

Lower Minnesota River West-Comprehensive Watershed Management Partnership	Policy Advisory Committee Meeting #3 – Minutes	Date: 1/4/2024
		Time: 10:00 AM – 10:48 AM
		Location: USDA Service Center Conference Room 112 5 th Street Gaylord, MN 55334

Attendees: **Committee Members:** Charles Mathews – McLeod SWCD, Steve Saxton – Sibley County, Kevin Miller – HICWD, Paul Wiemann – Sibley SWCD, Eric Annexstad – Nicollet SWCD, Doug Krueger – McLeod County
Others: Jack Bushman – Sibley SWCD, Tara O’Brien – Sibley SWCD, Jeremy Maul – BWSR

Agenda Items

Minutes:

1. Call to Order
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Committee Chair Wiemann.
2. Committee Positions
 - a. The committee reviewed the officer appointments. Wiemann is currently serving as the chair, Dranttel as the vice chair, and Miller as the secretary. A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Annexstad to leave the appointments as is. Ayes- Annexstad, Krueger, Mathews, Miller, Saxton, Wiemann. Motion carried.
3. Review Meeting Agenda, Agenda Additions & Cancellations
 - a. A motion was made by Saxton and seconded by Krueger to accept the agenda as presented. Ayes- Annexstad, Krueger, Mathews, Miller, Saxton, Wiemann. Motion carried.
4. Approve Minutes from 9/7/2023
 - a. The committee reviewed the meeting minutes from the Policy Committee meeting on September 7th, 2023. A motion was made by Mathews and seconded by Saxton to approve the meeting minutes. Ayes- Annexstad, Krueger, Mathews, Miller, Saxton, Wiemann. Motion carried.
5. WBIF Financial Update
 - a. Budget
 - i. The committee reviewed the budget for the FY22-23 WBIF grant. The partnership currently has \$337,377.97 remaining. This is 56.5% of the \$596,617.00 that has been allocated to the LMRW CWMP for the fiscal year 2022-2023.
 - b. WBIF Supplemental Funding
 - i. The Board of Water and Soil Resources has \$7,750,000 from the FY22-23 WBIF appropriation and is soliciting requests for partnerships who need supplemental funding to implement approved comprehensive watershed management plans. Sibley SWCD approved a request for \$225,000 in supplemental funding at their December 20th Board Meeting. BWSR will communicate approved funding amounts on 1/16/24. The FY22-23 WBIF grant expires on 12/31/25.
 - c. FY24-25 WBIF Allocations
 - i. Per Board Order #23-55, BWSR has approved 76.5 million dollars in WBIF grants for fiscal years 2024/2025.
 - ii. The Lower Minnesota River West Partnership has been allocated \$1,004,297.

- iii. The money can be requested on July 1st, 2024, and could be available as soon as August or September of 2024.

6. Project Updates

- a. The committee reviewed the LMRW WBIF FY22-23 BMP Cost Share list. All cover crop practices scheduled to be implemented in 2023 have been completed. No-till/Strip till contracts will be verified in the spring. 3 WASCOB contracts and 1 terrace project were also completed in 2023.
- b. The partnership is working with the High Island Creek Watershed District and the City of Arlington to implement a project at the outlet of the High Island Project 7 ditch. This project would consist of a sheet pile weir structure that would add additional sediment control and water storage at the outlet of the Project 7 ditch system. The committee discussed how the project would relate to the goals of the LMRW CWMP. A motion was made by Krueger and seconded by Annexstad to support the project by paying for engineering costs and 90% of the construction costs. Ayes- Annexstad, Krueger, Mathews, Saxton, Wiemann. Abstain – Miller. Motion carried.

7. Education & Outreach Update

- a. O'Brien discussed the ongoing outreach efforts that the partnership is working on. This includes events centered around cover crops and tillage practices. Newsletter articles promoting the partnership and cost share are also being sent out.

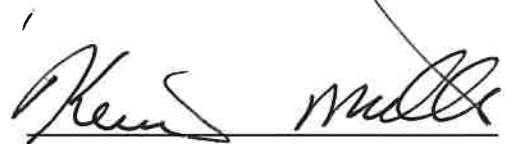
8. Fall Project Tour

- a. Bushman asked the committee if setting up a tour to view some of the project would be useful. It was agreed that it would be worth the committee's time and that the November meeting would be a good time to view the projects. Bushman and O'Brien will work on arranging the tour.

9. 2024 Meeting Schedule

- a. The committee discussed the quarterly meeting schedule and agreed to meet on the first Thursday of April, August (of 2024) and January or February (of 2025).
- b. The next LMRW CWMP Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for April 4th at 10 AM. It will be held in the conference room of the USDA Service Center.
- c. A motion was made by Annexstad and seconded by Miller to adjourn the meeting at 10:48 AM. Ayes- Annexstad, Krueger, Mathews, Miller, Saxton, Wiemann. Motion carried.

Approved on August 1st, 2024



Secretary