

YELLOW MEDICINE **ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN** PLANNING WORK GROUP (PWG)
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 10, 2015 – 11:00 am – BWSR Conference Room

Present

Julie Blackburn and Emily Javens – RESPEC; John Biren; Jolene Johnson; Lou Ann Nagel; Kerry Netzke; Pauline VanOverbeke; Terry Wittnebel; Jason Beckler and Matt Drewitz – BWSR.

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.

Blackburn asked the participants to describe their feelings regarding the Plan with a short sentence.

Responses included:

- Happy; Plan is progressing
- Feeling behind, need to catch up
- Unprepared personally; too many other things
- A lot of progress in the last two weeks
- Looks good!
- Things are moving forward

Blackburn presented the draft document as she feels that she has overcome an organizing barrier. SAM is undergoing QA/QC which will take several weeks to complete. Essentially RESPEC uses SAM until an error is discovered and the programmer is notified. After correction, the use of SAM resumes. This process continues until SAM works smoothly and without errors. The optimization tool for SAM is being developed.

During the review of the draft document, the 20% reduction in Altered Hydrology was discussed. Javens added that this was a suggestion from Lucas Youngsma which has not been adopted by the Advisory Committee. The reduction numbers included in the WRAPS document were agreed upon as a good starting point, however we will be utilizing SAM to determine if these reductions are too aggressive for the 10 year planning period. It is hoped that technical staff, along with RESPEC staff, will be able to run some scenarios at the November 17 SAM Training Session to verify these numbers.

Part of the Plan Contents is to include how the priorities were determined and the process. Blackburn has added this section as well as documentation/evidence explaining the priority issues. Within the Emerging Issues discussion, a need for more weather stations was included as evapotranspiration is key to understanding. The increasing intensity of rainstorms has been documented as well as longer dry periods between rains. The shift from TP40 to Atlas 14 data was demonstrated: with a 100-year storm, 5.7" of precipitation is increased to 6.8", a 19.3% increase. With this in mind, the Plan will need to "step it up" to mitigate this climatic change. Additional emerging issues include future irrigation and invasive species (Zebra mussels, Curly-Leaf Pond Weed, etc).

An update on the Terrain Analysis at MSU-Mankato Water Resources Center was offered. The baseline work for the ACPF is done. One employee left for new position and a graduate student has been contracted to begin work following Thanksgiving. Another meeting with WRC will be arranged in December.

Blackburn feels that Education/Outreach section is weak. An exercise relating to the levels of public participation was illustrated explaining the Inform-Consult-Involve- Collaborate-Empower levels identified by IAP2 (International Association for Public Participation). The need to educate the public about the Plan and its existence is important.

Timeline

The group brainstormed to develop a realistic timeline to complete the Plan and all requirements. The most realistic timeline estimates the beginning of the 60-day comment period as May 15, 2016. This would set the Public Hearing for the first part of August, BWSR Southern Region Water Plan Committee Meeting by late August, and submission to BWSR in September for Board approval. Drewitz and Beckler will have a conference call with Melissa Lewis to discuss this timeline and seek comments/concerns. Reasons for this time extension were listed by the group participants. It was recommended that a monthly progress report/update be prepared for the Advisory and Policy Committees as some are beginning to ask where the process is.

Next meetings

- 9:00 – 4:00 Tuesday, Nov. 17 in Marshall (Lyon County Govt Center – Rooms 4 & 5)
SAM workshop for technical staff
The PWG would like to have a side room to continue Plan discussions if it can be arranged. Netzke will locate a room. Biren suggested contacting the Highway Department or Extension Office if no rooms in the government center are available.
- 10:00 – 12:00 Wednesday, December 9, 2015 Policy Committee Meeting
1:00 – 4:00 Planning Workgroup Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Netzke, Area II Executive Director