

BUFFALO-RED RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

BARNESVILLE, MINNESOTA 56514

1303 4th AVE NE
Email: general@brrwd.org

PO BOX 341

PHONE 218-354-7710
Website: www.brrwd.org

BUFFALO-RED RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

One Watershed, One Plan Policy Committee/Planning Team Meeting November 28, 2018

The One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) Policy Committee held a meeting on Thursday, November 28, 2018, at 11:30 AM in the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) office, located at 1303 4th Avenue NE, Barnesville, MN.

Policy Committee members present were Jerome Flottesmesch, Becker Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Supervisor; Barry Nelson, Becker County Commissioner; Julian Sjostrom, West Otter Tail SWCD Supervisor (Alternate); Jay Leitch, BRRWD President; Peter Fjestad, BRRWD Vice President (Alternate), and Randy Schellack, Clay SWCD Supervisor (Alternate). A simple majority was present.

Planning Team members present were Brett Arne, Board Conservationist, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR); Aaron Larsen, Project Manager, West Otter Tail SWCD; Don Bajumpaa, District Manager, Wilkin SWCD; and Erik S. Jones, Engineer, Rachel Olm, Scientist, and Matt Jacobson, Water Planner/Scientist, Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI).

Others attending: Kim Melton, District Technician, Wilkin SWCD.

Policy Committee Vice Chair Jerome Flottesmesch called the meeting to order at 11:35 AM. The group introduced themselves.

Matt Jacobson, HEI, noted that the BRRWD is the fiscal agent for the 1W1P process. Since Bruce E. Albright, BRRWD Administrator, is absent today, Jacobson suggested that payment of the bills be deferred until the next meeting. Jay Leitch, BRRWD, asked about mileage for private individuals serving on the Committees. The BRRWD stated earlier in the process that we would pay mileage to Committee members, who aren't affiliated with an agency or other local government unit. The group agreed to wait on the bills until the next meeting.

The group discussed the revised Plan Outline, which provides an intended direction for drafting Plan content. The Planning Team will submit the approved Outline to BWSR to ensure that the Plan is meeting content requirements. Vice Chair Flottesmesch noted that the Advisory Committee recommended Outline approval at their meeting this morning. **Motion** by Barry Nelson to approve the Plan Outline. **Seconded** by Jay Leitch. **Approved.**

The group discussed the Participation Plan. The Advisory Committee reviewed and recommended the document with a modification that the plan schedule be updated. **Motion** by Schellack to approve the Participation Plan, subject to the noted modification. **Seconded** by Leitch. **Approved.**

The group discussed the Land & Water Resources Narrative. The Advisory Committee reviewed and recommended the Narrative, with modifications. **Motion** by Nelson to approve the Land & Resources Narrative, subject to the noted modification. **Seconded** by Leitch. **Approved.**

Most of the Policy Committee members had also attended the Advisory Committee meeting held earlier today. They agreed that it had been beneficial for them to hear the discussions so that they understood how the Advisory Committee had arrived at their recommendations. Flottesch suggested that the Policy Committee adopt a recommendation that they attend future Advisory Committee meetings.

Barry Nelson noted that during the Advisory Committee groundwater discussion this morning, one of the issues Becker County has is "pump and dump" for water heat pumps on lake shore developments where the water is recycled directly back into the lake. He felt that if that practice grew in popularity, it could have a negative effect on both groundwater and lake water quality. Aaron Larsen, West Otter Tail SWCD, noted that he sees that problem in Otter Tail County on lake shoreland. Olm commented that this could be included in the Emerging Issues section of the Plan. Flottesch thought that the arsenic problem that was discussed during the Advisory Committee meeting should be referenced in the Plan along with some explanation that arsenic occurs naturally in groundwater in some parts of the watershed and is not a by-product of agriculture activities.

There being no further business to come before the Policy Committee, **motion** by Leitch to adjourn the meeting, **seconded** by Sjostrom. **Approved.** Vice Chair Flottesch adjourned the meeting at 11:50 AM.