

Sand Hill River 1W1P
Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 13th, 2024
Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, MN

Policy Committee Members: Don Andringa (SHRWD), Pete Revier (Mahnomen SWCD), Ken Pederson (East Polk SWCD), Joan Lee (Polk County Commissioner), and Chris Cournia (West Polk SWCD)

Staff: Nicole Bernd (West Polk SWCD), Rachel Klein (East Polk SWCD), Aaron Neubert (Mahnomen SWCD), April Swenby (SHRWD), and Lori Thronson (Norman SWCD)

BWSR Staff: Brett Arne

Consultant: Moriya Rufer (Houston Engineering)

Meeting Called to Order by Vice Chairman Pederson at 1:02pm

BWSR Approval: Brett Arne and Nicole Bernd provided an update of the BWSR Board Meeting on January 24, 2024. There was very little discussion, and it was a short agenda item. The Plan was improved.

Work Plan for Watershed Funding: A handout was provided, Work Plan Summary, and Nicole Bernd presented it. The handout is a breakdown of the work plan categories and how much funding will be allocated for each category. This is what will be entered into eLink. The Steering Committee worked on this and there were multiple drafts to get the estimated funding to match the grant amount. Most of the funding will be spent on Technical and Engineering Assistance, Cost Share on Agricultural Practices, and Streambank or Shoreline Protection Projects. The rest of the funds will be used for Administration, Project Development, Soil Health Cost Share, and Education and Outreach. Motion to approve the Work Plan by Pete Revier, Seconded by Chris Cournia. Motion carried unanimously.

Planning Grant Update: April Swenby provided an update.

Implementation Memorandum of Agreement: The MOA will go to the individual Boards in February and the SHRWD Board in March for approval. This will need to be approved by all boards before work begins on the grant.

Next Steps:

- Funding is hopeful for April. The first payment will be 50% of the total grant amount.
- Bylaws
- New meeting schedule, possibly twice a year.

Discussion:

- The SHRWD mentioned that their policy member may change and the group went around confirming their policy members.

- Ken Pederson asked for clarification on the funds allocated for the Education work plan category. These funds will be used to do a watershed video before and a couple of years after the start of the 1W1P to show progress.
- Aaron Neubert asked the group how the policy committee is going to handle paying bills. Some Policy Committees approve all payments, and some Policy Committees allow the fiscal agent to pay the bills as they come in and report back to the Policy Committee at the meetings. Discussion was had on the pros and cons of each option.

Motion to add Agenda item: Plan Administration by Chris Cournia, Seconded by Joan Lee.

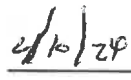
Plan Administration: Approve West Polk, Fiscal Agent, to pay invoices submitted by partners for the Sand Hill River 1W1P as needed with prior approval of the West Polk SWCD Board. Motion by Chris Cournia, Seconded by Joan Lee.

Next Meeting: April 10th, 2024, at 9am

Motion to adjourn by Pete Revier, Seconded by Ken Pederson.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:39pm ^{am RK}


Secretary


Date