



Sauk River CWMP

Implementation Team Meeting

MEETING INFORMATION

Date and Location: October 23rd, 2024; Sauk River Watershed District Office

Time: 9 AM to noon

Invitees Noah Czech (St Cloud), Adam Ossefoort (Todd Co), Danielle Anderson (Douglas SWCD), Dave Rush (Douglas County), Deja Anton (Todd SWCD), Dennis Fuchs (Stearns SWCD), Jon Roeschlein (SRWD), Holly Kovarik (Pope SWCD), Ralph Hanson (Pope Co), Becky Schlorf (Stearns Co Env), Zach Guttormson (BWSR) Brittany Lenzmeier (Stearns SWCD), Drew Kessler (Houston Engineering), Jerome Haggemiller (Douglas SWCD), Kyle Weimann (Stearns SWCD), Jason Weirnerman (BWSR), Brad Wozney (BWSR), Jessica Albertsen (Douglas SWCD), Nicole Brede (Pope SWCD), Sarah Katterhagen (Todd SWCD), Allison Lightfoot (SRWD), Chad Martini (Chad.Martini@co.stearns.mn.us); Dave Orlowski (Pope Co), Nancy Uhlenkamp (Todd Co), Tom Anderson (Douglas/Todd Co Ag & Drainage), Stephanie Hatzenbihler (Stearns SWCD), Abigail Parker (SRWD)

Attendees: Steve Zeece (SRWD), Angela Beckman (Stearns Env), Becky Schlorf (Stearns Env), Deja Anton (Todd SWCD), Abi Parker (SRWD), Danielle Anderson (Douglas SWCD), Stephanie Hatzenbihler (Stearns SWCD)

Online via Teams: Holly Kovarik (Pope SWCD), Danielle Anderson (Douglas SWCD)

• Introductions Previous Meeting Notes

- Introductions held by those in attendance, with Angela Beckman of Stearns County present. Angela will fulfill the role of Collaborative fiscal agent.
- Abigail Parker, SRWD, additionally informed the committee of her new position with the SRWD as Environmental Monitoring Manager, and will be phasing out of the SRWD's education role.
 - Allison Lightfoot, SRWD's former monitoring manager has resigned to accept a similar role with the MPCA.
 - SRWD's Education & Outreach Coordinator position will be advertised internally for 2 weeks prior to being open to the public.
- No other revisions to previous notes.



- **Fiscal Agent Updates:**

- **FY 24-25-** one new project allocation under objective 11- streambank/shoreland protection. Otherwise nothing to report as only 2 % of grant has been allocated or encumbered.
- **FY 22-23 including Supplemental Grant** – encumbered or allocation 47% (\$535,500.38)
- CRP 24/25- due to state fiscal year cycle ending on October 31st, reimbursements may be delayed to the collaborative from the state.
 - Reimbursements within the collaborative can still be processed, though book keeping may not reflect. Fiscal Agent, Stearns County will float funds if needed.
- FY 24 CRP Workplan- Jason W (BWSR) via email retroactively approved 4 projects from Stearns SWCD
 - Stearns SWCD cannot further process any more CRP contracts until the Farm Bill is approved into law.
- The group discussed the reallocation of fy22 funds to increase the expenditure rate, as it has been noticed by BWSR that our burn rate may be insufficient to distribute funds by the end of the grant.
 - To do this, each partner would need to bring projects with funds to reallocate to the next meeting on Nov 18th, 3 days prior to the Policy Committee meeting.
 - PC mtg agenda would require a tentative item with the initial agenda or an amendment will be needed to do this.
 - If not ready an update will be provided informing the PC this will be ready at the next meeting.

SWCD Projects Review-

- **Stearns SWCD Bosl Erosion control-**
 - Approval by Committee Consensus- Fiscal Agent will send standard email notifying encumbrance of \$18,031.50.
- Todd SWCD
 - **Ritt Strip Till-**
 - Project consists of acres both within and outside of priority targeted areas.
 - **Tabled-** Todd SWCD will verify using the Collaborative’s GIS which acres are within the priority areas/HSPF endpoint, to be reviewed at a later Implementation Team Meeting
 - Discussion around which category this project belongs within- correct category is non-structural ag practices.
 - Will use Equip rate for practice, per item 6.2 of the Collaborative cost share policy.
 - **Osakis Country Club Wetland Restoration with USFWS**
 - This project is in HSPF reach 24- outside priority.
 - Discussion around grant assurance measures and projects. Fiscal Agent or Coordinator will need to further investigate the effects of a project outside of priorities area at this stage of the grant cycle.



- Todd SWCD will not pursue this project at this time.
- Will be grouped with other projects awaiting biennium plan re-prioritization.

• Other Discussion

- Whilst reviewing projects, discussion occurred around the \$80k currently set to shift in FY22 biennium.
- A formal workplan revision required is at \$200k. Fiscal Agent recommends broadening workplan priorities now to ensure ample spending (burn) rate. This could occur as early as the next Policy committee meeting if the implementation team has capacity to prepare projects & documents to be presented to the Policy Committee.
- Whilst reviewing projects, discussion occurred about revising project request forms into a more condensed efficient form.
 - Fiscal agent believes the implementation team can revise project request forms without Policy Committee review.
 - Long Prairie group's procedure as a guide/example/template. **Agenda Item for 11/18 imp team meeting**
- Recommendation is to wait until midpoint period to shift priorities or a workplan revision.

• General Updates

- Getchell –Surveys underway conducted by both Houston Engineering and SRWD Staff working with MNDNR River Geomorphologist, Nick Proulx whom will provide services to assist with the Getchell Stream Project.
- JD #2 Alternatives Analysis – J. Noren, USACE Staff is currently building and calibrating the Osakis Lake Response model.
 - i. SRWD will coordinate with Fiscal agent on reporting/reimbursements, as SRWD are still gathering match document for the Army Corps.
 - ii. Aerial survey with ground confirmation of JD2 (within and near channel) is forthcoming this fall, 2024.
- Education and Outreach Report –
 - i. Committee volunteered to present an update on the citizen political norms survey at the November Policy committee meeting. Request of 5-10 mins on the PC agenda.
 - ii. Will be adding feedback from “Keep it Covered” theme.
 - iii. Group additionally is reviewing the tracking tool and providing feedback.
 - iv. Literature review of soil health under way, assisted by U of M's Sara Roth.
 - v. Next meeting 11/13



- Regulatory review proposals have been received from Houston Engineering and Moore Engineering. Houston Engineering estimated \$19,900 to complete the work. Moore Engineering estimated \$28,700. Both proposals were similar in deliverables. The Team selected Houston Engineering. Roeschlein will move the project forward and obtain the necessary contractual agreements. (Follow up with Houston Engineering is it is anticipated to take 6 months or thereabouts to complete.)
- **Land Stewardship Plan –**
 - Connected with BWSRs Lindberg, whom may have funding support to offer small landowners.
 - On a first come first serve list with BWSR.
 - Anticipated in 2025

Upcoming Policy Committee Agenda Items - The Implementation Team discussed items for the upcoming Policy Committee Agenda:

- 2024.08.15 pc meeting minutes
- Regulatory Review
- Virtual Meeting Policy Proposals
- Tracking Tool Demo
- Reallocation of fy 22 funds/ grant revision.
- Objective 13 - report change to the workplan.
- Project Highlight- EO committee citizen norms survey & possibly Stearns SWCD Shoreline

Close out and Next Meeting –

- November 18th, 2024 from 1-4 p.m.
- December 19th, 2024 1-4 p.m.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.