

1W1P Upper Mississippi Grand Rapids
Policy Committee Planning Meeting #1
Meeting Minutes - March 23rd, 2023

Attendance:

Andy Arens, Itasca SWCD
Dick Beatty, Big Sandy Lake Assn.
Melanie Bomier, Carlton SWCD
Perry Bunting, Mille Lacs and of Ojibwe, DNRE (Virtual Attendee)
Barb Dahl, Carlton SWCD
Tom Fasteland, Aitkin County SWCD
Matt Gutzmann, Itasca SWCD
Jeff Hrubes, BWSR
Michael Kearney, Aitkin County
Bob Marcum, Salo Township
Lynn Mizner, Logan Township
Tom Nelson, Itasca SWCD
Dave Peterson, Cass SWCD
Gary Peterson, Carlton County
Chad Severts, BWSR
Cal Saari, Itasca SWCD
Corey Smith, Itasca County
Janet Smude, Aitkin County SWCD
Austin Steere, Itasca SWCD

The meeting was called to order at 11:37 am

Introductions were made.

1W1P Overview & Orientation: Chad Severts and Jeff Hrubes shared information on the 1W1P Program. Additional information is available of the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) website. (www.bwsr.state.mn.us)

The meeting agenda was reviewed. Future agendas and meeting information will be sent out by Matt Gutzmann. Information will be housed on the Itasca SWCD website. (www.itascaswcd.org)

Meeting ground rules and member expectations were discussed.

Overview of plan development steps: Matt Gutzmann shared the project workplan, timeline, and budget. Development of a Landscape Stewardship Plan will begin soon. The Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) was completed a few years ago. These projects will provide information that will be useful in development of the 1W1P.

Election of Officers: Cal Saari was nominated for the position of Chairperson. M/S/C Tom Fasteland / Corey Smith.

Gary Peterson was nominated for the position of Vice Chairperson. M/S/C Barb Dahl / Michael Kearney.

Staff will assist with the duties of a Secretary and take the meeting minutes. M/S/C Gary Peterson / Tom Fasteland.

Cal and Gary were thanked for their willingness to serve in these positions.

Policy Committee By-Laws: The By-laws Template was reviewed. Providing a virtual option for meetings was discussed, as was the need to follow the open meeting law. Article III, 3 was reviewed. A motion was made to strike the last sentence of that paragraph M/S/C Michael Kearney / Corey Smith. Discussion points will be incorporated into the bylaws. A motion was made to table the bylaws until the next meeting M/S/C Cal Saari / Michael Kearney.

Notifications Process/ Draft Letter: State Agencies working in the watershed will be provided the opportunity to comment in writing regarding their concerns / priorities in the watershed. This includes the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, Pollution Control Agency, and Board of Water and Soil Resources. The draft letter was approved for mailing to the agencies M/S/C Gary Peterson / Barb Dahl. Stakeholders will also be invited to provide written comments. A list of stakeholders will be shared and refined at the next Policy Committee meeting. This should include MnDOT and the federal agencies in the watershed.

Partner & Consultant Roles & Responsibilities: Partners / Consultants assisting with writing this plan include Houston Engineering, TSA & GIS Staff, and the Minnesota DNR through the Landscape Stewardship Plan. Melanie Bomier with the Carlton SWCD will also assist with writing the plan.

Agenda Additions: The draft updated MOA was shared. This will be on the next Policy Committee agenda.

Future Agenda Items: The group discussed the committees & their make up. This will be refined at the next meeting.

The next Policy Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, April 27th, at the Itasca County Courthouse, from 11:30 am – 2:30 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm.