

January 30th, 2021

“Public”

Zoom Attendee during Sauk River CWMP Public Hearing

RE: Response to Public Comment on Sauk River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Dear Zoom Attendee “Public” –

Thank you for taking the time to attend the public hearing for the Sauk River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP), and for expressing your concerns regarding funding for the implementation of the plan.

To directly answer your questions, please see the responses in *Italics* below (I have copied your questions from the Zoom chat in regular font):

What is the escape clause for the group if the money runs out? *There is not an escape clause for the plan itself, as it is a document that the local units of government are required to have per Minnesota State Statute (a plan for water resource management). The nine entities will have a Joint Powers Collaborative agreement that states how they will formally work together to implement the CWMP. This agreement does have an escape clause for an entity to leave the partnership, though it is not necessarily related to a funding shortage. This agreement will be brought to each individual board within the next six to eight months. If you are interested in the individual board discussions regarding this agreement, I encourage you to contact those boards directly and/or watch their meeting agendas for when this item will be up for board discussion.*

The 350 pages did not contain a business continuity plan. *Thank you for the comment. While the plan may not explicitly describe a business continuity plan and label it as such, many of the steps required for continuity planning were a part of the planning process and therefore exist within the content of the plan.*

So taxing is an option? *The partnership of nine entities will be forming a Joint Powers Collaborative for implementing the plan. The Joint Powers Collaborative will not have taxing authority. However, creating the Joint Powers Collaborative will not take away the taxing authorities of the individual entities that already have that authority.*

If you have additional questions or would like to talk through this information in more detail, I would be happy to do so.

Thank you again for taking the time to provide comments on our Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, we look forward to working with you in the future.

Kind Regards –

Sarah Boser on behalf of the Sauk River One Watershed One Plan Policy Committee and Partnership Plan Coordinator, Sauk River One Watershed One Plan/Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

CC:

Sauk River One Watershed One Plan Policy Committee

Jason Weinerman, Board of Water and Soil Resources

Brad Wozney, Board of Water and Soil Resources

January 30th, 2021

Mitch Manoski
41037 Sauk Lake Road
Sauk Centre, MN 56378
320.282.8312
mitchmanoski@gmail.com

RE: Response to Public Comment on Sauk River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Dear Mr. Mitch Manoski –

Thank you for taking the time to attend the public hearing for the Sauk River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, and for asking about phosphorus loading information within the plan. We appreciate you taking the time to review our plan, and to attend our public hearing.

Reductions to the phosphorus loading within the Sauk River Watershed is one of the priority goals/focus areas within the Sauk River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP). Excessive nutrients have a significant impact on both lakes and rivers within the Sauk River Watershed, which can lead to other challenges within the water resource and its surrounding ecosystem. The overall goals for phosphorus can be found on page 4-20 of the CWMP (for Lakes: Achieve the 10-year phosphorus reduction goals established by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency/MPCA for each prioritized lake; for Streams: Achieve a 10% reduction in total phosphorus and total suspended solids at targeted endpoints on the Sauk River – the numeric reductions are available in the table on the bottom of page 4-20).

Within chapter 5 of the CWMP, the water management districts (smaller areas within the Sauk River watershed) are looked at one by one. Individual goals are identified within those water management districts.

The phosphorus reduction goals within the CWMP are based on data from other reports, water quality monitoring analysis, and existing Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) studies (TMDLs are studies required for water bodies that impaired to assist water resource professionals with improving the water quality).

If you have additional questions, I would be happy to talk through them with you.

Thank you again for taking the time to provide comments on our Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, we look forward to working with you in the future.

Kind Regards –

Sarah Boser on behalf of the Sauk River One Watershed One Plan Policy Committee and Partnership Plan Coordinator, Sauk River One Watershed One Plan/Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

CC:

Sauk River One Watershed One Plan Policy Committee
Jason Weinerman, Board of Water and Soil Resources
Brad Wozney, Board of Water and Soil Resources

January 30th, 2021

Jerry Rapp
11418 Minnesota Rd NW
Alexandria, MN 56308
jerryr@co.douglas.mn.us; rapp@rea-alp.com
320.766.2065

RE: Response to Public Comment on Sauk River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Dear Commissioner Rapp –

Thank you for taking the time to attend the public hearing for the Sauk River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP), and for expressing your concerns regarding funding for the implementation of the plan and having a remote public hearing.

While we understand your concern that the Watershed Based Funding provided through the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will not be sufficient for implementing the entire plan, it is also important to acknowledge the other funding sources that the nine partners have access to. Each of the nine entities have, and will still be encouraged to, apply for other grant funds. Each of the counties and the watershed district will still have their general levy funds, as well as the ability to utilize special assessments for water quality projects. The Soil and Water Conservation Districts will still receive their annual allotment of the counties' general levy funds. Each of these different funding sources have legal requirements and processes that the partners must abide by. The plan itself is not intended to limit the funding options for the entities, and it will help the partners pursue additional grant funding from other sources. Additionally, with the Policy Committee decision to move forward as a Joint Powers Collaborative, we will **not** be creating an additional unit of government, nor will we be adding additional taxing authorities.

Regarding the decision to hold a remote public hearing for the Sauk River CWMP, this decision was made at the Policy Committee meeting on January 4th, 2021. There was a motion made to host the public hearing remotely using Zoom as a platform, with a call in option. The motion passed with all nine members of the Policy Committee in favor. Additionally, Policy Committee members had the option to host separate public hearings with their respective boards/entities. None of the Policy Committee members expressed interest in moving forward with that option.

Thank you again for taking the time to provide comments on our Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, we look forward to working with you in the future.

Kind Regards –

Sarah Boser on behalf of the Sauk River One Watershed One Plan Policy Committee and Partnership Plan Coordinator, Sauk River One Watershed One Plan/Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

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