



Mississippi River – Brainerd One Watershed One Plan

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Report
February 28, 2023

Attendees

In Person: Melissa Barrick (Crow Wing SWCD), Bethany Chaplin (Crow Wing SWCD), Janet Smude (Aitkin SWCD), Kaysie Maleski (Aitkin SWCD), Wayne Anderson (Aitkin SWCD Supervisor), Tom Brutscher (Morrison SWCD Supervisor), Greg Blaine (Morrison County Commissioner), Lee Buchholz (Todd SWCD Supervisor), Diane Jacobson (Crow Wing SWCD Supervisor), Barb Becker (Todd County Commissioner), Mark Wedel (Aitkin County Commissioner), Shannon Wettstein (Morrison SWCD), Mitch Brinks (TSA 8), Dylan Christianson (Crow Wing County), Todd Holman (TNC), Chad Anderson (MDH), Deja Anton (Todd SWCD), Diane Jacobson (Crow Wing SWCD Supervisor), Shelley Larson (Shoreline Consultant), Darren Mayers (BWSR), Candi Fuller (NRCS), Tad Erickson (Region 5), Moriya Rufer (Houston Engineering)

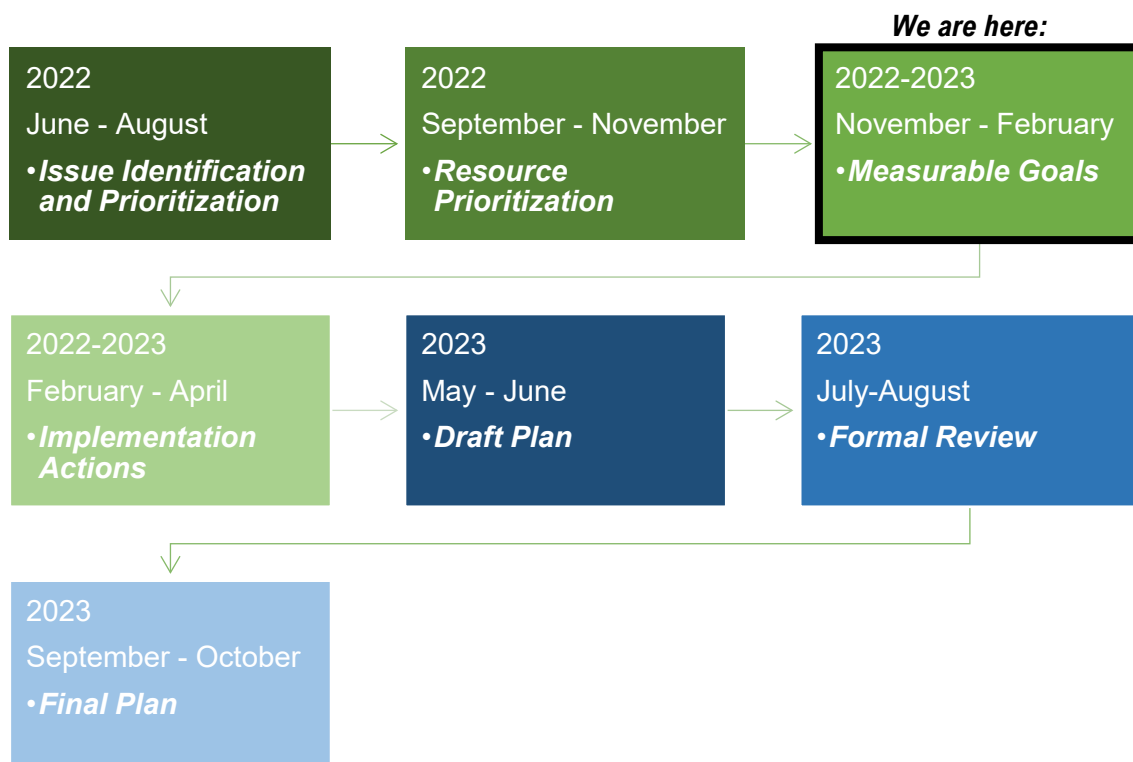
Online: Amy Kowalzek (Morrison County), Bonnie Goshey (MPCA), Jeff Wiess (DNR), Nayere Ghazanfarpour (DNR), Greg Kimman (City of Little Falls), Perry Bunting (MLBO), Chad Weiss (MLBO), Rick Johnson (Todd Co landowner), Tim Terrill (MHB), BJ Allen (Region 5)

Meeting Purpose

The purpose of this Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting was to review and approve measurable goals.

Timeline

This graphic is a simplified version of the overall timeline. This timeline is a general guide, and the process can be adapted to fit as we go.





DNR Presentation on Hydrologic Change

Jeff Wiess from the DNR gave a presentation on the DNR's study of hydrologic change in the Mississippi River – Brainerd watershed.

- There are two gages in the watershed: Aitkin and Brainerd.
- May and June have the highest flows.
- The hydrology has not changed much over historical conditions.
- The change point year is 2001; after this change points there have been larger storms.
- The increasing precipitation trend is not reflected in the Mississippi River discharge. This could be muted by the Aitkin diversion and dams along the river. Also the large amounts of lakes and forests provide water storage.
- The average annual days the Aitkin diversion is activated is 211 days.
- Overall, there has been a decline in low flow conditions.
- There is a slight change in flashiness

This information will be used in the plan to develop the water storage goal, which is a required goal by BWSR.

Draft Goals Section

Moriya Rufer explained that the objective was to keep broad goals simple. The team came up with seven key goals. 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 1,400 acres per year in protection would be achievable for a total goal of 14,765 acres in the ten year time period.

- 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.
- 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

- 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.
- Priority areas include Todd, Morrison, and a little bit of western Aitkin County.
- A priority map was shared.
- This goal hopes to add 700 acres annually covered by BMPs.

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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Goal #4: Urban Stormwater: The goal is to treat stormwater in cities before it drains to the Mississippi River and other priority resources.

- The objective is to provide cities a framework for their individual stormwater plans.
- Darren offered that working with cities is a good way to obtain match for the plan.
- Todd Holman 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).

- 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.

- 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. She also asked that the Upland Zone be defined in the plan. What is the depth of protection?
- 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.

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

The goals section will be sent to the TAC to review further and provide comments to Moriya by March 20.

Next Steps

- Next TAC meeting is March 28. The TAC will review the implementation tables.
- The full calendar for 2023 is on the next page.



Mississippi River – Brainerd 2023 Timeline

Month	Meeting	Content
March	March 20: Steering Team	Implementation Programs and Administration
	March 28: Technical Advisory Committee	Implementation Tables
April	April 17: Steering Team	Implementation Tables, Edits
	April 25: Technical Advisory Committee	Implementation Programs and Admin
	April 25: Policy Committee	Implementation Actions, Programs, Admin
May	May 15: Steering Team	Prep for Internal Review, Any Decisions Needed
	May 23: Technical Advisory Committee	Present full plan, Start Internal Review
June	June 19: Steering Team	Discuss Comments from Internal Review
	June 27: Technical Advisory Committee	Discuss Comments from Internal Review
	June 27: Policy Committee	Discuss Comments, Approve Starting 60 Day
	June 27: Citizen Advisory Committee	Discuss Comments, input on full plan
	June 30: Start 60 Day Formal Review	
July	<i>No meetings</i>	
August	<i>No meetings</i>	
	August 29: End 60 Day Formal Review	
September	September: Public Hearing	Policy Committee submit to BWSR
October	County and SWCD Boards approve plan	
November	Submit plan to BWSR	
December	December 6: BWSR Northern Region Comm.	Policy & Steering Committees attend as able
January	January 24: BWSR Board Meeting	
February	County and SWCD Boards adopt plan	