

<u>Meeting Attendance Log</u>	<i>Present? Y/N/On-Line (OL);Member attendance NA for this Committee;</i>	
<i>Member Name</i>		<i>Organization</i>
Jim Chamberlin	Y	Crow Wing SWCD- Supervisor
Bethany Chaplin	N	Crow Wing SWCD
Steve Barrows-CHAIR	Y	Crow Wing County Commissioner
Melissa Barrick	Y	Crow Wing SWCD- Manager
Mark Wedel	Y	Aitkin County Commissioner
Wayne Anderson	Y	Aitkin SWCD- Supervisor
Lee Buchholz	Y	Todd SWCD- Supervisor
Adam Ossefoort	Y	Todd County/SWCD
Barb Becker	Y	Todd County-Commissioner
Tom Brutscher	Y	Morrison SWCD- Supervisor
Shannon Wettstein	Y	Morrison SWCD- Manager
Darren Meyers	Y	BWSR
Jeff Hrubes	Y	BWSR
Candace Zimmerman	N	Region 5
Jeff Hrubes	Y	BWSR
Moriya Rufer	Y	Houston Engineering- Consultant
Janet Smude	Y	Aitkin SWCD
Diane Jacobson	Y	Crow Wing Supervisor
Greg Blaine	Y	Morrison County
Amy Kowalzek	N	Morrison County
Jacob Frie	Y	DNR
Rick Johnson	Y	Todd County Board of Adjustment
Lance Chisholm	Y	Morrison SWCD
Todd Holman	Y	Nature Conservancy
Deja Anton	Y	Todd SWCD- Manager
See back page for public attendees		

Mississippi – Brainerd Policy Meeting Notes

Location: Camp Ripley Environmental Classroom

Date of Meeting: September 26, 2023 **Committee Type:** Policy **Time:** 3:30 pm

Agenda Items:

- Welcome
 - In the interest of efficiency, the chair opened the meeting at 3:45 PM
 - Commissioner Greg Blaine provided an opening statement to welcome everyone to the meeting.
- Agenda

- Supervisor Tom Brutscher made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Supervisor Lee Buchholz. Motion passed unanimously.
- Minutes
 - Melissa Barrick reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting with the Committee.
 - Blaine made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Commissioner Mark Wedel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Review received public and state agency letters
 - Moriya Rufer provided a presentation of the letters received. The information was provided in the meeting packet.
 - Comments received were all from State Agencies, no comments were received from the general public. DNR requested the following two additions /changes be made to the plan:
 - Under the Lake Shore Restoration Goal, the use of riprap as a BMP was questioned. It was thought while not encouraged, there are certain situations where riprap is the only viable solution to correct an erosion issue. Rufer added in that NRCS standards will be followed for shoreline erosion fixes which occasionally permits the use of rip rap.
 - Rufer will add in the nutrient reduction goal for the Mississippi as it exits the watershed. (The nutrient goal for the Mississippi R. as it leaves the state of MN is 45% reduction.)
 - Blaine asked about the Mississippi River nutrient reduction initiative and what the source of that initiative is. Rufer replied it originated from models and tests taken by the MPCA.
- Public Hearing Process
 - A sign in sheet was provided to document all attendees up the public hearing.
 - Barrick conducted some housekeeping items and provided an overview of the public hearing process.
 - Blaine recognized Barrick and Rufer for their leadership roles in the development of the plan.
- Public Hearing
 - A short recess was held until 4:00 to open the public hearing.
 - Wedel made a motion to open the public hearing. Seconded by Supervisor Wayne Anderson. Motion passed unanimously.
- Plan Overview
 - Rufer provided an overview of the plan to all attendees. The overview presentation is available for review upon request. Of interest is the fact that this watershed encompasses the first 400 mi. of the Mississippi R.
 - The planning commenced in June of 2022. Implementation will begin in Spring 2024. Final funding for the plan, once approved, is at 1.2 M dollars every two years.
- Public Comments
 - Mike Stabben- no comment at this time
 - Camille Warzecka asked about how quickly the plan could address the 45% reduction goal of nitrogen leaving the state of Minnesota. Moriya and Jeff Hrubes provided a response as to what the responsibility of the plan is. The plan is voluntary. It allows for

greater landowner contact and more opportunities for good BMPs to be put in place, but because the plan is a voluntary action plan, no specific date could be provided as to when any particular goal could be met

- Jeff Hrubes commented next that all the committees, exemplary staff, and public participants have been exemplary to work with and that he believes a great plan has been developed from a watershed with many complexities from cities to lakes to livestock.
- Tom Hendricks commented that he lives on the Mississippi R. south of Little Falls. He has been taking water clarity readings for DNR for a number of years and believes the water clarity is good. He raised concerns about the amount of wild rice that is present this year and also that he has concerns about the river banks being under cut by boat and jet-ski traffic. Rufer informed the group that streambank stabilization is in the plan. Barrick explained that the wild rice increase is likely due to the drought and that instead of floating downstream, to eventually root, the rice is staying more local and rooting here due to less current in lower waters in drought years Hrubes mentioned that the wild rice is likely helping to buffer some wave action.
- Paige Van Pelt commented that she is an AIS Inspector in Aitken County and spends a lot of time around the lakes. She raised concerns about the rights to water and concerns about low water levels related to mining activities, specifically in the talon mines in the McGregor area. She asked. "Where does the water go when they remove it to mine underground? Is it being taken away from the water table, from lakes?" Jake Frie, DNR Hydrologist, provided a response describing the process of how the DNR regulates water usage and provides intense environmental review of larger uses of water. He pointed out that while the mines were not an issue during the development of the plan, that they did provide comment that they would like to see mining brought up as a new or emerging issue at the plan mid-point review.
- Barrows, Policy Chair, called for additional comments once, twice, three times. No additional comments were made.
- Blaine made a motion to close the public hearing. Wedel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Draft Plan Approval
 - Anderson made a motion to approve the draft plan with the edits discussed today and submit to BWSR for Review. Buchholz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Next Steps
 - Barrick shared that the next step is to present the plan to the Regional BWSR Committee on November 1st with the intention of presenting the plan to the State BWSR Board on December 14th.
 - Each local Board will need to pass a resolution to acknowledge the intention to adopt the plan. Blaine requested that, to prevent losing momentum, each local board pass this resolution prior to November 1st as a strong show of support for the Regional BWSR committee to approve the plan. Resolution Template found on page 12 of the Board Packet.

- Blaine made a motion that the resolutions be adopted by all local boards prior to November 1st. Anderson seconded the motion. Commissioner Barb Becker asked a clarifying question in reference to her experience with the Long Prairie plan- is this a similar process done in the Long Prairie Plan. Yes, was the response provided by staff. Motion passed unanimously.
- Barrick then requested that some staff and policy committee members attend the Regional BWSR Meeting to present the plan. She will be reaching out via email to seek attendees.
- Barrick also noted to the Policy Committee that the Steering Committee will continue to work in the meantime to establish a plan to spend the initial round of implementation funding.
- Fiscal Responsibility for Implementation has not been determined. Aitkin SWCD has served as the fiscal agent for the planning portion.
- The next Policy Committee Meeting will tentatively be held in January to review the MOA for implementation.
- Barrows recognized all committees for a job well done. He said he has never been involved in such a process that went so smoothly.
- Wedel made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Becker. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:44 PM.

Notes taken by Adam Ossefoort, reviewed and submitted by Deja Anton, Todd SWCD.

Additional Sign in Attendees

Mike Stacken- Sebie Lake LID , Fort Ripley

Camille Warzeka, Volunteer, Brainerd.

Tom Hendricks, Little Falls on the Mississippi

Bonnie Johnson, Burtrum, MN

Paige Van Pelt, Aitkin County Volunteer, Camp Ripley

Camille Waigh, Volunteer, Little Falls

Dan Becker, Todd County