



Sauk River Comprehensive Watershed Collaborative

Policy Committee meeting
November 21st, 2024 1-3 pm
Sauk River Watershed District Office

In attendance:

Policy Committee & Alternates: Steve Notch (Stearns County), Bill Becker (SRWD), Randy Neumann (Todd Co), Tom Williamson (Todd SWCD), D. Gary Reents (Pope SWCD), Ken Rutten (Douglas SWCD), Tim Kalina (Douglas Co), Paul Wildman (Pope Co), Tom Gregory (Stearns SWCD),

Implementation Team & EO Committee: Steve Zeece III (SRWD), Jason Weinerman (BWSR), Abi Parker (SRWD), Becky Schlorf (Stearns Cnty Env), Stephanie Hatzenbihler (Stearns SWCD), Jon Roeschlein (SRWD), Angela Beckman (Stearns Cnty Env)

Others: Matt Heglund (MNDNR), Justine Meyer (Stearns SWCD)

Meeting called to order by Chairman Notch at 1:05pm

- Introductions were given by those in attendance.

Review of previous meeting minutes & Agenda Additions:

- Implementation Team requested an agenda addition to feature a shoreland project of Stearns SWCD
- Motion to Approve previous meeting minutes & agenda addition by Wildman.
- Second by Williamson.
- All in favor.

Quarterly Fiscal Agent report

- Becky Schlorf, Stearns County, provided a fiscal report/update, detailing expenses and encumbrances from each of the 11 WBIF Grant Objectives.
- Fiscal Agent Report approved upon motion by Gregory.
- Second by Kalina.
- All in favor.
 - Note- FY 24 (pilot) and FY25 CRP contracts are paused until the federal farm bill is approved into law.

Fy 22 Reallocation

- Gregory motioned to approve reallocation & broaden the fy22-23 priority work areas to include HSPF reaches A110, A130, A221 & shift unutilized funds to objective 10; non-structural ag management practices.
 - Hatzenbihler clarified projects eligible under objective 10 include practices such as alternative tilling methods, water and sediment control basins, & grassed waterways.



- Livestock waste management projects are categorized as objective 9.
- Second by Becker.
- All in Favor

Fy24 Funding Shift

Implementation Team informed the Policy Committee of BWSR Staff Jason W. approving the fy24 workplan funding shift

Regulatory Review Update;

- With a copy of the task order contract between SRWD & Houston Engineering, Roeschlein provided an update on the regulatory review.

Education and Outreach Committee Updates

Stephanie Hatzenbihler presented on the progress of the Education and Outreach Committees Citizenship norms progress and campaign- **“Keep it Rooted”**

- The Keep it Rooted Campaign is applicable across all land uses within the watershed, including shoreland, industrial, and agricultural scenarios.
- A community-based social marketing approach targeting long term (10 + years) behavioral changes amongst a wide array of soil vegetative coverage scenarios and practices impacting water-quality.

Tracking Tool Demonstration

- Ben Ruley, Stearns Soil & Water CD, virtually presented the progress to-date on the SRW Collaborative tracking tool. The North Fork Crow River group’s completed tracking tool, designed by Stearns SWCD, was additionally demonstrated.
- Tracking tool will enable partners to easily input data attached to a map-point, to be later used for reporting on 2-year (biennial) workplan and 10-year plan goals.

Project Feature- Stearns SWCD Shoreline- Friedrich

- Stephanie H., presented Stearns SWCD’s cost-shared shoreline restoration project on Horseshoe Lake (Sauk Chain), completed in summer of 2024.
- Primary components include upland buffer area transitioned below the ordinary high-water level, excavating/regrading, and a 25ft wide lake access pathway.

Ms13D- Open Meeting Law Virtual Connection Policy.

- The Policy Committee reviewed the draft policy prepared, with Rinke Noonan legal support, by the Implementation Team.
 - Policy Committee deliberated adopting policy, ultimately choosing to table discussion for a later meeting.



- Implementation Team recommends adopting a policy covering MS 13D at a future meeting to ensure quorum is met during circumstances where in-person attendance is not possible (severe weather or sickness).
- Implementation Team will revise the draft policy- to be reviewed & decided upon at the February Policy Committee meeting.
- Policy committee alternates, remote presenters, and other interested parties may attend virtually via MS Teams Link.

Closeout and Next Meeting

At 2:45 pm, Chair Notch adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting Date- 2/20/2025 1-3 pm

DRAFT