

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE PINE RIVER ONE WATERSHED ONE PLAN

A regular meeting of the Policy Committee (PC) was held at the Cass County Land Department meeting room in Backus, MN and called to order by Chair Jeff Peterson at 9:05 a.m. on February 22, 2018. All members were present: Paul Thiede, Commissioner, Crow Wing County; Joann Weaver, Supervisor, Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD); Jeff Peterson, Commissioner, Cass County; and Jim Ballenthin, Cass Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

Other attendees and staff support personnel: Kelly Condiff, Cass ESD/SWCD; Melissa Barrick, Crow Wing SWCD; Ryan Simonson and Jacob Frie, Crow Wing Land Services; and Chris Pence, Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR).

MSP Approved proposed Agenda, copy attached

MSP Approved Minutes of meeting of February 6, 2018

Advisory Committee Recommendations:

Staff presented suggestions for members for an Advisory Committee, to consist of five persons representing state government agencies as required by law and five persons from each of Cass County and Crow Wing County, with the members from Cass and Crow Wing Counties to represent different constituencies, such as lakes and water, forestry, cities, townships, resorts, agriculture, commercial, etc. Following discussion staff directed to contact appropriate persons from Cass and Crow Wing Counties to seek their willingness to serve, and Commissioners Peterson and Theide also to similarly make such contacts. At its next meeting the PC to consider appointments to the Advisory Committee.

Consultant Selection:

Staff presented a suggestion that the PC enter into professional service contracts with a consultant to facilitate public meetings and a consultant to draft the proposed 1W1P plan. Following discussion staff directed to negotiate proposed contracts with qualified consultants as suggested for consideration by the PC at its next meeting.

Kickoff Meeting Open House:

As set forth in the Work Plan and Timeline, a Kickoff Meeting and Open House is scheduled for May 7, 2018, and staff presented a proposed agenda for the open house. Staff directed to finalize the agenda and location for the meeting and open house, to consider alternative media representatives to make the presentation on the value of the Pine River watershed, and to timely issue press releases as appropriate to area media outlets giving notice and information to the public of the meeting and open house.

Letters for State Agencies, Local Governments, and Citizens:

Staff presented a proposed letter to required state agencies giving formal notice of intent to prepare the Pine River One Watershed One Plan and advising of a 60 day opportunity to comment on priority issues and concerns to be addressed in the plan. The letter also will include a copy of the press release regarding the Kickoff Meeting and Open House. Staff directed to

finalize the letter, provide a copy to PC members for comment, consider comments received, and issue the letter timely to meet the 60-day comment notice requirement.

Staff presented a proposed letter to local governments to be sent not less than 45 days before the Kickoff Meeting and Open House and which will include a copy of the press release regarding the Kickoff Meeting and Open House. The purpose of the letter is to better enable local governments to respond to citizen inquiries and to participate in the planning process as they may desire. Staff directed to finalize the letter, provide a copy to PC members for comment, consider comments received, and issue the letter timely.

Advisory Committee and Policy Committee Meetings:

Staff presented a proposed meeting schedule with agendas for future meetings, a copy of relevant portion attached. The PC by unanimous consent took the following actions'

- 1) Set the next PC meeting for Monday, March 26, 2018, 9:00 a.m. at the Cass County Land Department meeting room in Backus. Preliminary proposed agenda accepted. Meeting may include presentations by proposed consultants and by other professionals addressing items on the agenda.
- 2) Set a joint PC and Advisory Committee meeting for Wednesday, April 25, 2018, at 1:00 p.m., location to be determined. Preliminary proposed agenda accepted.
- 3) Subsequent future meeting dates, agendas and locations to be determined.

Alternate Policy Committee Members:

By unanimous consent the PC agreed that if a PC member cannot attend a PC meeting, the PC member may appoint an alternate to attend, and the alternate may participate in the meeting and gather information for the absent PC member. The alternate PC member will have no voting rights.

Notice: the next meeting of the Policy Committee is at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, March 26, 2018, at the Cass County Land Department meeting room in Backus, MN.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Submitted by Jim Ballenthin, Secretary