

# 1W1P Advisory Committee Meeting

September 4, 2019

A meeting of the One Watershed One Plan Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, September 4, 2019, at the Wild Rice Watershed District Office, Ada, MN. Advisory Committee Members in attendance included: Annette Drewes, MN DNR; Danielle Kvasager, MPCA Alternate; Dan Disrud, MDH; Henry VanOffelen, BWSR; Lynn Foss, Clay SWCD; Phil Doll, Becker SWCD; Curt Johannsen, WRWD; Becker County; Matt Jacobson, Clay County. Policy Committee Members in attendance included: Barry Nelson, Becker County Commissioner; Frank Gross, Clay County Commissioner; Joan Lee, Polk County Commissioner; Mark Harless, Wild Rice Watershed District Manager; Pete Revier, Mahnomen County SWCD Supervisor. Steering Committee Members in attendance included: Nicole Bernd, West Polk SWCD; Lori Thronson, Norman County SWCD; Chester Powell, Clearwater County SWCD; Peter Mead, Becker County SWCD; Aaron Neubert, Mahnomen County SWCD; Kelsey Hedlund, East Polk SWCD; Moriya Rufer, Houston Engineering; Jerry Bents, Houston Engineering; Kevin Ruud, Wild Rice Watershed District; Tara Jensen, Wild Rice Watershed District Secretary.

The Land and Water Resources Narrative was presented with a recommendation for approval from the Steering Committee. It was suggested adding the City of Halstad on the map to use as a location reference for those viewing the west side of the District. A correction was also noted to be made to the area/size of the District. The document was approved with the two recommended changes.

An overview of all issues considered and what was determined to carry forward for prioritization was presented. An overview of the breakdowns of categories was reviewed. Barry Nelson recommended changing the priority given to agricultural land on the east side of the District. Powell suggested increasing it to a medium level of priority. Bents also recommended increasing the lower wild rice to a medium level for unique features. The document will be presented to the Policy committee with these two noted changes.

Rufer reviewed the timeline, where we are currently at and what will be coming in the future. Resource prioritization will be introduced next. The logo and presentation format approved by the steering committee was presented.

Discussion regarding resource prioritization began. It includes where we need to do work on the landscape and is driven by WRAPS and local priorities. This will be utilized in deciding where to gather data to develop goals. An overview of the lakes and streams in the District based on WRAPS data collection was presented, showing the conditions of each.

Disrud presented information regarding groundwater for drinking water sources. He noted that GRAPS reporting is being developed and it will be distributed once available. He noted that focus recommended by the MDH is protection as many of the water sources are old.

Those in attendance broke into four small groups to discuss resource prioritization and provide input. Once this task was completed, the large meeting resumed. A representative from each small group provided input and comments regarding their discussion and input. Bents presented an overview of two

locations with severe erosion damage on the main channels in the District, as well as the lower end of the Mashaug, Moccasin and Marsh Creeks. He also highlighted the Lower Wild Rice Project as a long term project and also noted that there are current efforts to resolve the erosion issues on the South Branch and stabilize the banks to decrease sediment loading below the beach ridge. VanOffelen noted that areas where ditch systems outlet into rivers tend to be a location where erosion concerns are commonly present. He also suggested looking at the impacts of gravel mining on trout streams in the Upper Felton Creek. His final recommendation was to focus on the Wild Rice River and Dalen Coulee. Drees commended that Becker County Shoreland staff is currently working with landowners and noted dams that the DNR are considering for work. The final group did not have additional comments other than those already presented.

The committee was informed that the next step will be to set measurable goals looking at what we are going to achieve and how we will measure it. We should look at the vision of the watershed, what do we want it to look like in 50 years. It was noted this was a question included on the public survey. The committee reviewed the answers returned.

Each person in attendance next spoke on what they value the most in the watershed or what they would like to see happen. Responses returned were:

- Keep the diversity from natural prairie to farmland
- Get rid of impairments
- Seeing wildlife around the area
- Reduction in wind and water erosion and reduce the taxes to landowners.
- Access to abundant ancient groundwater
- Protect trees, windbreaks, and farmsteads
- Forests, recreating, harvesting rice
- Cultural diversity and economic diversity
- Beach ridge area provides a lot of unique native prairie, disappearing, needs to be protected.
- Unique, diverse and beautiful from one side to the other. Coming up with ways to protect it. Need to preserve the recreational opportunities and appreciate the rural character and living here to bring back the lost population.
- Diversity and opportunities. Can improve the stability of streams and habitat which can also improve drainage systems and agricultural areas.
- Prairie chickens
- Working with ag producers to increase profit margins and improve environmental aspects.
- Flooding, erosion, and continue progress
- Erosion that occurs during flooding is underestimated and should try to lessen the effects of erosion.
- Recognize agricultural productivity of area from drainage practices
- Increased awareness and education of natural resources. Each compromise with economy and restoring natural resources.

Next steps were reviewed. The Policy Committee will be presented with the Priority issues list and Land and Water Resources narrative for comments and approval. The steering committee will next meeting on October 1<sup>st</sup> and the Advisory and Policy Committees will meet again on November 6<sup>th</sup>.