

Sauk River One Watershed One Plan – Implementation Table Meeting

March 16th, 2020

Attendees: Cole Loewen (Stearns ES), Greg Berg (Stearns SWCD), Megan Herbst (Stearns SWCD), Ben Ruley (Stearns SWCD), Nate Hylla (Stearns SWCD), Scott Henderson (SRWD), Sarah Boser (SRWD), Julie Blackburn (RESPEC)

Julie provided an overview of the Microsoft Teams site for the Sauk River One Watershed One Plan.

1. Can tag certain people using the @ symbol and their name
2. On the “Home”/chat page, use the upper right “...” to sign up for conversation notifications
3. Across the top of the page, General – Files – shows all documents and file types, maps, etc. Feel free to navigate those documents as needed for reference.
 - a. When filling out Implementation Tables, under General – Files – Implementation Table, use the Geographic Priorities_DRAFT document. This document should be the guide for what should and should not be added to the Implementation Tables.
 - b. Can chose “...” to edit via “Open in Desktop App” or “Open in Browser”. If “Download” is selected, none of the changes are saved to the document – do NOT use the download option unless you wish to add your comments and edits online at a later date. The other two options (Open in Desktop App or Open in Browser) save changes as they are made.

Next Julie provided an overview of the Geographic Priorities_DRAFT document. This should be the guiding document for adding to/editing the implementation tables. This document has been developed through extensive prioritization throughout the planning process. The information in the document is based on the existing sciences, reports, etc. The narrative in the plan will provide flexibility for working with willing landowners and accommodating the level of political will available, however, the Implementation Tables should NOT be a compilation of all of the possible projects. The Implementation Tables should only contain items that fit with the priorities that have been identified (and are listed throughout the Geographic Priorities document).

Question from Stearns SWCD (Greg) – how were the priorities identified? Why is Osakis the priority lake instead of Maple within the Osakis WMD? Julie showed the process that had been used for evaluating resources, how different water bodies were prioritized, the different studies/data that were looked at, etc.

Next Julie walked through the SRCQMP On-The-Ground Implementation Table Notes/Instructions. Please note that since this document was created the columns have shifted by one column. If you have questions on this, please ask. Within the Implementation Tables, there are some calculators running in the background to calculate reductions per BMP. One of these calculators is currently incorrect – if you notice anything that seems off, please notify Julie. These calculators are based on an edge of field reduction, not an actual modeled result. SAM was the application used to gather information for this. Use \$, \$\$ or \$\$\$ to indicate level of effort needed for the different projects. RESPEC will use this information to translate into dollars.

1. Conservation easements will require specific information to identify where it fits/what the easement is intended to do.

- a. Provide as much detail as possible. Please note whether land value is included in any of the cost information.

Questions from Julie:

1. BMP Lookup Tab: someone from the SWCD/NRCS – please look through this to make sure this information is correct.
2. Entire Watershed Tab: don't worry about this tab for now, focus on prioritizing within each of the WMD (Water Management Districts).
3. Septic Systems Updates/Other Septic Activities: more information on this please.

At this time the group moved to opening the Implementation Table document, using Centre Sauk Management District tab as an example. Under Column D – Targeted Resource, prioritize these as much as possible. Once the Implementation Tables are complete, any Implementation Actions listed as “Entire Management District” will be removed from the individual WMD tabs and put in the Watershed Wide tab with information about how prioritizing will occur. Under Column H – BMP Goal please provide as much information as possible. Under the Timeframe Columns, please use \$, \$\$ or \$\$\$ to indicate level of effort. For Lead LGU, should be one of the primary signers for the Sauk River CWMP. If the lead would not be one of those primary signers, that implementation action should be removed from the table. If this action would be supported by the partnership, that should be noted so that it can be added in the narrative. Example: if the SRWD will be supporting the City of Osakis with the management of their stormwater ponds, that would be removed from the Implementation Tables since the City of Osakis would be the lead LGU, however, it could be added to the narrative if it aligns with the priorities that have been identified.

Greg – GUS PLUS talks about overgrazing, pasture management, Stony Creek. Priority strategies: doesn't mention these activities. What do we do with this? Julie explained that this is draft – and has incorporated as much information as provided by the partners – a big reason for today's meeting is to complete this. If you see items like this that are missing from the tables, this is where they need to be added. This information should be added to the Implementation Tables, and Julie will update the narrative accordingly.

Greg – where do we find the maps? Julie – on the Team site, under File – Maps and More. Most of the maps are by issue, but WMD maps are on most maps. If you aren't finding a map that would be helpful, ask. May be able to create it and add it pretty easily.

Cole – Map that references the HSPF subwatershed numbers are named: HSPF basin map. Please use these reference numbers as you are able to in the Implementation Tables.

Ben – Is that in GIS format? We could utilize it here if possible. Julie will provide that.

Cole – Would it be possible to get a list of the “key” HSPF reach numbers? Yes, Julie will provide that as well.