

1W1P Steering Committee Meeting

April 3, 2019

A meeting of the WRWD 1W1P Steering Committee was held on Wednesday, April 3, 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, Peter Mead, Becker County SWCD, Kelsey Hedlund, East Polk SWCD; Kevin Kassenborg, Clay County SWCD; Nicole Bernd, West Polk SWCD; Matt Jacobson, Houston Engineering; Jerry Bents, Houston Engineering; Kevin Ruud, Wild Rice Watershed District. Members absent were: Aaron Neubert, Mahnomon County SWCD. Others in attendance were: Tara Jensen, Wild Rice Watershed District Secretary; Brett Arne, BWSR; Henry VanOffelen, BWSR.

Jacobson presented an overview of the March steering and policy committee meetings for those in attendance. Advisory committee membership was discussed. It was noted that the committee is currently small but additions can be made throughout the process if necessary. It was determined to move forward with the current list, making changes as needed throughout the process. Powell noted that the representation from Clearwater County would likely change dependent on meeting topics and he would like to see that a space where they can send appropriate representation rather than name a specific individual. It was noted that the tribe returned comment that they are interested in serving on the committee and Monica Hedstrom would be added to the advisory committee list for notifications. Steering committee members provided names of county representation to Jacobson to add to the list. Discussion was held regarding committee roles and expectations.

Jacobson next noted that a formatting change was required by BWSR on the timeline, work plan and budget to comply with their new style of required formatting. Arne added that they were notified of the changes following the start of this process and it wasn't optional. The material contained did not change, rather just the way it was presented. Discussion was held regarding the timeline, goal development and specific terminology used in documents.

The committee reviewed planning regions. It was suggested by VanOffelen to consider grouping similar regions to simplify the process and the end report. Discussion was held regarding ways to regroup the planning regions appropriately. The committee asked Houston Engineering to make changes and redistribute a new planning regions presentation at the next meeting.

Mead presented maps developed for the development of the land and water resource narrative. It was noted that Moriya with HEI would assist in developing the draft land and water resource narrative. It was determined that the plan narrative would take a more broad approach, instructing interested parties on where to obtain more specific information desired. Mead presented an overview of the information required for the report and resources used to gather the information. Jacobson noted that it would be good to review lake properties and development. VanOffelen noted that it might be helpful to determine expiring CRP and the affects it could have on the watershed. Discussion was held regarding if expiring CRP information can be used in a public data document or if it is private information.

Jacobson presented the process for identifying and prioritizing resource concerns and issues and distributed a draft document prepared by HEI to assist committee members with providing feedback and information. Bernd thanked Jacobson for the document and reminded committee members that their participation in the plan is critical and each participating party needs to fulfill their commitments to the process. All members were asked to compare the draft document to their current water plan and provide feedback to Thronson, Neubert, or Jacobson on or before April 22. It was noted that once the list was fine tuned and approved by steering committee membership it would be presented to the policy committee for review and acceptance. VanOffelen noted that it is important to consider if each of the issues can have an achievable goal attached to it. Discussion was held on what details to include in the concerns and issues document and what is the most important parts of the water plan. At the request of committee members, it was determined that the BRRWD issues list would be distributed for consideration and review to compare to existing draft document.

The format and agenda for the 1W1P Advisory Kickoff meeting was discussed next. It will be held in June 12th from 12-3 pm. An orientation for interested advisory committee members would be held from 12-1, followed by an informational forum from 1-3 pm. It was determined that SWCD staff would present on important topics in their areas of the WD. Steering committee members were asked to reach out to parties that might be interested in serving on the committee. It was noted that the advisory committee would not be formally named until following this informational kickoff meeting.

It was determined that the public kickoff meeting will likely be held in July with the date and location to be determined at the May Steering committee meeting.

Those in attendance were reminded that all homework is due by April 22nd.

The next meeting of the WRWD 1W1P Steering Committee will be held May 7th at the Norman County SWCD office.