

1W1P Steering Committee Meeting

May 7, 2019

A meeting of the WRWD 1W1P Steering Committee was held on Wednesday, May 7, 2019, at the Norman County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Office. Committee Members in attendance included: Brett Arne, Board of Water and Soil Resources; Lori Thronson, Norman County SWCD; Chester Powell, Clearwater County SWCD, Peter Mead, Becker County SWCD; Aaron Neubert, Mahnomon County SWCD; Nicole Bernd, West Polk SWCD; Matt Jacobson, Houston Engineering; Jerry Bents, Houston Engineering; Kevin Ruud, Wild Rice Watershed District. Members absent were: Kelsey Hedlund, East Polk SWCD. Others in attendance were: Tara Jensen, Wild Rice Watershed District Secretary; Brett Arne, BWSR; Henry VanOffelen, BWSR.

Jacobson presented an overview of the meeting timeline for the day. The committee reviewed the plan timeline to look at where they are with current objectives, ensuring the process is keeping on track. A proposed planning regions document was distributed for review and approved as presented. It will be presented to the advisory and policy committees for review and approval.

Lengthy discussion was held regarding the draft issues table. It was suggested removing issues and/or concerns if they are not tied to a physical resource on the landscape due to the improbability of developing a measurable goal. The issues and/or concerns removed for this reason can still be incorporated in the plan as education/outreach or regulatory actions. Discussion was held regarding grouping similar issues or leaving them separate. It was determined that two would be grouped together, one eliminated, one slightly revised and one reworded to better state the issue. The committee recommended adding a concern for agricultural land.

The committee was asked to assign high, medium, or low priority levels to each of the planning region issues included on the prioritization framework. It was noted that this is something that needs to be done later in the process, and doing it at this point makes it easier later on. It was recommended to add a not applicable category to the ranking order. The steering, advisory, and policy committees will all provide input which will be combined to determine recommended ranking for each of the issues.

Kassenborg arrived at 11:04 am.

It was determined that the same prioritization framework could be used for the resources as well. HEI will make maps available at kickoff meetings for parties to mark areas of concern or issues directly on a map.

HEI will send out an updated issues and concerns spreadsheet which will next be discussed during the advisory committee meeting in June. Once the 60 day comment period responses are gathered, Jacobson will summarize comments returned and distribute them to the steering committee members. All members were asked to return prioritize responses back to Jacobson by May 24th.

It was noted that policy committee members are welcome to attend the Advisory kickoff meeting if they choose to. It will be held on June 12 from 12-3pm.

Moriya continues to work on the draft land and water resources narrative. Arne suggested adding socioeconomic information to the report.

The committee discussed the Advisory kickoff meeting to be held in June and an overview of what will happen during it. Powell suggested having an example of a completed plan for those in attendance to review so they know what to expect out of the process. It was recommended this could also be shared with the policy committee. Jacobson and Bernd will coordinate to have the executive summary of the Red Lake Watershed District 1W1P available for interested parties to review. It was determined that SWCD representatives would present a “Watershed Flyover” by detailing priorities in each of their counties. It was noted this could tie into planning regions as well. The first four presentations would be watershed wide, followed by information regarding individual regions. VanOffelen offered to reach out to Danielle Kvasager in attempt to have the PCA present information regarding priority resource issues on streams.

The agenda for the advisory kickoff meeting will be distributed on May 29th. Those in attendance were asked to return comments on priority resources and confirm speakers for the event by May 24th. The Red Lake Watershed District Executive Summary will be included with the Agenda distribution.

The committee discussed the Public Kickoff meeting, an overview of what will likely happen at the event and possible presentations to include. It was noted that some of the same presentations from the Advisory kickoff could be used if desired. Lengthy discussion was held regarding when to hold the public kickoff and what to include in it. It was determined that the Public Kickoff meeting would be on Thursday, July 25th 9-11 am at the Watershed District office.

Future meeting dates:

June 12th

12am-3pm – Informal Advisory Kickoff (lunch provided)

June 24th

10am – 11am – Policy Committee meeting

11am – 1pm Advisory/Policy Committee meeting (lunch provided)

July 25th

9am – 11am – Public Kickoff meeting