

1W1P Advisory Committee Kickoff

June 12, 2019

A kickoff meeting of the One Watershed One Plan Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, June 12, 2019, at the Ada Event Center, Ada, MN. Advisory Committee Members in attendance included: Annette Drewes, MN DNR; Besty Nebgen, MPCA; Dan Disrud, MDH; Jenilynn Marchand, MDH; Henry VanOffelen, BWSR; Bob Guetter, NRCS; Lynn Foss, Clay SWCD; Tony Nelson, Pheasants Forever; Brian Winter, TNC; Phil Doll, Becker SWCD; Curt Johannsen, WRWD; Garry Johannsen, Norman County; Monica Hedstrom, White Earth Tribe; Dan Mclaughlin, Becker County; Matt Jacobson, Clay County. Policy Committee Members in attendance included: Barry Nelson, Becker County; Dean Newland, Clearwater County; David Geray, Mahnomen County; Pete Revier, Mahnomen County SWCD; Steve Jacobson, Norman County; Scott Balstad, East Polk SWCD; Mark Harless, WRWD. Others in attendance included: Kevin Ruud, Wild Rice Watershed District Administrator; Henry VanOffelen, Board of Water and Soil Resources; Tara Jensen, Wild Rice Watershed District Bookkeeper; Moriya Rufer, Houston Engineering; Brett Arne, Board of Water and Soil Resources; Aaron Neubert, Mahnomen County SWCD; Nicole Bernd, West Polk County SWCD; Chester Powell, Clearwater County SWCD; Kevin Kassenborg, Clay County SWCD, and Jerry Bents, Houston Engineering.

Rufer began with an overview of the 1W1P development and why it came about, noting that they are looking for what matters the most to each of the participating parties during the planning process to best determine where to focus efforts over the next 10 years in the Watershed. Concerns will be prioritized later in the process.

The organizational structure was discussed detailing each committee, members and what roles they serve, followed by an overview of the timeline and milestones to expect along the way and when they are anticipated to occur.

Bernd presented those in attendance the draft participation plan for review and highlighted roles and responsibilities along with committee member conduct.

Rufer noted the plan progress that has been completed to date, followed by the land and water resources narrative overview and the planning regions presentation.

The meeting continued with the informational forum with the following topics being discussed:

- **Altered Hydrology:** VanOffelen presented an overview of the report detailing stressor ID, river flows and hydrologic overview. He stated that climates and humans are largely driving what happens to the runoff by changing pathways and storage. The impact of subsurface tile is dependent on the timing, however it consistently increases annual runoff amounts. He ended with an overview of strategies and what they help solve.
- **Flood Damage Reduction/LTFSS:** VanOffelen summarized an overview of recent and ongoing flood damage reduction efforts within the District and the status of flood protection since the 1997 flood. The process looks at an overview of the concept and implements planning to meet the goals set forth. He concluded by displaying how various strategies can affect flows along the main stem of the Red River.

- Habitat: Drewes highlighted habitat features within the District beginning with the Prairie Plan within the boundaries. The issues that are of concern include how to provide protection to unique and sensitive resources. She noted that the watershed health assessment framework states that perennial coverage improves water quality. She added that the beach ridge areas are high in native prairies and discussed the Felton Prairie Stewardship plan which was completed in 2002. There are wild rice lakes and trout streams located within the District that are important for protection as well.
- Water Quality: Nebgen discussed the MPCA timeline for the WRAPS and TMDL. The initial drafts are expected to be completed later in June or in July. They are currently pending results. She presented an overview of the results of the studies and impairments found through the studies. Protection and prioritization maps are available to display various risks.
- Watershed Flyover: Mead presented a flyover presentation of the District highlighting the planning area, size, unique characteristics, land cover, habitat and recreation, impairments, groundwater, land ownership and socioeconomic data.
- 1W1P Testimonials: Those who have participated in the process in the past. The previous water plans were focused on jurisdictional boundaries with neighboring LGUs competing against each. The 1W1P process brings partners together to follow the watershed boundaries and look at a bigger picture. Those in attendance were reminded to respect other peoples concerns and issues. It was noted that disagreements will occur and working through them to focus on a common goal is the main objective. The new process allows local partners to have a voice in where the funds go by shifting away from random acts of conservation and more effectively prioritizing strategies and more effectively using funds.

The meeting was concluded and those in attendance were informed that the first advisory committee meeting would be held on Monday, June 24th at the Wild Rice Watershed District Office.