

YELLOW MEDICINE **ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN**  
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
February 10, 2016  
BWSR Conference Room – 1400 East Lyon Street -- Marshall MN

Members Present:

Rick Anderson, Ron Antony, Gary Crowley, Joe Drietz, Tim Dritz, Gary Johnson, Luke Johnson, Glen Sorensen, and Hollis Weber.

Planning Work Group Members Present:

Jason Beckler, Mark Hiles, Jolene Johnson, and Kerry Netzke.

Others Present:

Emily Javens – RESPEC, and John Boulton – YMRWD.

Secretary Sorensen called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Introductions were made.

Agenda

Motion made by Luke Johnson, seconded by Rick Anderson, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Minutes

Motion made by Antony, seconded by Drietz, to approve the December 9, 2015 Policy Committee meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Netzke presented the Treasurer's Report for the months of December 2015 and January 2016. Expenses for the period were \$25,975.19. Remaining grant funds on hand are \$24,886.87. An additional 10% of the grant (\$19,161.00) is available for reimbursement following project completion. Bills for payment approval totaling \$19,192.32 include: RESPEC (*month of December*) \$9,011.25; RESPEC (*month of January*) \$10,131.50; Area II (*December*) \$41.99; and Area II (*February*) \$7.58. Motion made by Drietz, seconded by Luke Johnson, to approve the Treasurers Report and the bills for payment. Motion carried.

Grant Budget Status; Grant Extension Request

Associated with the Work Plan extension, an extension to the grant is necessary as the current expiration date is June 30, 2016. Netzke presented the draft letter to BWSR requesting a Grant Amendment to extend the grant one year to June 30, 2017. Jason Beckler, BWSR Conservationist has drafted the Grant Amendment. Motion made by Crowley, seconded by Weber, to approve the request and to authorize Netzke's signature on the Grant Amendment. Motion carried.

Netzke presented the Committee with a budget spreadsheet which details the Plan Development and Grant Administration tasks and estimated costs. As of January 31, 2016, RESPEC has utilized the full amount of their contract of \$145,840. The work completed by RESPEC has been within the Scope of Services other than the 12 estimated meetings have now surpassed 30 meetings. Some of the meetings were conducted via Webex, however the Planning Work Group felt that these were not productive meetings as compared to face-to-face meetings. The Committee asked if all the meetings were

necessary given the delays that the project has encountered. The answer was 'yes' and the BWSR staff spoke to the effect that all the pilot projects have gone over estimated budget. Part of the pilot process is learning how much time and effort is required to complete a successful project. Netzke asked RESPEC to estimate the hours needed to get us through Plan Development. RESPEC is estimating 274 hours at a cost of \$32,880 as detailed in the handout. RESPEC realizes the budget constraints and will complete the remaining work for \$20,900 as the budget will allow. Netzke added that the number of printed copies of the completed plan will be much less than the 100 planned. The Plan will be available online. It was noted that RESPEC has not billed for any mileage or other expenses; only staff time has been billed. RESPEC's January billing was actually \$15,121.25, however only \$10,131.50 remained on the contract. The Committee was quick to realize that the in-kind contributions are higher than estimated as well. To be fiscally responsible, a formal Change Order was desired that explains the reasons for the Change Order and to stipulate an amount not to exceed \$20,900. Motion made by Antony, seconded by Dritz, for Netzke to execute a Change Order with RESPEC as discussed. Motion carried.

#### Extension of MOA Status

Netzke has received 9 of the 10 MOA amendments. Lyon County Commissioners will act upon their amendment at their February 16, 2016 regular meeting.

#### YMRWD Operations Update

YMRWD members Tim Dritz and John Boulton updated the Policy Committee on the happenings at the District. The District Administrator position has been offered to Emily Javens who has been the Interim Administrator since October. The District cancelled their meeting on February 8 due to blizzard conditions, however Javens' acceptance is expected at their February 15 meeting. Javens has given her notice to RESPEC and will begin her new position with YMRWD on February 29.

#### Progress since December 9<sup>th</sup>

Javens reported that the Scenario Application Manager (SAM) interface tool is up and running. The Technical Advisory Committee met on December 15 to run various scenarios in an attempt to reach the goals set for the watershed. The Planning Work Group has met to review the scenario results and to revise the Measurable Goals which stemmed from the WRAPS identified goals.

#### Approve Measurable Goals and Implementation Plan

Javens provided a handout detailing the Measurable Goals that are being recommended by the Planning Work Group. The spreadsheet lists the stressor, ultimate watershed goal identified by WRAPS, 10-year target identified by WRAPS, and the 2016-2026 1W1P Measurable Goals. Many of the 10-year targets can be met by the 1W1P Measurable Goals except where Altered Hydrology (drainage) is the stressor. Converting 100% of the cropland to grassland could not meet the Altered Hydrology goals. Rather than trying to reduce flow volume and peak flows, the Measurable Goals will be to add 1,000 acre-feet of new stormwater storage and achieve no net increase in highest annual peak flows. Javens further explained that the WRAPS identified goals are meant to meet clean water standards and to remove impaired status. The 1W1P Measurable Goals are the more realistic, attainable goals which can be measured and verified.

To achieve these Measurable Goals, Implementation Plan spreadsheets listing the conservation efforts and their estimated costs were distributed to the Committee. It was explained that long-term monitoring will be needed to determine whether the implemented efforts are producing measurable results. At this time, there is no base line data to start from. The 1W1P will be updated after 5 years at which time changes can be made to the current plan of action if needed. Discussion followed.

In summary, the Implementation Plan includes:

Goal 1: Mitigate Altered Hydrology	\$20,587,160 in cost-share/incentive projects \$ 3,400,000 in capital improvements
Goal 2: Minimize Transport of Sediment, Nutrients and Bacteria	\$25,311,288 in cost-share/incentive projects \$ 1,200,000 in capital improvements
Goal 3: Protect and Preserve Groundwater	<u>\$ 125,000 in cost-share/incentive projects</u>
TOTAL	\$50,623,448

Motion was made by Crowley, seconded by Gary Johnson, to approve the Measurable Goals and Implementation Plan as presented. Motion carried.

Next Meeting

The next Policy Committee meeting date is to be determined pending release of the draft Plan document. Netzke will announce the next meeting date and location as soon as it is known.

With no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Glen Sorensen, Secretary