

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting for the Mississippi- Brainerd 1W1P

held **Jan. 24, 2023** at the Crow Wing County Land Services Building, 322 Laurel St. Brainerd, MN

Present:

Lance Chisolm, Morrison SWCD

Tad Erickson, Region 5 Development

Bethany Chaplin, Crow Wing SWCD

Mitch Brinks, TSA 8

Kaysie Maleski, Aitkin SWCD

Moriya Rufer, Houston Engineering Consultant

Tim Terrill, Mississippi Headwaters Board

Rick Johnson, Landowner, Todd County

Dilan Christensen, Crow Wing County

Chad Anderson, MDH

Jeff Hrubes, BWSR

Online Attendees:

Shelley Larson, Shoreline Consultant

Amy Kowalzek, Morrison County

Adam O Ossefoort, Todd County

Candi Fuller, NRCS

Chris Pence, BWSR

Jeffrey Weiss, DNR

Perry Bunting,

Bonnie Finnerty, MPCA

Chad Weiss, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Deja Anton, Todd SWCD

- ✚ Introductions were held. Meeting started at 1:00pm.
 - ✚ Moriya reviewed goals and timeline. We have completed the Issues ID and Resource Priorities phases of the process. We are now on “Measurable Goals”- What is it that we are actually going to do? Citizens will draft actions this evening at the CAC.
 - ✚ Our 7 goals are: Phosphorus Reduction, Stormwater Management, Land and Forest Protection, Riparian Stabilization, Ag Land Management, Drinking Water Protection, and Water Retention.
 - ✚ Moriya defined long term goals as a “someday results”- we never know how long those will take to reach, and short term goals as those informed by data that can be reasonably attained in 10 years’ time.
 - ✚ Each of the 7 goals was discussed.
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- ✚ A graph on Phosphorus Reductions needed for each lake was shown. The vertical bars indicated a 5% reduction for each lake. The lighter blue dotted line represented the clarity gained from each reduction. The highly impaired lakes would have to show significant reductions before we would see any differences in lake clarity while significant gains in clarity are made when we reduce a smaller amount of P in less impaired lakes.
 - ✚ There was a request to add property value increases into this graph as well and to use Serpent Lake as a real local example as opposed to a theoretical, unknown lake.
 - ✚ It was also suggested to change the dotted line for water clarity into a vertical column as well creating a clearer visual.
 - ✚ Moriya’s team is working on creating heat maps for the zones.
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- ✚ We examined the LSP Priority map for Goal Protection. The orange on the map needed explanation and to be added to the legend.
 - ✚ An explanation was held on how to measure the protection goal. There was a suggestion of 1000 acres. Crow Wing spoke up and said they put ~500 acres under protection last year while Morrison County put ~350 under protection. The long-term suggestion was to put 22,000 acres into protection. The team suggested a goal of 1500 acres per year was reasonable.
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- ✚ Riparian Stabilization priorities are currently based on the DNR Score your Shore. Lakes with a LOW score were those that were developed with little habitat remaining. The low score lakes would act as Priority 1 for stabilization. Jeff Hrubes asked how does Score Your Shore correlate with the 25% impervious/ disturbed land findings? Chris Pence spoke up and suggested there may be a data gap on other lakes involving % disturbed.
 - ✚ Another committee member spoke up and suggested that we wordsmith stabilization to adopt the term “soft armor stabilization” meaning ecological stabilizations and buffers as opposed to rip-rap or hard armor solutions.
 - ✚ It was mentioned that the way the lakes were classified appeared to be based on habitat and not phosphorus loading or sediment, the latter two indicators being the norm for stabilization justification.

- ✚ The Ag Land Management sub-committee has yet to meet but will be meeting soon. Moriya added that we were off to a good start with a reported 12% of Ag lands already under best management practices. There was a suggestion of adding 713 acres of BMPs per year, watershed wide. Moriya also pointed out that Ag land BMPs in Todd County benefit the City of St. Cloud DWSMA.
- ✚ Drinking Water Protection Goal: Our DWSMAS are in the cities of Little Falls, Baxter, and Crosby. It was suggested to measure by number of non-lake acres minus impervious surfaces on which BMPs were added. It was also requested to track septic systems. Further discussion was held about special RIM easements in DWSMAS.
- ✚ Water retention Goal: Water Retention is a BWSR requirement. It was explained that instead of making up for lost storage in the past, it was best to look to the future and base goals on the predicted storage needed for the future- precipitation prediction and runoff models. Thus, we would be building resiliency for the future. Water retention can be natural or manmade. The good news was that we had good peatland, lake and forest storage areas.
- ✚ Moriya reviewed “Next Steps” and Tad requested a small group be made to work on developing the vision statement. Moriya wanted to incorporate the cultural language.
- ✚ Discussion was held on choosing a path to go forward for LGU Agreements. Will we form a Joint Powers Board or a Collaboration? This needs to be discussed with the Decision Makers.

The next TAC meeting is scheduled for **February 28**, 2023 followed by the Policy Committee Meeting.

TAC Meeting was adjourned at 3:06pm.