

Meeting Agenda
Bois de Sioux and Mustinka Watersheds
1W1P Steering Committee Meeting
11/05/2020 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	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 [Absent]	
Stevens County	Bill Kleindl	
Stevens SWCD	Matt Solemsaas	
Traverse County	Lynn Siegel [Absent]	Bruce Johnson [Absent]
Traverse SWCD	Sara Gronfeld [Absent]	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 [Absent]
Moore Engineering	Chad Engels
Moore Engineering	Tara Ostendorf

Welcome and Updates: Upon motion by Solemsaas, seconded by Tuckett and carried unanimously, the minutes of October 1, 2020 were approved. Upon motion by House, seconded by Solemsaas and carried unanimously, the \$828.00 claim from HEI was approved.

Discuss Plan Comments Received (so far): Olm presented the comments received from MDA, which are targeted towards actions under implementation. A letter from MPCA was received indicating there were no comments. No letters have been received from the DNR, MDH, or BWSR yet. The deadline is Monday, November 9th.

The Bois de Sioux Watershed District did have their attorney review the plan, and with Beyer, will be submitting comments. The legal review identified three overreaching themes:

1) Independent Authorities

Comments will be submitted to:

- clarify that the implementation partnership is not a separate authority that can enter into agreements or receive funds directly
- ensure that processes described in the plan or the implementation partnership do not supersede the authorities granted to counties, SWCD's, and the watershed have authority described in statute
- remove the automatic assumption that all actions and projects that meet plan goals will be coordinated or completed collaboratively
- remove the automatic assumption that all grants will be coordinated or completed collaboratively.

2) Implementation Not Defined

- remove the automatic assumption that all LGU's will approve and enter into a subsequent implementation partnership, as none of the formal agreements or rules have been drafted
- clarify plan amendment requirements
- include language the supports any LGU's decision to pursue individual implementation

District Attorney Lukas Croaker also provided 12 questions to BWSR, which were returned this week, giving guidance on concerns specific to watershed districts. The guidance provided by BWSR included the clear statement that, "All LGUs covered by the CWMP need not enter into the implementation agreement. If one or more chooses not to enter the agreement they will need to be part of work plan development in order to be eligible for grant funding." After adopting the plan, each LGU can chose to implement practices and projects on their own or with the partnership. The partnership will recommend the use of watershed-based implementation funds.

Beyer ran through some of the District's individual comments for committee discussion.

Public Hearing Updates:

Wilkin & Traverse: Campbell Community Center December 1, 2 – 5 pm

Big Stone & Stevens: TBD

Grant & Otter Tail TBD

Waller will confirm whether at least one recording must be taken, or if minutes will suffice. This topic will be revised at the 11/12 Steering Committee meeting so that newspaper notices can be coordinated.

LGU Response for Fiscal Host & Program Manager:

Big Stone County	No interest
Big Stone SWCD	No interest
Grant County	No interest
Grant SWCD	No interest
West Otter Tail SWCD	Need response UPDATED: No interest
Otter Tail County	Need response UPDATED: Possible no interest
Stevens County	No interest
Stevens SWCD	Need response UPDATED: No interest
Traverse County	Need response UPDATED: Possible no interest
Traverse SWCD	Need response UPDATED: No interest
Wilkin County	No interest
Wilkin SWCD	No interest
Bois de Sioux Watershed	Willing to be fiscal host, but weak Elink skills. The suggestion was made to add LGU's as Team Members in Elink -> then individual could enter their own projects and mapping. Group effort might be needed to craft narrative descriptions.

Utilizing Remaining Grant Funds: House provided a demo of the ESRI-based application they are setting up in the Pomme de Terre to map projects, record reductions, and calculate progress towards goals. The application can export data that can be used in Excel. House estimates that it will cost a couple of thousand dollars to configure, and then users will pay \$200/yr for access. Technical Service Area 1 is hosting the data. HEI and Moore Engineering are also developing applications, and it is unknown what requirements BWSR will

implement. Mergens recommended waiting to discuss this issue further, when it can be added to the Partnerships' workplan.

Next Meetings:

Steering Committee - November 12th, 1 pm to: Review Plan Comments, Receive Updates on Public Hearings, Discuss LGU Approval Resolutions

Policy Committee – November 19th, 2 pm

Public Hearings

****If public hearing comments are substantive, we may need to move the December 3rd Steering/Policy Committee Meeting so we can edit the plan and approve changes****