

<b><u>Meeting Attendance Log</u></b>	<b><i>Present? Y/N/On-Line (OL);Member attendance NA for this Committee; absent (AB)</i></b>	
<b><i>Member Name</i></b>		<b><i>Organization</i></b>
Diane Jacobson	Y	Crow Wing SWCD- Supervisor
Melissa Barrick	Y	Crow Wing SWCD- Manager
Bethany Chaplin	Y	Crow Wing SWCD
Tim Terrill	Y	Mississippi Headwaters Board
Steve Barrows-CHAIR	Y	Crow Wing County Commissioner
Jacob Frie	Y	Crow Wing Land Services
Nicole Erickson	OL	Crow Wing Environmental Services- Coordinator
Mark Wedel	Y	Aitkin County Commissioner
Janet Smude	Y	Aitkin SWCD
Wayne Anderson	Y	Aitkin SWCD- Supervisor
Lee Buchholz	Y	Todd SWCD- Supervisor
Deja Anton	Y	Todd SWCD- Manager/Water Plan Team
Adam Ossefoort	OL	Todd County Division Director: Planning/Zoning & County Water Plan Team
Dave Kircher	OL	Todd County-Commissioner
Tom Brutscher	Y	Morrison SWCD- Supervisor
Shannon Wettstein	Y	Morrison SWCD- Manager
Chris Pence	Y	BWSR. Twins Fan
Lindberg Ekola	Y	BWSR
Jeff Hrubes	Y	BWSR
Mitch Brinks	Y	TSA8
Chad Anderson	OL	MN Department of Health
Moriya Rufer	OL	Houston Engineering- Consultant
Tad Erickson	AB	Region 5

## Mississippi – Brainerd Planning Meeting Notes

**Location:** Crow Wing County Land Services Department 322 Laurel St. Brainerd, MN 56401

**Date of Meeting:** May 24, 2022 **Committee Type:** Policy **Time:** 1:00-4:00 pm

**Agenda Item:** Highlight= Decisions Made

1. Introductions: All online and in-person introductions were made.
2. Minutes:  
 Approved as written or **Approved with Revisions** (see revisions below):  
Allowed for BWSR presentation to go first due to other scheduled commitments

1<sup>st</sup>: Wayne Anderson, 2nd: Tom Brutscher. **Unanimous Motion Carried.**

3. Recommendations for Advisory Committee:

Approved as presented or Approved with Revisions (see revisions below):

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1<sup>st</sup>: Mark Wedel, 2nd: Lee Buchholz. **Unanimous Motion Carried.**

▪ *Discussion Highlights:*

- Concerning Citizen Committee, Aitkin SWCD requested the addition of Barb Karls, Cedar Lake LID, Aitken and Dave Dickey, Aitkin, retired DNR to the Citizens Committee list.
- Dave Kircher provided the correct TWP for committee member Bruce Johnson (Todd County) as he felt Bruce represented Burnhamville TWP, not Grey Eagle TWP.
- Not all members of the Citizens Committee had been confirmed, so Policy Board decided to table approval of the Citizens Committee to a later meeting.

4. BWSR priorities and concerns for water resources:

*Presenters:* Chris Pence/Jeff Hrubes (BWSR)

- Questions and concerns about the planning process were collected from the group along with end goals. Answers were provided by BWSR.
- Melissa Barrick presented on the map package she provided.
- *Discussion Highlights:*
  - The Brainerd- Mississippi is considered a *medium* sized watershed as compared to all HUC 8 watersheds, statewide..
  - The history of the diversion channel in Aitkin was shared.
  - Aitkin County has more miles of the Mississippi R. than any other state in the U.S.
  - The watershed is unique due to the amount of city and stormwater considerations along with Ag land, shoreland, riparian areas, and forested lands.
  - The plan allows neighboring LGUs, state agencies and citizens to get to know one another

5. Landscape Stewardship Plan Priorities:

*Presenter:* Lindberg Ekola (BWSR)

*Discussion Highlights:*

- Quality forests + Quality water = Quality life
- Land disturbance effects water quality. Research has shown that land disturbance in a particular water or lakeshed of 25% or more is the tipping point for negative impacts to water quality.
- Land disturbance can be amended resulting in positive impacts in a relatively short period. The projects and practices supported by Lessard-SAMS in Crow Wing County has reduced disturbed land area impacts in a period of 8 years.
- A question was posed, how can we increase forested areas when we are challenged with Oak Wilt, Emerald Ash Borer, and Buckthorn? Answer: Improved forest management will be the long term correction.
- There are approximately 100 certified private foresters, statewide.

6. Kick-off Meeting, Review agenda and advertising strategies:

*Presenter:* Shannon Wettstein, Morrison SWCD

*Discussion Highlights:*

- June 6 is the date 4:00 to 6:30pm @  
**Environmental Classroom, Building 11-1 (TACC), Camp Ripley 15000 MN Hwy 115, Little Falls, MN 56345**
- Pre-registration is highly encouraged-  
**REGISTRATION: Please contact Lance at (320) 631-3556 or via email at lance.chisholm@morrisonswcd.org and let us know your name and how many other guests will be attending the event. Please remember to bring your official ID or driver's license to gain access to Camp Ripley.**
- Commissioner Barrows encouraged Policy Members, as leaders, to be present.
- A question was brought up as to whether the Kick-off Meeting needed additional formal notice or was the invite good enough? Melissa will look into that. Todd County publically noticed the Long Prairie Kick-Off so that all Commissioners and Supervisors could attend if they chose.

7. Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule, review and discuss

*Presenter:* Moriya Rufer, Plan Consultant

*Discussion Highlights:*

- First Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2022
- Next formal Policy Committee scheduled for August 23, 2022
- Timeline for Plan was reviewed with an end goal date of early Fall 2023
- The plan process will be broken down into the following production chunks-
  - **Issue ID & Prioritization**
  - **Measurable Goals**
  - **Implementation Actions**
  - **Draft of Plan**
  - **Formal review**
  - **Final review**

8. Minnesota Department of Health priorities and concerns for groundwater:

*Presenter:* Chad Anderson, MDH

*Discussion Highlights:*

- There are 8,135 private wells with known locations in the watershed.
- Promotion Goals-
  - **Well sealing**
  - **Groundwater Education**
  - **More well testing**
  - **Promotion of Waste Collection**
  - **Nutrient Management**

- Though outside of the Brainerd Mississippi watershed, the City of St. Cloud is downstream. The source of the city's drinking water is the Mississippi R. Ammonia is the biggest concern for the city.
- Only .7% of the wells tested indicate high nitrates. It is important to note that not all wells have been tested, so any conclusions drawn at this point are considered somewhat "premature".
- Arsenic is another drinking water concern. Arsenic does occur naturally, but pollutants can increase the incidence of arsenic in water.
- A concern brought up by Jacob Frie was the fact that SWCD does receive results of testing and is tracking these results, however these results are not being received by the state of MN. Melissa and Chad will touch base on this topic to see if a change can be made.
- Tim Terrill from the Mississippi Headwaters Board presented a short video on the history of the Board, its purpose and intent for participation in the plan. Consider us as "salt" - adding a subtle hint of flavor, but not overpowering, he said.

9. Adjourn:

Commissioner Barrows called for a motion to adjourn.

1<sup>st</sup>: Lee Buchholz 2<sup>nd</sup>: Tom Brutscher

Meeting was adjourned.

Next scheduled meeting is set for 2:00pm, August 23, 2022 at the  
Crow Wing County Land Services Department 322 Laurel St. Brainerd, MN 56401

*Notes compiled by Deja Anton, Todd SWCD*