

1W1P Upper Mississippi Grand Rapids
Policy Committee Planning Meeting
Meeting Minutes - April 27, 2023

Attendance: Voting Members

Wayne Anderson, Aitkin Co. SWCD
Barb Dahl, Carlton SWCD
Rick Haaland, Cass County
Lynn Mizner, Logan Township
Gary Peterson, Carlton County
Cal Saari, Itasca SWCD

Other / Technical Advisors

Andy Arens, Itasca SWCD
Melanie Bomier, Carlton SWCD
Bonnie Goshey, MPCA
Matt Gutzmann, Itasca SWCD
Chad Severts, BWSR
Sam Seybold, Aitkin Co. SWCD
Janet Smude, Aitkin Co. SWCD
Austin Steere, Itasca SWCD

Non-Voting Members Present

Tom Nelson, Itasca SWCD (Alternate)
Bob Marcum, Salo Township (Virtual Attendee)

A Roll Call of those in attendance was taken to start the meeting. Tom Fasteland (Aitkin SWCD), Dave Peterson (Cass SWCD), and Michael Kearney (Aitkin County) had notified the committee that he would not be able to attend the meeting. Members were asked to notify the Chair or coordinator if they are unable attend, in an effort to ensure that a quorum is met.

The meeting was called to order at 11:33 am.

Policy Committee By-Laws Discussion: Matt Gutzmann walked the group through the proposed by-laws. A motion was made to accept the by-laws as presented M/S/C Wayne Anderson / Barb Dahl. The ability to vote if attending virtually will be clarified at the next meeting.

The meeting agenda was approved as presented M/S/C Gary Peterson / Wayne Anderson.

Minutes of the March 23rd Policy Committee meeting were reviewed and approved as presented M/S/C Gary Peterson / Barb Dahl.

Discuss Updates to MOA: The MOA was updated to add language regarding township and Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe participation. A motion was made to rescind the current MOA and approve the new MOA M/S/C Wayne Anderson / Gary Peterson. New signatures are required from all entities.

Presentation of Advisory Topic Meetings: Melanie Bomier shared a proposed plan for the Advisory Topic Meetings – including topics, dates, and locations. A summary report will be developed following each meeting. The goal is to gather stakeholder comments / input as the group develops lists of opportunities and issues relating to water quality.

Technical Advisory Committee & Topic Experts: Matt Gutzmann presented proposed lists of representatives to the Advisory Committee and Topic Experts. Additions should be sent to Matt for inclusion.

Current Water Quality Status: Bonnie Goshey, MPCA shared a summary of the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPPS) project completed in 2017. Impaired waters were highlighted, as were those that are nearly or barely impaired. Priority concerns of the MPCA were noted.

Plan Objectives and Desired Future Conditions: What would you like the watershed to look like in 50 years? Input was gathered from the group through a visioning exercise.

Kick Off Meetings: Sam Seybold shared information regarding the Kick Off Meetings. These are scheduled for June 5th in Tamarack and June 7th in Grand Rapids. Opportunities for promotion of these events were discussed.

Future Agenda Items: The Group will discuss options for future locations of Policy Committee meetings.

The next Policy Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, June 22nd, at the Long Lake Conservation Center if it is available, from 11:30 am – 2:30 pm. The Hill City Fire Hall is a back-up location. Please note there will be no meeting in May. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.