

MEETING NOTES

One Watershed One Plan

August 28th, 2019 9am-noon Advisory Committee Meeting #8

Meeting Location: Sauk Centre City Hall

Advisory Committee Members Present:

Tara Ostendorf (BWSR), Anna Bosch (MPCA), Deja Anton (Todd SWCD), Adam Ossefoort (Todd SWCD), Jim Bartelme (Stearns COLA), Ryan Lemickson (MDA), Jerry Haggemiller (Douglas SWCD), Cole Loewen (Stearns County ESD), Karen Voz (MDH), Ralph Hanson (Pope Land & Resource Management), Leah Hall (TNC), Nicki Blake-Bradley (DNR), Dennis Fuchs (Stearns SWCD), Craig Wills (DNR), Scott Henderson (SRWD), Sarah Boser (SRWD)

Others Present:

Julie Blackburn (RESPEC), Matt Bruyette (Stearns SWCD Supervisor), Steve Notch (Stearns County Commissioner), Henry VanOffelen (BWSR Clean Water Specialist)

Notes from Meeting:

- Update from Julie on the plan writing process. She proposed some format changes to make the plan more engaging to the reader and less repetitive. Advisory Committee (AC) supported these changes.
- Julie provided an update from the Policy Committee (PC) meeting at the end of the month.
 - The PC engaged in dialogue regarding partner support, and how it could be strengthened.
 - Would like to see dialogue within 1W1P about what the different agencies will do to work together.
 - The PC agreed to use the term climate change in the plan to discuss the changes we have been observing. They also discussed altered hydrology.
- Altered Hydrology Presentation by Henry VanOffelen (BWSR Clean Water Specialist)
 - Water quantity seems to be harder for people to talk about than water quality.
 - Need a water storage goal for 1W1P.
 - Altered hydrology has been identified as a stressor in all of the subwatersheds within the Sauk River Watershed.
 - The amount of runoff is increasing at a faster rate than the amount of precipitation.
 - Low flows are higher because there is more water in the system.
 - How do current activities affect the water cycle? How will BMPs/projects affect this? These are important questions for us to be asking throughout the planning process, and throughout our work in water quality as a whole.
 - In this area we are seeing about 30 inches of precipitation per year and about 6 inches of runoff.
 - DNR has an interactive climate change website that is a good resource for us to keep in mind.
 - Lots of water storage on the landscape has been lost due to altered hydrology.
 - Hydrologic response to draining wetlands.
 - High flows are typically when we are seeing sediment and nutrient issues.
 - Recommendations for setting hydrology related measureable goals:
 - Option 1: Hydrograph Based

- Peak Flow: Reduce peak flow for specific event at specific time of year at specific location.
- Low Flow: Increase baseflow magnitude and/or reduce number of “low flow” days.
- Other Metrics: Flashiness, mean monthly flows, etc.
- Option 2: Runoff Based
 - Review flow duration curve and runoff coefficients. Set reduction goal(s): (example: reduce runoff by 0.5 inches on an annual bases).
- Option 3: Non-contributing Area Based
 - Increase areas of the landscape that do not contribute in a 10 year summer runoff event. Protect areas that do not contribute.
- We can reduce runoff volume or alter runoff timing.
- What are the solutions assuming watershed goals are to reduce runoff/peak flows and affect low flows?

Solutions if Predominately Climate Driven	Solutions if Predominately Human Driven
Increase storage within watershed	Increase storage within watershed
Improve management of existing storage	Improve management of existing storage
Increase evapotranspiration	Increase evapotranspiration

- Small group activity on altered hydrology
- Discussion on altered hydrology as a separate category within the plan
- Capital Improvement Project Update
 - Need to have a section within the plan that addresses this
 - Scott (SRWD) has met with several of the local partners to discuss what this looks like for each partner agency, will continue to meet as local partners are available. From the meetings that have occurred so far, the following has been discussed/decided:
 - Project costs should be somewhere around ½ million dollars or more, nothing less that \$100,000.
 - > 20-25 year life expectancy for projects
 - Some ownership of a project structure should exist as a component of Capital Improvement Projects
 - Some examples of Capital Improvement Projects may include: two-stage ditches, stormwater within cities such as regional ponds, incorporating stormwater treatment into existing/planned construction projects/road construction, cluster systems.
- Emerging Issues/Concerns Discussion
 - Contaminants
 - AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species)
 - Chlorides – of the data available within the Sauk River Watershed, there is not currently an issue, though not all waters have been tested. SRWD will be adding chloride to their monitoring plan in 2020. Discussion about how the partners would rather be proactive regarding this upcoming issue than reactive.

Homework:

Will be send out by Julie prior to next meeting if there is any.

Upcoming Meetings:

Wednesday, September 25th, 2019: 9am-noon

Wednesday, October 23rd, 2019: 9am-noon

Wednesday, November 27th, 2019: 9am-noon

DECEMBER = TBD