

YELLOW MEDICINE **ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN** ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 9, 2015  
Lyon County Government Center, Marshall MN

**Committee Members Present:**

Doug Albin, Gary Crowley, Dennis Klingbile, Tyler Knutson, Robert Olson, Rodney Stensrud, and Dale Sterzinger.

**Planning Work Group Members Present:**

Jason Beckler, 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, Pauline VanOverbeke -Lincoln SWCD, and Terry Wittnebel—LQP SWCD.

**Agency Members Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

RESPEC Consultant -- Emily Javens, and John Boulton-YMRWD.

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

**Recap of the Previous Advisory Board Meeting**

Minutes of the August 5 meeting on were provided via email. The flyover videos of the Yellow Medicine River main stem, North Branch, South Branch, Spring Creek and Mud Creek have been added to the 1W1P website at [www.area2.org](http://www.area2.org). The only computer program that the user requires is Google Earth which is a free download. At that meeting, it was decided that the Planning Work Group should meet to address the Targeting Strategy.

**Recap of the Planning Work Group Meeting**

Minutes of August 13, 2015 meeting were provided and summarized.

**Update on the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS), TMDL and Terrain Analysis**

Weckwerth stated that the TMDL and WRAPS documents are undergoing internal MPCA review. Comments are to be provided by September 18 for the TMDL, and by September 25 for the WRAPS. After revisions are made to the documents, both 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.

Rick Moore, formerly of University of Minnesota – Mankato Water Resources Center, provided an update of the Yellow Medicine River Watershed Terrain Analysis progress to Lucas Youngsma. The DEM (digital elevation model) has been corrected to follow the route a raindrop will follow to the river. Javens received the DEM about six weeks ago, however the Stream Power Index (SPI) and Contour Topographic Index (CTI) have yet to be completed. These items were expected in back in August. Drewitz stated that he would speak with Kim Musser at the Water Resources Center regarding this. Javens noted that the Terrain Analysis will be very helpful with targeting specific projects in the Implementation Plan. Youngsma added that the Analysis will also identify historical non-contributing areas which do contribute runoff during significant rainfall events.

**1W1P Rough Draft**

Javens' apologized for not emailing the draft sections out in advance. The goal for today's meeting is:

- Review draft sections and make recommendations to the Policy Committee

Everyone is welcome to email language changes and suggestions to Emily directly as she would like to concentrate on the Plan content at this meeting.

Javens provided a handout of the sections that are in very draft form. The document was reviewed by the Committee page-by-page with comments noted and items discussed. Suggested changes include:

- 1) Page 4 – Goals are too brief. Explanation is needed as to why these goals were selected. Perhaps move the information from Page 12 to Page 4.
- 2) Page 5 – lake depths are not correct and not all lakes are listed
- 3) Page 5 – historical data on lake quality would be nice, or perhaps provide a link to a DNR or MPCA website, or the TMDL or WRAPS report, where that information can be found
- 4) Page 5 – suggestion to hyperlink each lake in the table to a website with the historical data
- 5) Page 6 & 7 – add county boundary lines to the maps and fit maps to the page
- 6) The Flooding section needs to be expounded upon to explain the different types of flooding here stemming from: altered hydrology, the Coteau, and crossover flooding from the Lac qui Parle River.
- 7) Page 9 – Remove the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Priority lists and just list the targeted watersheds within the Zones.
- 8) Page 11 – Add ‘Well Sealing’ to the list of Stressors
- 9) Add Monitoring to the Implementation Section
- 10) Pages 13 & 14 – Add ‘rea II Minnesota River Basin Projects, Inc. and floodwater retention to these sections. Implementation Plans – it was recommended that the programs that are ending need to be distinguished from the ongoing or new programs.
- 11) Page 15 – Well sealing and irrigation permits should be added to this section

Consensus of the Committee was to advance the 3 main goals (page 4) and targeting strategy (pages 8-10) to the Policy Committee for approval.

Olson questioned if the Plan will only be available in digital format or if paper copies will be printed. Netzke added that the budget contains funds for printed copies, but in limited number. Olson provided a Crow Wing County “Protect Our Waters” folder with pamphlet information regarding Ag Land Management, Managing our Surface Water & Watersheds, Caring for our Groundwaters, and Preventing Aquatic Invasive Species. Funding for this folder was provided by the Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment. Olson would like to see something similar to this as the majority of the people he serves are older, do not have Internet access or computers.

Discussion followed concerning the overall content of the Plan provided. Committee members had expected to see introductory and background information such as a watershed description, map and state locator map as well as a summary of the major watersheds within the Yellow Medicine River. VanOverbeke called attention to BWSR’s Plan Content guidance document and asked that this guidance be followed in writing this Plan.

#### Work Plan Schedule/Deadlines

Javens distributed a timeline which identified the tasks to be completed, the respective start/end dates, and current status. Concern was raised whether the 2-week time frame from **Task 3.2.5: Complete Final Draft Document** for Review to **Task 4.1: Formal Review** is enough time for the partners to thoroughly review the Plan before submitting to BWSR. Hiles reminded the Committee that a 60-day public comment period would begin December 15 and end February 15, followed by a public hearing within 14 days of the end of the public review. Discussion followed. Consensus of the group was that time should be built in take the final Plan back to the respective counties/SWCDs for review prior to releasing the document for public review. This can be done concurrently too. Hiles added that the Work Plan dates can be changed; Netzke would need to make this request of BWSR and provide justification for the time extension. Some members suggested having a county-wide meeting of the commissioners, SWCD supervisors and other county staff to review the document jointly.

It is felt that the current timeline can be met; however we may be cutting some of the deadlines close given the delays that we have had with the completed WRAPS and now the Terrain Analysis information. Javens added

that the next meeting on September 30 will be full demonstration of the Scenario Application Manager (SAM) tool and the key programmer will be present to answer questions. Javens is also anticipating two meetings in October in order to keep on track. She realizes that the timing with harvest is not ideal.

#### General Comments on the draft Plan Sections

- 1) Biren asked if the DNR's buffer map can be incorporated or amended into the Plan when it is completed in 2016. Drewitz responded that a strategy and action items should be included in the Plan that addresses the forthcoming buffer map.
- 2) Another question was asked whether 1W1P has to be updated every 5 years like Comprehensive Local Water Plans. Hiles answered that updates are required, but the timeline is different.
- 3) Add a Glossary and Acronym List – many readers will not know the definition of Altered Hydrology and other terminology
- 4) Information on Pages 13, 14 and 15 would be better presented in table format than the current format.

#### Group Work – Section Content

Javens broke the Committee into groups and assigned sections to be reviewed.

- Page 16 – Operation & Maintenance.

This plan is to be a Comprehensive Plan and is to address more issues than water quality. This section needs to be expanded greatly to include O&M of existing reservoirs and other floodwater control structures; conservation lands; parks; and transportation systems including cities, townships, highways and railroads.

- Page 17 – Regulation & Enforcement.

Education is more important than regulation.

- Page 18 – Data Collection & Monitoring

Consensus of the group is that YMRWD should conduct the monitoring (quality and quantity) of the watershed as well as the repository of the data collected. YMRWD could fund monitoring through grant applications or by their own taxing authority.

- Page 19 – Information, Outreach & Education.

This group noted that Farm Fest is missing from the list. Consensus is that education is more important than regulation. Good promotional materials, like the Crow Wing County folder, are helpful.

#### Next Meeting

The next meeting for the Advisory Committee will be September 30, 2015 from 9-Noon, Lyon County Government Center, Rooms 1 & 2 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, in Marshall, MN.

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.