

YELLOW MEDICINE **ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN**
PLANNING WORK GROUP (PWG) and TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (TC) MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 26, 2016 – 9:00 AM
BWSR Conference Rooms – Marshall, MN

Present

Julie Blackburn, Emily Javens – RESPEC; Chris Balfany (YM Ditch Inspector), Jeff Berens (Lincoln SWCD), John Biren, Jolene Johnson, Tyler Knutson (YM SWCD), LouAnn Nagel, Kerry Netzke, Robert Olsen (Lincoln Co. Environmental), Luke Olson (Lyon SWCD), Michelle Overholser (LQP SWCD), Dale Sterzinger (Lincoln SWCD), Pauline VanOverbeke; Terry Wittnebel; Mark Hiles, and Jason Beckler – BWSR, Lucas Youngsma – DNR, and Amanda Strommer – MDH.

Objectives for today:

- 1 – finish goals
- 2 – finish implementation plan
- 3 – review/discuss monitoring plan
- 4 – discuss model ordinances
- 5 – education plan

Javens recapped the December 15, 2015 TC work session where scenarios were revised and ran through SAM for results. Javens verified these results as presented them in handouts. Some of the 10-year goals are within reach while others are worlds away. Some ideas were discussed to manipulate the results. Firstly, the extreme storm events within the 15-year period could be removed which would make the results more realistic. Secondly, we would manipulate the overall 20% reduction goal: targeting an increase in base flows and reduction of flood flows. WRAPS recommendations were 20% reduction in volume, 25% reduction in peak flow, and 3% increase in base flow.

Regarding Goal 1, is no net increase (status quo) a success? Much discussion followed. Consensus of the group was to revise the Altered Hydrology goal to: no net increase in flow, and 3% increase in base flow. Additionally, a goal of attaining 1,000 acre-feet of floodwater storage in 10-years is to be added as a measurable goal.

Regarding Goal 3: Groundwater, there is to be no restrictions on well sealing. Cost-share is to be offered for well sealing with or without a property transfer.

Javens presented Implementation Plan Summaries for the three prioritized goals: Altered Hydrology \$20,587,160; Minimize Transport \$25,311,288 + \$1,200,000 for Capital Improvements; and Groundwater \$125,000. Costs were estimated using 2016 EQIP rates; easement costs are not included. Overall, a \$45 million investment is needed to meet 10-year goals. Discussion followed. Blackburn asked to keep these costs in perspective: \$10/lb of P reduced compared to \$600/lb of P reduced in urban settings. Hiles added that cost-share pays 75% while an incentive may pay 5-10%. Many asked if we should “dream big” or “dream realistic”. Farmer revenue projections are very low which will put many producers into survival mode with no money for conservation. Some view this as an opportunity as producers may choose to retire unproductive croplands. To reduce the overall costs, an option could be to remove a priority watershed(s) from the noncontributing areas. Consensus of the group was to leave the priority areas as determined. The Biennial Summit and 5-year plan update would provide opportunities to revise that decision if it was felt necessary. In addition, water and sediment control

basins (WSCBs) are to be added to the SAM model on 2.5% of the land, and to change the contributing watershed size to 10 acres instead of 20 acres. The possibility of CREP3 would also improve overall results as well as voluntary cover crops.

Following the noon break, small groups were formed to review the model ordinances that Blackburn handed out with instructions to select the top 5, strike out any that you cannot live with, and make revisions to the rest. Ordinances for Goals 1 & 3 were completed this way with the small groups sharing their results with the whole group. For Goal 2, the use of existing ordinances is planned to include the new buffer law, new soil loss ordinance, NPDES requirements, and any others.

Lastly, the draft Monitoring chapter from the Plan was distributed. Everyone is asked to review and comment on the contents. Blackburn is particularly interested in Section 5.0 addressing Future Monitoring Options.

Next meeting

- Wednesday, February 24 **PWG & TC** at Marshall Pizza Ranch 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry Netzke, Area II Executive Director