

1W1P Steering Committee Meeting

February 6, 2019

A meeting of the WRWD 1W1P Steering Committee was held on Wednesday, February 6, 2019, at the Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD) Office. Committee members in attendance included: Brett Arne, Board of Water and Soil Resources; Lori Thronson, Norman County SWCD; Chester Powell, Clearwater County SWCD, Phil Doll, Becker County SWCD, Kelsey Hedlund, East Polk SWCD; Kevin Kassenborg, Clay County SWCD; Nicole Bernd, West Polk SWCD; Aaron Neubert, Mahnomon County SWCD; Matt Jacobson, Houston Engineering; Jerry Bents, Houston Engineering; Kevin Ruud, Wild Rice Watershed District; Tara Jensen, Wild Rice Watershed District. Absent: Jerry Bents, Houston Engineering.

Jacobson began with an overview of the December meeting and steps for current meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the MOA and comments returned by attorneys. It was noted that contact information for various representative would be added. Clearwater County will have a board decision regarding their participation on February 12th.

Next, discussion was held regarding the timeline and extending it. Doll stated that Mead recommended extending the planning portion of the timeline out. The budget was reviewed next.

SWCD representatives were asked to obtain signatures from SWCD and County Board to complete the MOA. All parties were asked to have the documents signed by the March 6th meeting. Discussion was held regarding they policy committee bylaws and development of them.

Following the execution of the grant documents, 60 day notice comments would be requested from interested parties. The process notifies all stakeholders of the groups' intent to begin the planning process. This will also get priority issues from the state agencies participating in the advisory portion of the process. All stakeholders should be notified to get information regarding issues or resources returned during this period. Jensen and Jacobson will coordinate to get notification materials distributed.

Committee members were asked to reach out to interested parties who might consider serving on the advisory committee sooner than later. It is a good idea to have this committee formed as soon as possible. Neubert will coordinate contacting the tribe to request participating on the Advisory committee. Discussion was held regarding county roles who should serve on the committee. Steering committee members were asked to return recommendations of individuals to serve on the advisory committee to Jensen by February 27th. At the recommendation of the steering committee, the draft MOA will be changed, allowing board members of participating parties to serve on the Advisory Committee.

The policy committee is scheduled to meet on March 6th and will review and approve the 60 day notice materials, MOA, timeline, budget, and bylaws. The steering committee was asked to return comments on the documents prior to February 27th to allow for distribution to policy committee members prior to their meeting.

The committee next reviewed the draft participation plan. It was noted that this document will change as advisory roles are filled. Comments are requested to be returned by February 27th. The policy committee will review the document at their upcoming meeting.

The committee returned to discussion regarding who should serve on the Advisory committee. Bernd arrived at 11:38 pm. Mead is continuing to work on information and research for the land and water resource narrative. VanOffelen suggested checking into when PTMap will be posted online to eliminate duplicate work being done. Committee members were asked to send county information to Mead to assist with the research.

The Public Kickoff meeting is a statutory requirement and will likely occur once the issues and concerns list has been established. The kickoff meeting can solicit public input for the process. There are various stages where public input can be sought. It was determined that the meeting will be held at the District office upon the completion of the building project.

Action items and next steps were the final items discussed. The next steering committee meeting will be March 6th, 10:00 am at the District office. Suggested updates to the MOA will be completed and it will be redistributed. The timeline will be adjusted in anticipation of a June 2021 grant deadline. MOA signatures from participating parties will be obtained by SWCD representatives prior to the March 6th meeting. Comments regarding notice materials, advisory membership, and the participation plan are requested to be returned on or before February 27th. Mead will continue to gather watershed information. Discussion ended with the decision to hire HEI as the plan consultant without soliciting for bids due to their extensive working knowledge of the watershed district.