

YELLOW MEDICINE **ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN**
PLANNING WORK GROUP (PWG) and TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (TC) MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 24, 2016 – 9:00 AM
MNDOT Conference Room – Marshall, MN

Present

Julie Blackburn, Emily Javens – RESPEC; John Biren, Dennis Johnson (Lincoln NRCS), Jolene Johnson, Seth Kodule (LQP SWCD), Tyler Knutson (YM SWCD), LouAnn Nagel, Kerry Netzke, Robert Olsen (Lincoln Co. Environmental), Michelle Overholser (LQP SWCD), Dale Sterzinger (Lincoln SWCD), Pauline VanOverbeke; Terry Wittnebel; Matt Drewitz, Mark Hiles, and Jason Beckler – BWSR, and Lucas Youngsma – DNR.

Objectives for today:

- 1 – finish targeted implementation plan and potential funding sources
- 2 – review information, outreach & education section
- 3 – review monitoring plan
- 4 – discuss regulatory controls (model ordinances from last meeting)
- 5 – timeline for remaining tasks

Netzke updated the committee that the Policy Committee met on February 10, 2016 and approved the Measurable Goals and Implementation Plan.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Javens recapped the edits for the Implementation Plan Summaries for the three prioritized goals. Regarding the Goal 1 spreadsheet, 3rd section down from the top entitled “Treat 2.5% of cropland with water and sediment control basins”, it was suggested that this be retitled “concentrated flow treatment” which is broader classification that would include terraces and other BMPs. With EQIP ranking, this language would add points with a broader base addressing gully erosion.

Hiles noted that the Plan Content Document (page 8) states “5. An estimate of when the implementation will occur within the 10 year timeframe of the plan”. The implementation plan includes the **what** and the **where**, but does not include the **when** or the **how**. Discussion followed on inserting a column into the current implementation plan spreadsheets that lists when the activity will occur and funding sources. Funding for buffers, CRP, feedlots and septic are already available. The new Soil Loss Ordinance is difficult one to estimate cost for as it is whistle blower-driven. Blackburn provided a table entitled “Funding the Plan” which listed sources of funding, the program/fund name, type of assistance (financial or technical), the form of assistance (loan, grant, easement, etc) and which goals it coincides with. Technical Service Area 5 is to be added to this list offering technical assistance. Local funding is not listed and is required as the Plan Content document (page 8) also includes:

“The schedule must clearly identify the actions the planning partners will undertake with the available local funds versus the actions that will be implemented only if other sources of funds become available, and should be supported by maps indicating the locations(s) of the targeted activities.”

LGUs were asked to submit their locally available funds directly to Julie ASAP for inclusion in this table.

Review and discussion of the implementation plan followed. Comments on section 4.3 Operation and Maintenance Programs were provided to Javens. Corrections were noted:

- EQIP projects are only inspected one year after completion
- RIM project are inspected once per year for the first five years, then every 5 years after that
- Easement owners should be called easement holders instead
- Regional wetland restorations should be called wetland banks instead
- Flood retention inspections are conducted annually and after any significant flooding event
- Culvert modification projects will be inspected by YMRWD, Area II and responsible road authorities

Javens included a sample table on page 4-9 that lists the BMP practices and the measurable results measured at the subwatershed outlet as well as at the mouth of YM River. Javens asked if this was helpful information that should be calculated for each of the identified priority areas. Consensus of the group was that this was very informational and should be computed to make grant applications easier.

Any comments on this section should be sent to Emily at the watershed district office. She intends to finish the edits by the end of the week and email to everyone.

INFORMATION, OUTREACH & EDUCATION

A detailed outline of this section was distributed for review. In section 1.2.2, county fairs are to be added to the Face To Face options, and Direct Mailings/Newsletters are to be added to the Marketing and Advertising section. In section 1.3, Contractors, New Staff and Septic/Feedlot Officers are to be added to Training and Workshops; Environmental Fair is to be added to Schools.

The consensus of the group was to continue working through lunch as some members needed to leave by 2:00 today. Lunch was ordered in.

REGULATORY CONTROLS

Two handouts were provided listing Regulatory Controls for Consideration for Goals 1 and 3. Only minor edits were discussed for **Goal 1 – Mitigating Altered Hydrology**. Discussion included changing tiling permittees to the contractor rather than the landowner for consistency. SWCDs voiced some concern of the privacy they face and not being able to share landowner information with the contractors. Edits for **Goal 3 – Protect and Preserve Groundwater Quality and Quantity** were more substantial. Some items were moved to the Education/Outreach section as they were more pertinent. A more positive spin was added to several items to promote compliance to ordinances and management practices, particularly relating to irrigation and water consumption. It was suggested to tie in MDA's nitrogen plan, making sure to address manure. Goal 2 has no new controls as there are enough existing controls in place.

MONITORING PLAN

The Monitoring Plan distributed at the previous meeting was discussed. Netzke commented on page 14 that TSVS and Turbidity have been removed from the WPLMN testing routine due to budget constraints. It was suggested that Kelli Nerem at MPCA-Marshall review the Plan and offer suggestions.

TIMELINE

Implementation Plan narrative and tables will be finished by Emily and emailed by the end of the week. Blackburn will be working on the last chapter (Regulatory Controls) on Tuesday of next week. Jared Oswald and Paul Senne are drafting the Goals section which is to be completed by Wednesday of next week.

The Prioritization chapter should be completed by March 9.

The Executive Summary, Background chapter and Appendices will be completed by March 16.

First round of comments are due to RESPEC by March 28.
Second round of comments will be due by April 26.
The final draft will be available to PWG and others by May 10.

Blackburn requested submitted plan edits in 2 ways:

- 1) Word format where changes can be tracked, primarily for sentence structure and grammatical changes
- 2) Excel spreadsheet to note more substantial comments, such as omitted information. Each tab of the spreadsheet should list the commenter's name.

Next meeting

This is our last face-to-face meeting with RESPEC. Additional meetings, if needed, will be arranged through Webex. Documents will be available using the YAMMER FTP site. The PWG would like to review and compile comments as a group to reduce the redundancy of comments sent to RESPEC.

These future PWG meetings will be:

- Thursday, March 17 Location TBA 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
 - Tuesday, April 19 Location TBA 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- Netzke will arrange room reservations and notify the PWG.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry Netzke, Area II Executive Director