

YELLOW MEDICINE **ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN** PLANNING WORK GROUP (PWG)  
MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 27, 2014 – 9:00 am – Lyon County Government Center

Present

Julie Blackburn and Emily Javens – RESPEC; Kerry Netzke; John Biren; Lou Ann Nagel; Pauline VanOverbeke; Jolene Johnson; Terry Wittnebel; Mark Hiles, Matt Drewitz and Jason Beckler – BWSR; Amanda Strommer – MDH; Lucas Youngsma – DNR; and Mike Weckwerth – MPCA.

Julie Blackburn has taken over meeting facilitation in order for Emily Javens to represent the watershed district's interests in our continuing progress on the Plan development.

**YMRWD Update:** The Board of Managers has chosen to have RESPEC provide interim administrative services and to apply for a PRAP grant from BWSR for assistance with determining their administrative needs. Javens will be in the watershed office on Mondays from 9:00-4:00 and working 12 hours/week for the District.

Blackburn handed out two post-it notes to each attendee. On one note, we were asked to describe our feeling regarding the Plan with one word. On the second note, write our greatest concern as to what the Plan will not address specifically. Attendees shared some of their concerns aloud which included:

- Not addressing the LQP portions that drain directly into the MN River
- Implementation Plan and actions not including all of the that SWCDs do
- Plan not meeting the 10-year goals
- Capital improvements
- Required commitments of the partners
- Floodwater Retention being a reactive practice rather than a proactive one

Blackburn presented a PowerPoint illustrating the history of water planning and how funding was opportunistic. Due to that, water plans included '*everything but the kitchen sink*' and were not targeted and intentional. With the Clean Water Legacy legislation, Prioritize-Target-Measure is the new standard for business. Discussion included: the need to identify and target non-contributing basins and coordinating programs for funding; status of the YM Terrain Analysis and how it would be beneficial in our planning effort; and concern about measuring results when practices remain voluntary (no control of the neighbor installing 18 intakes after you removed 8). Drewitz will contact MSU to inquire on the status and potential delivery date of the Terrain Analysis.

Blackburn explained that today's Gap Exercise is prep for scenario development. Three groups were formed: Coteau, Transition Zone, and Flat Lands. These groups worked in 1-hour rotations addressing groundwater, reducing transport of pollutants, and mitigating altered hydrology. The groups identified data needs, redefined goals set by WRAPS, prioritized practices to address the concern, and listed other concerns not being addressed. These results were shared/discussed with the other groups.

Blackburn shared the one word comments written at the start of today's meeting. These comments included: anxious, uncertain, frustrated, rushed, etc. Blackburn further explained that she has met with BWSR staff and expressed concern over the need to have a quality product to ensure the future of the 1W1P effort. One other pilot (NW Minnesota) is also experiencing delays and has requested an extension to the deadline. BWSR is in agreement to allow the YM 1W1P also request an extension to

the overall deadline. Blackburn anticipates that this will be a few months, however a new timeline has not yet been drafted. The PWG was in agreement with this extension and feels better knowing that a quality Plan can be developed with adequate time to utilize SAM, discuss governance, investigate shared staff, and a thorough final review of the Plan. Hiles and Beckler were asked to not act upon the previous request until RESPEC can formulate a new, reasonable timeline. A revised extension request will be made at that time.

Blackburn shared the results of the SurveyMonkey survey (taken by the PWG members) about the intended audiences and what is the best way to communicate with those audiences. The survey identified that education opportunities exist to educate the watershed residents and raise their awareness and concerns for water quality.

The next PWG meeting will be on Wednesday, November 4, 2015 meeting will be at Lyon County Government Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor – Rooms 4 & 5, Marshall, MN from 11:30 – 4:00. Netzke will arrange for box lunches – Drewitz and Johnson will not be able to attend.

The Advisory Committee meeting that was scheduled for November 4 will be cancelled and an explanation given to the AC and PC.

Additional November meetings for the PWG were set:

- Tuesday, November 10 in Marshall
- Tuesday, November 17 in Marshall (tentative SAM workshop for technical staff)

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kerry Netzke, Area II Executive Director