

# Sauk River Watershed – 1 Watershed 1 Plan Policy Committee

## Meeting #7 Notes

March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019; 9:00am; Sauk Centre City Hall, Sauk Centre, MN

In attendance were:

### Policy Committee:

Tyler Carlson (Sauk River Watershed District Manager)

Chuck Uphoff (Stearns Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor)

Tom Williamson (Todd Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor)

Ken Rutten (Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District)

Randy Neumann (Todd County Commissioner)

Cody Rogahn (Pope County Commissioner)

Randy Pederson (Pope Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor – attending in place of Gary Reents)

Steve Notch (Stearns County Commissioner)

### Steering Committee:

Tara Ostendorf (MN Board of Water and Soil Resources)

Ralph Hanson (Pope County Land and Resource Management)

Sarah Boser (Sauk River Watershed District)

Chairman Uphoff called the meeting to order and asked if there were any additions, changes or questions regarding the agenda or the notes from the previous meeting. There were none. Ken Rutten made a motion to approve the agenda and notes, seconded by Tyler Carlson, motion passed with all in favor.

The Mission Statement that was developed at the last Policy Committee meeting had been reviewed and edited by the Advisory Committee. The original statement read, “A resilient landscape that supports a healthy ecosystem and vibrant economy for a sustainable, high quality of life”. The revision from the Advisory Committee read, “A resilient landscape balancing a sustainable ecosystem, economy, and quality of life”.

It was noted that the Advisory Committee liked the statement and that there was quite a bit of discussion about it. They ended up shortening it slightly. Ralph Hanson liked the change. Tyler Carlson felt that the statement ended up being too watered down in the edited version, he could live with the changes but thought it was important to note that the Policy Committee had been intentional in choosing the words that they did. Steve Notch agreed that the statement had been neutralized. Cody Rogahn suggested adding healthy instead of sustainable. Chuck

Uphoff noted that sustainable is synonymous to ok, and we want better than ok. Steve Notch recommended vibrant instead of healthy. Statement at this point read, “A resilient landscape balancing a vibrant ecosystem, economy and quality of life”. Tyler Carlson still prefers the original statement. Next version read, “A resilient landscape that balances a healthy ecosystem, vibrant economy and high quality of life”. Chuck Uphoff asked if there was a way to reword “for a high quality of life”.

A final Mission Statement was selected. “A resilient landscape that balances a healthy ecosystem with a vibrant economy for generations to come.” Tyler Carlson made a motion to approve the revised statement. Cody Rogahn (?) seconded the motion.

Presentation by Julie Blackburn of RESPEC about the Logic Model and how it works. Gave an example of the model in use. Interactive exercise using the Logic Model to plan an extended family barbecue.

Julie Blackburn also presented on the issue statements that the Advisory Committee has been working on, as well as reviewing the implementation plan process. Also talked about the non-binding voting system that is being used with the Advisory Committee to rank the issue statements.

5 minute break

Presentation by Tara Ostendorf about the agencies involved in the planning process and what they are able to do.

1. Counties (Statute 103B) – planning and zoning, drainage, public health
2. SWCDs (Statute 103C) – landowner projects, can accept delegation of local ordinances and controls, investigate problems and identify preventative practices
3. SRWD (Statute 103D, E for drainage) – capital projects and programs, monitoring, fill data gaps

Chuck Uphoff asked about the federal (EPA) level planning and if our 1W1P will be sufficient or if we may end up needing to create another plan for the Upper Mississippi watershed. Tara Ostendorf explained that at this point in time, Minnesota is ahead of the game in the planning process so we should be fine.

Discussion on partnership and the opportunities that 1W1P has to offer for this, getting all agencies to partner together, utilizing grant funds, etc. Tyler Carlson indicated some existing limitations to water quality and drainage partnerships due to statute – drainage system is supposed to pay for all work, mentioned that there has been talk of adjusting this statute. Tara Ostendorf mentioned that the Board of Soil and Water Resources could look into other possible statutory limitations.

Discussion on the Policy Committees role in the planning process – to establish “The Way” the implement 1W1P. What is the most important result that you and your organization wish to obtain with 1W1P? Quality water, accomplishing goals/results based team, buy in from all parties including residents, see each other’s interests as their own, give taxpayers the results they expect from the agencies working on water quality and to do this as a team.

Desired approach for working together? Forget about the past because it can’t be changed, to truly move forward and partner together this is necessary; successes create partnerships – we need some successes; stronger partnerships with DNR; state and local partnering together in general; continuous education; consistency in leadership knowledge; communication. Example of Lake Osakis/Crooked Lake area mentioned – there has been a fairly consistent struggle with trying to get anything done in this area, bad blood in the past, if all agencies partnered together, we could have a better chance at moving forward in that area. Discussion about the option of developing a subcommittee of all agencies that could/would be involved, subcommittee sharing the authority over the project, use this as a way to move forward and implement a project. Could use this type of model in other project scenarios as well. Good discussion item to bring back to Policy Committee members boards for feedback to utilize in future conversations about this.