

1W1P Steering Committee Meeting

October 1, 2019

A meeting of the WRWD 1W1P Steering Committee was held on Tuesday, October 1, 2019, at the Wild Rice Watershed District Office. Committee Members in attendance included: Lori Thronson, Norman County SWCD; Chester Powell, Clearwater County SWCD; Kevin Kassenborg, Clay County SWCD; Peter Mead, Becker County SWCD; Aaron Neubert, Mahnomen County SWCD; Moriya Rufer, Houston Engineering; Jerry Bents, Houston Engineering; Kevin Ruud, Wild Rice Watershed District. Members absent were: Kelsey Hedlund, East Polk SWCD; Nicole Bernd, West Polk SWCD. Others in attendance were: Tara Jensen, Wild Rice Watershed District Secretary; Brett Arne, BWSR; Henry VanOffelen, BWSR

Discussion began by asking those in attendance how they feel the process has gone to this point. Several comments were received that it is going much faster than they originally felt it would go.

Rufer began the meeting with an overview of the timeline and current place along it. She stated that today's meeting would be used to decide on a concept of goals and we will use the rest of the month to gather data and enter numbers to measure goals.

Goals discussed include the following:

- Wild Rice – It was determined that Mead has done work to determine which lakes might be a priority. We can use this data to determine if any are located within the Watershed District.
- Riparian stabilization – The data will be simplified and details will be clarified prior presenting to the Advisory Committee.
- Forest Management – More information will be gathered prior to prioritizing this goal.
- Grassland Management – The DNR Prairie plan will be reviewed and incorporated. More data will be gathered from those with knowledge of the topic.
- Soil Health – Will determine where the most erosion is occurring and use that information.
- Altered hydrology/storage – The altered hydrology data will be reviewed and incorporated for consideration. It is noted the measurement needs to be stated in acre feet.
- Flood Damage Reduction – This is currently at a high level of protection. Work will be done to determine how many farmsteads remain that would be eligible or good candidates for either ring dike protection or buyout programs. The District will strive to further increase the protection as they are able to.
- Stream Channel Integrity – Miles from currently planned projects will be calculated and input. If anyone knows of additional areas that should be a priority within the District, they can contact either Moriya or the Watershed District.
- Ditch Stabilization – Priority areas will be placed on a map using Watershed District input. Will coordinate with Mahnomen and Norman Counties to determine if they have any systems under their jurisdiction they would like to include.
- Stream Corridor Habitat – Will include riparian and terrestrial enhancement in the consideration and look at acres restored rather than miles of channel.
- Bacteria – Will determine priority areas to focus work on.
- Sediment and Bacteria – Will utilize PTMAP data to provide information for each goal.

- Groundwater – It was noted this is a required goal. The focus will be sealing wells that remain unsealed and address emerging contaminants.

Discussion moved to the topic of the WRAPS strategies and source assessment. It was noted that this document is currently in draft format with the MPCA. The strategies tables within the report will be able to be utilized for this portion of the 1W1P process.

A draft vision statement was presented for review and found acceptable by all in attendance. A project update sheet was distributed for review. It was noted this can be given to respective board members to let them know how the process is going and what the next steps will be. Dates and times were set for two conference calls in October and December prior to adjourning.