

YELLOW MEDICINE **ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN** PLANNING WORK GROUP (PWG)  
MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 17, 2015 – 9:00 am  
Lyon County Government Center – Rooms 4 & 5

Present

Julie Blackburn, Emily Javens, Seth Kenner and Cindie McCutcheon – RESPEC; John Biren; Jolene Johnson, Tyler Knutson, Randy Kraus, Michelle Overholser, Kerry Netzke; Dale Sterzinger, Pauline VanOverbeke; Terry Wittnebel; Mark Hiles, Jason Beckler and Ed Lenz – BWSR, Lucas Youngsma – DNR, Spencer Herbert – MDA, Mike Weckwerth – MPCA.

Introductions were made.

Blackburn recapped the language used for prioritization and targeting which will be defined in the Plan. To use SAM for targeting, the Terrain Analysis tool known as ACPF (available June 2016) will actually provide the finer scale placement of projects and refined targeting efforts. The level of detail may be too refined for wholesale watershed management. A question was asked if SAM will be able to accommodate the “zone” theme – and the answer is ‘yes’.

PWG will talk annual planning this afternoon –

A tutorial of SAM was presented to the group by Seth Kenner, SAM developer. The group was broken into smaller groups with access to laptops for hands-on use.

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Following lunch, the technical staff remained with Seth Kenner to run actual scenarios based on the “zones”. Scenarios included cover crops, wetlands, combined cover crops and wetland, and the combined scenario with climate change. Then reductions will be calculated at end of the priority area and at the outlet of the Yellow Medicine River.

The PWG convened in Room 7 with the following members present:

Emily Javens and Julie Blackburn – RESPEC, John Biren, Jolene Johnson, Kerry Netzke, Pauline VanOverbeke, Terry Wittnebel, Mark Hiles – BWSR, and Lucas Youngsma – DNR.

Blackburn presented some examples of annual work plans from various sources. The work plan needs to address administration, governance issues, education/outreach in addition to the BMPs planned. Annual or Biennial planning is necessary according to the Plan Content document “Administration – Describe how to transition from planning partnership to implementation of watershed based plan.” Discussion moved to governance and formal agreement options. Blackburn presented an array of options that the Policy Committee will need to decide upon. Within the Root River plan, a simple spreadsheet was found and discussed. For the watershed district to provide governance, state law stipulates that a watershed district cannot fund activities outside of its statutory boundaries which would omit the triangular, orphaned areas of the YM 1W1P boundary. The desire is to keep the coordination high, but the formality of the agreement as loose as allowable. Perhaps a MOA would stipulate that an annual plan/report would be signed by all 10 partners. Pros and cons of a MOA were discussed at length as it is envisioned as the best fit. Grant/fiscal reporting could be done on an individual level, specific to the grant. Reporting on the progress of meeting Plan goals may be coordinated by the YMRWD. The MOA would not include shared governance, only shared

implementation. Without shared governance, how are we going to meet our goals? A Biennial summit was discussed whereby the partners would report on progress, evaluate governance, and recommend adaptive measures needed. The Planning Work Group will remain intact but will be called the Plan Work Group upon Plan adoption. The Technical Advisory Committee will meet as needed and be called upon by Plan Work Group. Other committees will be determined by biennial planning.

Decisions made: Biennial Plan instead of annual plan; MOU formal agreement; and Biennial Summit.

The current MOA expires 6/30/16. This will need to be extended through the end of 2016. Contract with RESPEC may or may not need extension as well. RESPEC's duties went through the Public Notice period. The grant agreement with BWSR may or may not need to be extended as it also expires 6/30/16.

**December 9 PC Agenda –**

- Approve Minutes (Kerry)
- Approve Treasurers Report & Payment of Bills (Kerry)
- Watershed District Update (YMRWD)
- Review Timeline (Kerry)
- Approve revised Work Plan, extend grant, extend existing MOA (Kerry)
- Summarize progress since 9/30/15 meeting (RESPEC)
  - Monitoring
  - Inventories
  - 3 major goals, and refined priority goals
  - Education, outreach
  - Plan administration
    - Scale of governance
    - Philosophies which are the basis of the recommendations
  - Recommendations:
    - MOA
    - Plan Work Group
    - Biennial Summit
    - Biennial Planning
- PC action on recommendations
- Next Meeting

**Next meeting**

- Wednesday, December 9, 2015      Lyon County Govt Center – Rooms 4 & 5
  - 10:00 – 12:00 Policy Committee Meeting
  - 1:00 – 4:00 Planning Workgroup Meeting

Pizza Ranch and MERIT center are possible locations as the Lyon County Government Center will not have conference rooms after January 1 due to ongoing construction/remodeling.

- Tuesday, January 12 PWG & TC to review Implementation Plan \*remind PWG to invite TC
  - 10:00 – 3:00 \*send out in advance

Meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kerry Netzke, Area II Executive Director