



Sauk River CWMP Implementation Team Meeting

MEETING INFORMATION

Date and Location: June 28th, 2023; Sauk River Watershed District

Time: 9AM to noon

Invitees: Dave Rush, Danielle Anderson, Jerome Haggemiller, Ralph Hanson, Holly Kovarik, Becky Schlorf, Cole Loewen, Dennis Fuchs, Stephanie Hatzenbihler, Deja Anton, Kyle Weimann, Lisa Vollbrecht, Kyle Blazek, Jon Roeschlein, Adam Ossefoort, Jason Weinerman, Brad Wozney, Adam Hjelm, Steve Zeece III

Attendees: **In person:** Jon Roeschlein, Cole Loewen, Kyle Blazek, Stephanie Hatzenbihler, Deja Anton, Adam Hjelm, Jerome Haggemiller, Steve Zeece III

Online: Brad Wozney, Holly Kovarik, Kyle Weimann

Meeting Notes

Previous meeting notes:

- No revisions to previous notes.

Other:

- Discussion around usage of different pollution calculators ; MPCA Tableau & BWSR Water Erosion Pollution Reduction Estimator- Details can be found later in this document.
- Discussion around Osakis Management Unit Tour in September. It is recommended that each Collaborative Member advertises this event through their websites and other Civic Engagement platforms.

Review of submitted projects:

- No new projects submitted or reviewed at this meeting.
- Update: Douglas SWCD's project; *Fontaine* (SR-FY22-004) Water and Sediment Control Basin (WASCOB) is nearing completion and an invoice will be submitted to the Fiscal Agent in the near future.

Next Biennial Workplan: Must be complete at least one week prior to Policy Committee on August 17th.

[2022.05.20 - Sauk River CWMP Prioritization Scheme Spreadsheet for Biennial Workplan.xlsx](#)

- Between the May and June meetings, Roeschlein made an effort to audit the FY24-25 Activities spreadsheet against the goals and priorities set forth in the SRCWMP , in an attempt to make meaningful reductions in the budget.
- In this process, a road block was encountered when all projects were within priority management areas, and addressed the primary resources issues. Subsequently, an analysis the cost in dollars per pound of total phosphorous reduction was used to separate items at a threshold of \$500.00/lb. Items above the threshold are highlighted **yellow**.

- Discussion around whether projects with 10-year contracts are comparable seasonal practices such as cover crops, and permanent practices.
 - Pollution calculators produce an annual figure. Thus, activities with 10 year contracts can be multiplied by 10 in the spreadsheet.
 - **Note/Recommendation:** Stearns SWCD has a *Perpetual Deed Restriction* with their landowner-cost share projects. This is done to ensure the integrity of the project if the ownership of the property changes during the 10 year contract period. Other Collaborative Members are encouraged to follow this procedure.
 - BWSR will have additional funding for cover crop begin in the Fiscal Year 2024, available fall of 2023.

Assignment(s): Collaborators are to review their items in the spreadsheet and be prepared to adjust their items that will produce an overall 10% reduction in their request. Do it in pencil outside of the digital spreadsheet on the sharepoint. BWSR advised to not permanently adjust the activities numbers until we get an idea on what the next appropriation might be as it may be greater than anticipated.

MPCA Tableau Instructions:

- Pollutant reduction in MPCA Tableau is to be calculated from **HUC 12**. The following process was agreed to be followed in selecting the parameters for reduction estimates:
 - Standards for using MPCA's Watershed Pollutant Reduction Calculator (using Tableau software)
 - **Select a watershed** = Sauk
 - **Select a pollutant** = user decides
 - **Select pollutant delivery point** = Subwatershed Outlet (HUC12)
 - **In the map**, select the HUC12 subwatershed the activity will be located in.
 - **Enter acres of new BMPs below** = user decides
 - **Note:** User must enter the # of acres based on the number of acres treated by the activity, not the size of the activity.
- Pollutant reduction inputs and outputs should be screenshotted and saved in case BWSR identifies a significant outlier at the time of submittal.

Spreadsheet work continued

- Roeschlein reduced the Collaborative request from 10% of WBIF Allocation for each Citizen Norm Messaging and Initial Contact, Actions, and Activities with landowners, to 5%.
- Initial Contact, Actions, and Activities with landowners, it is expected the collaborators will focus efforts within the priority Management Units where possible. Each collaborator will have equal share of final allocated amount, to use for project development.
- No further work will be done on the activities spreadsheet before the July meeting as there is potential that the WBIF Allocation could increase.

The group agreed to keep the existing targeting approach, the same as last biennium. The targeting approach can be referenced on the 3rd and 4th tabs of the [2022.05.20 - Sauk River CWMP Prioritization Scheme Spreadsheet for Biennial Workplan.xlsx](#).

General updates:

- Project Tracking Tool Progress
 - Stearns will begin development in late September.
- Outreach and Education
 - Preliminary report is complete. Final report is expected at the July meeting.

- Discussion around extending survey(s) to residents that aren't landowners/ag producers, to gain information most representative of the population in the watershed in order to best allocate our E/O efforts.
- Crooked Lake/JD2
 - Finalizing agreement with USACE for Alternatives Analysis in the Crooked Lake area to identify specific project sites with the highest return on investment.
 - SRWD has started the conversation with USDA-NRCS Fergus Falls Field Office about a cross easement restoration. SRWD has an easement south of 73, and USDA-NRCS has a CREP RIM easement north of 73. The principal project concept is to move the control structure downstream (north of 73) onto the CREP RIM easement, to significantly increase the overall footprint of the restoration. A Forthcoming step is to acquire a "Compatible Usage Agreement". A meeting with USDA-NRCS Staff are currently being scheduled to discuss this potential restoration.
- Getchell Creek
 - The consensus of the Project Team indicated we stabilize the lower portions of the creek, prior to pursuing upper-reach storage sites.
 - Landowner meetings Below Getchell Lake are underway, with approximately 80% complete. All landowners are in support except one, who'd prefer to armor the ditch with angular rip-rap with cost assessed back to landowners.
 - Landowner meetings will be complete on July 21st.
- Higgins-Long Outlet-
 - SRWD Board approved our staff to work with the landowners to develop a petition for SRWD to establish the project.
 - Additional funds will be needed for administration, legal, engineering, and easement acquisition costs. This could be done through an assessment of the benefitted landowners, but other funding sources will be explored.
- Fiscal Updates
 - Fiscal agent referred the team to the share point site as the fiscal report is posted there. This report was provided to the Policy Committee at their last meeting.
- BSWR Update
 - CWF grant programs are in the BWSR approval process. Once approved by the BWSR Board, the application period will be open until August 24, and awarded at the December BWSR Board meeting.
 - Competitive Grants Available: Project and Practices grants and Drinking Water Projects and Practices.
 - Match amount decreased from 25% to 10%.

Close out and next meeting (July 26th, 2023)