

YELLOW MEDICINE **ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN** PLANNING WORK GROUP (PWG)
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 14, 2014 – 9:00 am WebEx

Present via telephone/WebEx

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

The agenda and new format for the Implementation Plan, as attached, was prepared by Javens for today's discussion. The discussion was to concentrate on the Data Collection and Monitoring, O&M, and Regulation and Enforcement sections addressing mitigating altered hydrology, minimizing pollutant transfer, and groundwater protection.

BWSR staff has expressed concern about the new format in that it lays out action items that are linked back to the priority, instead of focusing on the priority and developing the actions items. Prioritize, Target and Measure has been burned into our heads from Day 1. PWG members offered their opinions relating to this format. Although Javens' layout avoids the duplication that was pointed out last week and has been helpful in "filling in the blanks", the consensus of the PWG was to go back to the former layout putting the priorities first.

Discussion moved to capital improvements and what that definition is. Lewis said that we need to develop our own definition of a capital improvement. One consideration should be who will maintain the project for the long term. Drewitz added that another consideration could be the life span of the project, perhaps a project with a longer life expectancy of 25 years as BMPs normally have a 10-year life span. This will be discussed more next week.

Going back to the Plan, Hiles urged using the science of the WRAPS in the implementation plan. All of us were in agreement using the 'Fist of 5' voting method to agree on the WRAPS content. We should pull that information out of WRAPS, concentrate on the most appropriate practices, and then use SAM to justify the expected results or adjust the number of practices/acres needed to meet those results. Beckler suggests we should start with Table 12B from the WRAPS which lists BMPs, efficiencies, etc., and transform it to fit the 1W1P priorities and goals. VanOverbeke agrees that using a table with information from the existing water plans and incorporating the WRAPS recommendations would be ideal. Javens acknowledges that the PWG is more comfortable with the county water plan format and will go back to that type of plan format. Biren doesn't want to see another plan like the ones we already have, but perhaps it isn't the document or its format that will have the implementation power, but more so the formal agreement of who implements the plan.

Lewis referred to the Plan Content requirement which is to include a Targeted Implementation table. Anticipated programs to be used for implementation are also to be listed. BWSR did not dictate a template to use, only the information to be included.

Javens asked if we are scrapping the work done to date. Consensus of the PWG is that we are not scrapping the information, just adjusting the format to a more user-friendly version.

Javens asked if we could work on the agenda for next week's meeting to give her direction. Consensus was to start with Table 12B from the WRAPS and include the three priority concerns approved to date.

Weckwerth will provide the latest digital copy of WRAPS to the PWG so we are all viewing the same document. Hiles recommended that the LGUs review these tables to rule out the improbable/unlikely practices and focus on practical BMPs that are landowner accepted and proven in the watershed.

Javens continued the discussion pointing out areas where information was needed. Are there regulatory controls relating to pollutant transport goals? Feedlots play a part of this. The ordinances provided to Javens are hundreds of pages long. It was asked if the Plan can identify the differences and gaps and include a timeline where meetings are scheduled in 2016 to combine ordinances with a uniform ordinance approved in 2017. Hiles added that the Plan can include this, however there are 4 people know these ordinances well and could identify gaps within a short amount of time. These preliminary findings could be included in the Plan as well as a timeline to establish a uniform ordinance.

Some feel the need to include the YMRWD at this point, especially relating to their authority and the drainage law. Shoreland ordinances are also to be addressed. Concern was expressed by the PWG that the YMRWD Managers may not be able to provide the information needed and that we should rely on the District's overall plan for policies that have been set. Rather than calling county personnel together to pool information regarding ordinances, we could utilize existing State staff for summarized information as follows:

Kane Radel – BWSR for WCA

Brent Reese – MPCA for feedlots

Aaron Jensen – MPCA for septic ordinances

Lucas Youngsma – DNR for shoreland and water appropriations

Soil loss ordinances – NONE. Drewitz added that only 5 counties in southeastern Minnesota currently have soil loss ordinances. The State Law changed in 2015.

The PWG members were asked to provide the contact information for these listed individuals to Javens who will request the summarized information from them.

Discussion continued by identifying information needs related to mitigating altered hydrology, minimizing pollutant transfer, and groundwater protection.

Netzke has provided the timeline extension request to Hiles and Beckler as discussed and approved by the Policy Committee. Hiles asked if the PWG is comfortable with the tentative timeline or if it should be reviewed as he does not wish to see more than one request for extension. Consensus of the PWG was to answer this question after we meet in person next week.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 21, 2015 meeting will be at Lyon County Government Center, 3rd Floor – Rooms 4 & 5, Marshall, MN from 9:00 – 4:00.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Netzke, Area II Executive Director