



UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER – GRAND RAPIDS 1W1P

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES April 25th, 2024

Attendance:

Voting Members

Tom Fasteland, Aitkin Co.
SWCD

Barb Dahl, Carlton SWCD

Dave Peterson, Cass
SWCD

Gary Peterson, Carlton
County

Cal Saari, Itasca SWCD

Michael Kearney, Aitkin
County

Bob Marcum, Salo
Township (Virtual
Attendance)

Perry Bunting, Mille
Lacs Band of Ojibwe
(Alternate/Virtual
Attendance)

Non- Voting Members

Present

Tom Nelson, Itasca SWCD
(Alternate)

Other / Technical

Advisors

Andy Arens, Itasca SWCD (Virtual
Attendance)

Cameron Gustafson, Carlton SWCD

Matt Gutzmann, Itasca SWCD

Janet Smude, Aitkin SWCD

Jeff Hrubes, BWSR

Darren Mayers, BWSR

Paul Radomski, Mn DNR

- ❖ A Roll Call of those in attendance was taken to start the meeting.
- ❖ The meeting was called to order at 11:30 am.
- ❖ Everyone was welcomed and introductions made.

Meeting Agenda:

- ❖ A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Michael Kearney to approve the meeting agenda. The motion was carried unanimously by all voting members in attendance at the time by roll call.

Minutes of the March 28th, 2024 Policy Committee meeting:

- ❖ Were reviewed and approved as presented M/S/C Barb Dahl / Michael Kearney. The motion was carried unanimously by all voting members in attendance at the time by roll call.

Timeline Update & Next Steps:

- ❖ Matt Gutzman updated the group on the project timeline.
- ❖ The Policy Committee is scheduled to meet next on June 27th. Cal Saari mentioned he may have a conflict with this date.
- ❖ The next meeting after that is July 25th. The Plan may be submitted for public comments on that date.
- ❖ October 10th will be the end of the 60 day public comment period. This Policy Committee meeting may also be the Public Hearing.
- ❖ The Plan is expected to be completed in late 2024, with BWSR approval anticipated in the fall.
- ❖ Implementation funding is expected in 2025.
- ❖ The project is right on track.

Presentation, Paul Radomski & Jeff Hrubes:

- ❖ What is a lake? What areas provide the greatest habitat complexity? Lakeshore is a valuable resource. Our challenge is to limit the speed of lake aging / degradation. How can we promote good stewardship?
- ❖ It is estimated that 0.2 lbs of phosphorus per lot is added to the adjacent lake. In Minnesota we have lost 40 – 50% of our natural shorelines. It is better to protect a lake vs. restoring a lake.
- ❖ There are 1,153 miles of lake shoreline in the Mississippi River Grand Rapids Watershed. Privately owned shoreline equals 661 miles or 48% of the shoreline in the watershed.
- ❖ Approximately 299 miles of private shoreline in the Watershed have been impacted by people. We are losing / converting shoreline at a rapid rate. Social norms and principles of persuasion can be used to change this impact to water quality.
- ❖ Examples were discussed including Incentives offered in Burnet County Wisconsin, and Stearns County requiring a bond from contractors to ensure Shoreland Ordinance Compliance. Rewarding good behavior may be beneficial.
- ❖ Protecting lakeshore quality protects a valuable asset of the county.

Summary of April Advisory Meeting:

- ❖ Matt Gutzmann shared that there was great participation at this meeting. The group developed a list of Emerging and Local Concerns that was shared with the Committee.
- ❖ These may be outside the scope of what this plan can address, but should however be noted.
- ❖ Action Tables were also shared. These outline steps that will be undertaken during the 10 years of the Plan.
- ❖ Meeting summaries are available on the Itasca SWCD website.

(www.itascaswcd.org/programs/1w1p)

Implementation Structure – Joint Powers

- ❖ Matt Gutzmann shared a summary of the two Implementation structure options available – a Joint Powers Collaboration and a Joint Powers Entity. There are pros and cons to each option.
- ❖ The Collaboration / MOA structure is used by many 1W1P in northern Minnesota. The group discussed being consistent with other 1W1Ps that partners are working on. They also discussed shared liability and where responsibilities lie.
- ❖ MCIT will be invited to address this issue at the next Policy Committee meeting.
- ❖ The topic was continued for a month, with a decision being made next month.

Agenda Addition – Vision Statement

- ❖ A draft of the Vision Statement was shared. “From the Peatlands to the Iron Range, we work to protect our outstanding Northwoods lands and waters, while sustaining vibrant communities”. This will be refined at the next meeting.

Wrap Up

- ❖ Cal Saari mentioned the next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 25th at 11:30 am. It will be held at the Hill City School, if it is available. Note, this is a change to allow for better attendance.
- ❖ Tom Fasteland motioned to adjourn / Dave Peterson seconds the motion. Cal Saari adjourns the meeting at 1:25 pm.