

YELLOW MEDICINE **ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN** POLICY COMMITTEE (PC)
MEETING MINUTES
August 5, 2015
Lyon County Government Center, Marshall MN

Members Present:

Tim Buysse, Allen Deutz, Joe Drietz, Tim Dritz, Gary Johnson, Jeff Johnson, Luke Johnson, Roy Marihart and Rodney Stensrud.

Planning Work Group Members Present:

John Biren, Matt Drewitz, Mark Hiles, Jolene Johnson, LouAnn Nagel, Kerry Netzke, and Pauline VanOverbeke.

Others Present:

Emily Javens, PE – RESPEC.

Vice Chairman Marihart called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Agenda

Netzke requested that an addition be made to the Agenda to discuss mileage compensation for citizen Advisory Committee members. Motion by Jeff Johnson, seconded by Luke Johnson, to approve the Agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Minutes

Motion by Buysse, seconded by Dritz, to approve the June 17, 2015 Policy Committee meeting minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Netzke presented the Treasurer's Report for the months of June and July. Expenses for the months were \$19,827.70. Funds available are \$27,612.85. Bills for approval totaling \$17,989.05 include: RESPEC (*month of June*) \$10,070.00; Area II (*month of June services*) \$1,123.33; and Area II (*month of July services*) \$830.01. Netzke added that expenses are well within the budget. Motion by Luke Johnson, seconded by Jeff Johnson, to approve the Treasurer's Report and bills for approval. Motion carried.

Update on the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS)

The draft document was received on July 17. The Planning Work Group (PWG) spent a half-day reviewing the draft on July 28 with many corrections and suggestions submitted to MPCA for consideration. Overall, the PWG was disappointed as figures and maps did not correspond with the text. Because not all stream reaches were monitored/assessed, it gives the impression that the watershed is in better condition than it is.

At the Advisory Committee meeting this morning, MPCA Project Manager Mike Weckwerth gave a brief status report. After revisions are made from the PWG and other comments, the draft will undergo an internal MPCA review. The TMDL report is further along as the internal MPCA review has begun. After revisions are made to the document, it 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.

Gary Johnson asked what the final Plan will look like. The Plan will look much like the county water plan format, but with more information regarding targets and measurable goals.

Advisory Committee Update

The full Advisory Committee met this morning and continued discussions on priority issues and 10-year targets. It was suggested that breaking the watershed into management zones, such as headwaters, transition, flatlands, MN River Valley, would make sense simply based on elevation differences. Consensus of the Advisory Committee was to use this zone methodology. Javens handed out various maps that were provided to the Advisory Committee this morning.

Much of this morning's discussion was too technical in nature for the full Advisory Committee who found it confusing. It was decided that this is perhaps the time to start breaking down the full committee into the technical and citizen components to keep moving forward with the Plan. The PWG plus MPCA, DNR and BWSR (MDH declined) agreed to meet on August 13 at 9:00 a.m. with Javens to continue these technical discussions.

Javens reported that the updated Scenario Application Manager (SAM) tool will be completed on September 30, 2015. She plans to demonstrate how to use the tool in October. Netzke offered a brief explanation of what SAM is as compared to the HSPF model that we have discussed previously.

Mileage Compensation for Citizen Advisory Committee Members

A request was made this morning from a citizen member that mileage compensation be provided. The Advisory Committee is voluntary. Some members are being reimbursed for mileage and per diem by the water plan or county that they represent. Discussion followed. Consensus of the Policy Committee is that this is not a decision that they are at liberty to make. Citizen members are to request reimbursement from their local water plan committees as there may be discretionary funds for this purpose. The decision will be up to the water plan boards for reimbursement.

Watershed Flyover Videos

Netzke reported that flyover videos of the Yellow Medicine River mainstem, North Branch, South Branch, Spring Creek and Mud Creek have now been completed. DNR is working on narrating the videos which will come at a later date. Youngsma will provide the videos to Netzke for addition to the 1W1P website. The only computer program that the user requires is GoogleEarth which is a free download.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting for the Policy Committee will be September 9, 2015 at 1:00 pm in Marshall.

With no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry Netzke, Executive Director
Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects, Inc.