

YELLOW MEDICINE **ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN** PLANNING WORK GROUP (PWG)
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 4, 2015 – 11:30 am – Lyon County Government Center

Present

Julie Blackburn and Emily Javens – RESPEC; Kerry Netzke; Luke Olson; Lou Ann Nagel; Pauline VanOverbeke; Mark Hiles and Jason Beckler – BWSR; Amanda Strommer – MDH; Lucas Youngsma – DNR; and Mike Weckwerth – MPCA.

Reminder: 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.

Following lunch, Blackburn asked the participants to describe their feelings regarding the Plan with a short sentence. Responses included:

- More hopeful
- More comfortable, yet concerned with amount of work to do
- Better with each meeting
- More comfortable, but concerned about the Capital Improvements section
- Concerned about capital improvements, the definition and identification of projects

Blackburn acknowledged that the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is an obvious gap as watershed districts are supposed to have one, yet ours does not. The time to generate a CIP is lengthy, and too big of an endeavor to undertake coinciding with 1W1P development. Several ideas were discussed including using historical location data from the PL 87-639 Study for floodwater retention; using information from county highway departments and ditch authorities; and information generated for the WRAPS. It was noted that the projects detailed for the WRAPS were primarily BMPs which do not meet the definition of a capital improvement. Limitations of the 639 Study data were noted: the age of the study, the development of drainage since the Study was completed, and regulatory/environmental concerns since the Study's completion. Discussion also involved "treatment train" type projects or 'phased' projects that require multiple years to accomplish. Consensus of the group was to clearly identify that a CIP is a gap in existing data, yet the group will work collectively to include projects that are currently being considered as a capital improvement. A schedule for development of a CIP will also be laid out.

Blackburn broke the group into the three established groups: Coteau, Transition Zone, and Flat Lands. These groups worked in 45-minute rotations to further define responsibilities, timelines and costs relating to groundwater, reducing transport of pollutants, and mitigating altered hydrology. With the results of today's rotations, Blackburn will have enough information to actually write these sections of the Plan rather than having bullets in these sections.

Between rotations, Blackburn introduced a 'Power and Interest Grid' exercise which helps to identify the stakeholders of a project. The exercise allows you to divide your audience into subjects, players, crowd, and context setters based on their interest and power. The exercise helps analyze who you need to influence in order to reach those stakeholders who hold the most interest AND power.

Following the rotations, a group discussion was held regarding shared services. Blackburn plans to email a spreadsheet for each LGU to complete which inventories their current staff based on regulatory, technical, administration and education duties and abilities. She is predicting a shortfall in manpower to accomplish the goals of the implementation plan. This shortfall may also apply to funding of the Plan

activities. Hiles added that BWSR recently conducted a similar survey of the districts and he will seek those results. The districts also suggested the inventory include “now” and “next year” columns as the technical capacity funding will certainly change the employment of the districts in the next several months.

Blackburn noted that two categories will be added to the Plan: **Data Management** as it has become an expectation of the watershed district, and **Collaboration Tools** including Yammer, SharePoint, DropBox and other electronic communication/sharing tools.

Javens added at the ACPF Tool for the Terrain Analysis should be available June 2016.

Lastly, Blackburn asked the group to think about how we engage the Drainage Authorities for next time.

The next meetings for the PWG are:

- 9:00 – 4:00 Tuesday, Nov. 10 in Marshall (BWSR Conference Room)
- 9:00 – 4:00 Tuesday, Nov. 17 in Marshall (Lyon County Govt Center – Rooms 4 & 5)
SAM workshop for technical staff
NOTE: Three projectors and three hotspots will be needed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Netzke, Area II Executive Director