

Meeting Minutes
Bois de Sioux and Mustinka Watersheds
1W1P Steering Committee Meeting
01/07/2021 at 9:00 am
by conference call and screenshare

<u>Member Organizations</u>	<u>Committee Representative</u>	<u>Designated Alternate</u>
Big Stone County	Danny Tuckett [Absent]	Darren Wilke [Absent]
Big Stone SWCD	Joseph Otto	
Grant County	Greg Lillemon	
Grant SWCD	Jared House	
West Otter Tail SWCD	Brad Mergens	Ben Underhill
Otter Tail County	Kyle Westergard	
Stevens County	Bill Kleindl	
Stevens SWCD	Matt Solemsaas	
Traverse County	Lynn Siegel [Absent]	Bruce Johnson [Absent]
Traverse SWCD	Sara Gronfeld	Bruce Johnson [Absent]
Wilkin County	Breanna Koval	
Wilkin SWCD	Craig Lingen	Don Bajumpaa [Absent]
Bois de Sioux Watershed	Jamie Beyer	Linda Vavra

CC:

BWSR	Pete Waller
BWSR	Henry Van Offelen
HEI	Jeremiah Jazdziewski [Absent]
HEI	Rachel Olm
Grant County	Reed Peterson
Moore Engineering	Chad Engels [Absent]
Moore Engineering	Tara Ostendorf
Bois de Sioux Watershed District	Lukas Croaker

Welcome and Updates.

Approve Minutes & Claim: Gronfeld motioned, seconded by Kleindl to approve the December 3, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion carried. There were no claims to approve.

Plan Approval, Adoption & Implementation: Subcommittee #3 (Craig Lingen, Kyle Westergard, Bill Kleindl, Lynn Siegel, Ben Underhill, Jamie Beyer) gave a plan presentation to the BWSR NW Committee on January 6, 2021. The presentation was well received, and there were several comments – including commendation on making soil health a high priority for the plan. Committee members were also curious about the planning region maps, as our plan may be unique in that it includes the locations of 426 current eLink practices. The NW Committee recommended that the plan be submitted to the BWSR Board, and will be considered for approval at their January 27th board meeting.

→ Before February 26, 2021, LGU's must approve a resolution to adopt and implement the plan

To meet this objective:

Steering Committee Members should present a resolution for approval by their LGU before 02/26/21. Waller will email a template. If the resolution will be passed prior to 01/27/21, the resolution should be contingent upon BWSR Board approval.

Biennial Workplan: Subcommittee #1 (Sara Gronfeld, Jared House, Tara Ostendorf, Brad Mergens, Danny Tuckett) recommended that the biennial workplan mirror the budgets incorporated into the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. The Subcommittee emphasized that the upcoming \$1,000,000 grant must be spent according to a prioritized, targeted plan – so spreading out the funds equally amongst all of the planning regions won't qualify – a narrower focus must be determined. It was discussed that the Watershed District will initiate construction on two new capital improvement projects in 2021: the repair and retrofit of Judicial Ditch #6 (Rabbit River Planning Region) and Phase 2 of the Lake Traverse Water Quality Improvement Project (Lake Traverse & Bois de Sioux Planning Region). The Subcommittee determined that there would be value to bring practices to these planning regions, and recommended that 2021/2022 funds be targeted to these planning regions, in the % proportions described in the plan. House motioned, seconded by Mergens, to target the Lake Traverse & Bois de Sioux and Rabbit River Planning Regions with the first biennial request. Roll Call Vote: Mergens – aye; Breanna – absent; Craig – aye; House – aye; Otto – aye; Westergard – aye; Gronfeld – absent; Kleindl – aye; Lillemon – aye; Beyer – aye. Motion carried.

→ **A Biennial Workplan must be submitted to BWSR for their approval on or before 2/26.**

To meet this objective:

The Policy Committee will be asked at their 01/07/21 meeting if they support this approach. If so, Subcommittee #1 will continue to meet, and we will need a special steering committee meeting on 01/22/21 to discuss what they have put together. **Because these planning regions involve four out of our six plan participant counties, representatives from Big Stone and Stevens County are encouraged to let Subcommittee members know ASAP if there are individual projects within their counties for 2021/2022 that present an opportunity that we wouldn't want to pass up – we can incorporate funding for these projects into our biennial workplan.**

Memorandum of Agreement: Subcommittee #2 (Jamie Beyer, Joe Otto, Matt Solemsaas, Breanna Koval, Greg Lillemon) worked with Watershed District Attorney Lukas Croaker to draft and revise a Memorandum of Agreement. Attorney Lukas Croaker presented the Agreement, and changes were made in response to comments by the Steering Committee.

→ **Before February 26, 2021, LGU's must approve the Memorandum of Agreement to participate in the Partnership**

The Policy Committee will receive a presentation on the updated Memorandum of Agreement and will be asked to consider submission to their respective attorneys for review. Steering Committee Members should then forward the draft to their respective attorneys. Responses from attorneys will be due 01/15/21.

Budget: Currently, \$212,000 of the \$271,879 implementation grant has been spent. Committee members supported using grant funds to hire Tara Ostendorf to write the Biennial Workplan and to provide a cost proposal for a possible reporting tool. Depending on time, it may be possible to have Attorney Lukas Croaker review and draft operating guidelines.

The next meeting will be held at 9 AM on January 22, 2021.