Lyon County Government Center, Marshall MN

Committee Members Present:

Galen Boerboom, Roger Dale, Tyler Knutson-Yellow Medicine SWCD, Robert Olson-Lincoln County Environment Office, Rodney Stensrud, and Dale Sterzinger-Lincoln SWCD.

Planning Work Group Members Present:

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

Agency Members Present:

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

Others Present:

RESPEC Consultants -- Emily Javens and Cindy McCutcheon, and John Boulton-YMRWD.

Kerry Netzke called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.

Recap of the Previous Advisory Board Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting on July 8 were provided via email. Youngsma reported that flyover videos of the Yellow Medicine River mainstem, North Branch, South Branch, Spring Creek and Mud Creek have been completed. DNR is working on narrating the videos which will come at a later date. Youngsma will provide the videos to Netzke for addition to the 1W1P website. The only computer program that the user requires is GoogleEarth which is a free download.

Update on the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS)

The draft WRAPS document was received on July 17. The Planning Work Group (PWG) spent a half-day reviewing the draft on July 28 with many corrections and suggestions submitted to MPCA for consideration. Overall, the PWG was disappointed as figures and maps did not correspond with the text. Because not all stream reaches were monitored/assessed, it gives the impression that the watershed is in better condition than it is. Weckwerth added that the WRAPS grant with the YMRWD ended June 30, 2015. He received the final documentation by July 31, 2015.

Weckwerth summarized the WRAPS review process. After revisions are made from the PWG and other comments, the draft will undergo an internal MPCA review. Comments are specifically needed on the Strategies Table (Table 12A) by August 11. The TMDL report is further along as the interval MPCA review has begun. After revisions are made to the document, it will be submitted to EPA for preliminary comments. MPCA will respond to the EPA comments and then place both the TMDL and WRAPS on public notice for 30 days.

Consensus of the Advisory Committee is that Table 12A is too technical for their review and comment. The Planning Work Group was asked to complete this review.

Finish Prioritizing Resource Concerns

Javens' goals for today's meeting are:

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| 1 – define priority issues | 2 – write a priority resource statement |
| 3 – discuss 10-year targets | 4 – discuss how we can all work together |

Javens provided a handout summarizing the three priorities from the last meeting: Mitigate Altered Hydrology, Reduce Sediment and Nutrient Transport, and Miscellaneous Concerns. Javens also provided a set of maps entitled *WRAPS Summary of Identified Pollutants and Stressors*. This document included 10-year targets for: altered hydrology, habitat, sediment, phosphorus, nitrogen, and fecal coliform bacteria. Maps from the DNR Zonation Study, a value-based tool, were also provided to the Committee. Zonation identified the very top of the watershed and the MN River Valley corridor as the areas for protection and restoration for multiple benefits, to balance agriculture and conservation. Consensus of the Committee is that multiple benefits are important and need to be included in the purpose statement.

Discussion followed concerning groundwater depletion and the growing use of irrigation. Emerging issues such as this should be included in the Miscellaneous Concerns category so that if future funding becomes available, the issue can be referred to in the Plan on funding applications.

Manure and commercial fertilizer applications were discussed. The group acknowledged that we need a better understanding of bacteria (*E. coli*) and its presence in our environment.

Hiles reminded the Committee that this plan is to be a Comprehensive Plan and must address more issues than water quality. Likewise, the Plan can identify different priorities than those identified in the WRAPS document. We just need to be able to explain why a different direction was chosen.

Discussion focused on what information is needed for the Committee to feel comfortable with the 10-year targets. Upgrades to the Scenario Application Manager (SAM) tool will be completed by September 30, 2015. Javens plans to demonstrate use of the tool at the October meeting. Additionally, RESPEC can run up to 5 new scenarios on the HSPF model which effects the entire watershed. Results of establishing the newly required buffers and climate changes were mentioned as data needs. Javens noted that the annual rainfall amounts have not changed, but the intensity of the storms has. Within the WRAPS development, the consultant Tetra Tech ran 3 scenarios in HSPF which the Technical Work Group chose based on information gathered. It was suggested that Javens analyze those 3 scenarios and report back to this Committee at the September meeting.

Begin More Detailed Targeting

The biggest question is “where do we start?”. Youngsma suggested that breaking the watershed into zones, such as headwaters, transition, flatlands, MN River Valley, would make sense simply based on elevation differences. Consensus of the Committee was to use this zone methodology. A request was made of Javens to create a composite map which includes the nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment and bacteria impairments. Much of the following discussion was technical in nature and confusing to many of the Committee members. It was decided that this is perhaps the time to start breaking down the full committee into the technical and citizen components to keep moving ahead.

Next Meeting

The PWG plus MPCA, DNR and BWSR (MDH declined) agreed to meet on August 13 at 9:00 a.m. with Javens to continue these technical discussions. Meeting location is to be determined.

The next meeting for the Advisory Committee will be September 9, 2015 from 9-Noon in Marshall.

With no other business, Netzke declared the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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