

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting for the Mississippi- Brainerd 1W1P, held **February 28th, 2023** at
the Crow Wing County Land Services Building, 322 Laurel St. Brainerd, MN

Present:

Barb Becker, Todd County Commissioner

Bethany Chaplin, Crow Wing SWCD

Candy Fuller, NRCS

Chad Anderson, MDH

Darren Mayers, BWSR

Deja Anton, Todd County SWCD

Diane Jacobson, Crow Wing SWCD Supervisor

Dillion Christiansen, Crow Wing County

Greg Blaine, Morrison County Commissioner

Janet Smude, Aitkin SWCD

Jenny Sherren, Crow Wing

Kaysie Maleski, Aitkin SWCD

Lee Buchholz, Todd County SWCD Supervisor

Mark Wedel, Aitkin County Commissioner

Melissa Barrick, Crow Wing SWCD

Mitch Brinks, TSA 8

Moriya Rufer, Houston Engineering

Shannon Wettstein, Morrison SWCD

Shelley Larson, Shoreline Consultant

Tad Erickson, Region 5

Todd Holman, The Nature Conservancy

Tom Brutscher, Morrison County SWCD Supervisor

Wayne Anderson, Aitkin County SWCD Supervisor

Online attendees:

Amy Kowalzek, Morrison County

BJ Allen, Region 5

Bonnie Finnerty, MPCA

Chad Wiess, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Greg Kimman, Morrison County

Jeffrey Weiss, DNR

Nayere Ghazanfarpour, DNR

Perry Bunting, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Rick Johnson, Land Owner, Todd County BOA

Tim Terrill, Mississippi Headwaters Board

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Tad opened the meeting.
- b. Everyone went on to introduce themselves and vacation destination.

2. Goals

- a. Moriya explained that the objective was to keep broad goals simple. The team came up with seven key goals.
- b. The plan consists of the Desired Future Condition- No end date is assigned to this condition and the short term, 10 year goals to be achieved by the end of a ten year period.

Goal #1: **Protection:** Covers Habitat, Surface Water Quality, and Groundwater – this goal is measured in acres and includes forestry, SFIA, and easements. The TAC felt that putting 1400 acres per year in protection would be achievable for a total goal of 14,765 acres in the ten year time period.

- c. A map developed by Mitch Brinks showed the priority areas on which the dark green and light green portions of the watershed being the priority areas.
- d. Bonnie Goshey, MPCA, asked how to account for new areas protected while also documenting new acres of forests cleared for land use and development in the same time period.

Goal #2: **Ag Land Management:** Covers Nutrient Management, Erosion, Pasture, Cover Crops, And Irrigation

- e. Moriya stated that 12% of the land cover does have BMPs in place. Amy asked if the 12% included buffer acres. Answer: Not yet, but Mitch will look into that further.
- f. Priority areas include Todd Morrison and a little bit of western Aitkin County.
- g. A priority map was shared. The color brown indicates the first priority areas.
- h. This goal hopes to add 700 acres covered by BMPs.

Goal #3: **Phosphorus Reduction**: This goal focuses on lakes and covers Stormwater Management in Urban areas, Ag BMPs, construction Stormwater, Septics, and Shoreline Ordinances.

- i. The long term goal is to meet the TMDL goals and the short term goal is to see a 5% reduction in phosphorous in impaired lakes and no declining trends in non-impaired lakes.
- j. Amy posed a question: Which ordinance enforcement procedures are most effective, and will we be looking at each county ordinance and results to identify those which are most effective? Answer from Moriya: Yes.
- k. Moriya shared a graph to indicate the 5% of P reduction for each priority lake. The more impaired or shallow a lake is will note a far less improvement in clarity as opposed to lakes that are barely impaired. The less impaired lakes will give you up to a ½ foot clarity which is a better return of investment.
- l. Bonnie Goshey, MPCA requested that stressors be looked at for those impaired for Fish Biology.
- m. Darren Meyers, BWSR, added that this is a very extensive list- how do you select which lakes to fund?

Goal #4: **Urban Stormwater**: The goal is to treat stormwater before it drains to the lakes.

- n. The objective is to provide cities a framework for their individual stormwater plans.
- o. Darren offered that working with cities is a good way to obtain match for the plan.
- p. Todd Hollman, Nature Conservancy added that there are certain Hot Spots along the corridor where stormwater is a known issue.

Goal #5 **Drinking Water Protection**: The goal is to seal 10 unused wells per year, and to protect land (20 acres per year located within a DWSMA).

- q. A map was provided on which red indicated the vulnerable DWSMAs and blue indicated the area in Todd that would be included to implement AG BMPs as this area protects the drinking water for the cities of St. Cloud, Minneapolis, and St. Paul.

Goal #6 **Shoreland Stabilization**: This goal is measured in length of riparian area restored along the lake. The team objective is to restore 2 miles over a period of ten years or 100 projects per year based on an average of 100 feet per project along priority lakes.

- r. Anton mentioned what about upland projects in shoreland that don't have real "length"? That is the bulk of Todd County projects in recent years. Shelly Larson asked that this receive attention and be taken into serious consideration in the plan- tons of sediment coming into the lakes from shoreland upland erosion, for example. There seems to be no mention of this in the plan. She also asked that the Upland Zone be defined in the plan. What is the depth of protection?
- s. **Darren asked about protection of land that is already in good shape. What happens if this shoreline is altered?** Moriya said she would look into this further.

Goal #7 **Water Retention and Water Storage (required by BWSR)**: To be measured in ac./ft.

- t. Projects need to be built to handle future precipitation events.
- u. A map was shared showing that Aitkin County, Brainerd and western Todd were the focus areas in which to work.
- v. Amy asked if tiling was taken into consideration.
- w. Bonnie will provide feedback on these priorities from the MPCA perspective.

- x. Buchholz emphasized the importance of 1) designing for the future and 2) holistic fixes that address related goals on the same acreage or minor watershed.
- 3. The meeting took a brief break before jumping into the formal Policy Committee meeting.