

YELLOW MEDICINE ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
August 13, 2018
Yellow Medicine Watershed Office, Minneota, MN 56264

Members Present:

Committee members present: Rick Anderson (Lyon County), Gary Laleman (Lyon SWCD), Gary Johnson (YM County), Ron Antony (YM County), Tim Buysse (YMRWD), Tim Drietz (YMRWD), Roy Marihart (LQP County), Jeff Johnson (LQP SWCD), Luke Johnson (Area II), Glen Sorensen (Lincoln SWCD).

Plan Work Group (PWG) Members Present:

Jason Beckler (BWSR), Luke Olson (Lyon SWCD), Chessa Frahm (LQP SWCD), Tyler Knutson (YM SWCD), Dale Sterzinger (Lincoln SWCD), Michelle Overholser (YMRWD).

Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Agenda

Motion made by Antony, seconded by Jeff Johnson, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Minutes

Motion made by Luke Johnson, seconded by Roy, to approve the April 23, 2018 Policy Committee meeting minutes with two changes: addition of “and” along with “were” funded under NWQI. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Updates

- Grant: Michelle explains that no expenses have been charged to FY18 (end of June) of the grant because billable rates were still being reviewed. FY19 did begin July 1, 2018. Likely expenses include cost-share projects and equipment in the near future.

- Cost-Share: 1 Grassed Waterway (Lincoln) - \$12,622 requested. 1 WASCOB (Lincoln)- \$7,251 requested with an additional \$13,111 in assistance through EQIP. 1 Grade Stabilization (LQP) – exceeds \$15,000 funding threshold and only addresses a minor resource concern (does not connect floodplain wetlands as intended). The Policy Committee discussed the grade stabilization project and came to the consensus that streambank and in-channel practices should not rank as high as in-field treatment of erosion.
Motion made by Ron, seconded by Laleman to deny cost-share assistance for the grade stabilization project. Motion passed.

- Project Partners: Lincoln County has 13 projects within the watershed. Dale asked Policy Committee if he should run these through EQIP or the 1W1P grant. The Policy Committee felt that to extend the grant dollars, EQIP should first be utilized with the 1W1P grant providing additional or supplemental dollars to the projects. Tyler mentioned that Yellow Medicine could have two restoration projects coming in the near future. The projects involve

improvements/impoundments to existing county drainage. Luke Olson and Chessa both mentioned potential basin projects within the watershed as well.

- NWQI- Tyler reported that 700-800 acres of cover crops will be seeded with the 3 funded projects. He said there may be additional funding coming for the Cottonwood Lake watershed in the future.
- 1W1P cooperation article available
- State Hwy 68 Project- Jason explained that he attended a meeting with MNDOT regarding the proposal to expand the shoulders 5 feet on both sides of Hwy 68 from Marshall to Canby. This will also include culvert extensions, box culverts, etc. The conversation was started about potentially downsizing culverts, retention ponds, and flowage easements to hold water back. MNDOT seemed very receptive to the ideas at the meeting.
- Engineering Services- Southwest Prairie TSA to take on additional workload, staff time spent on practice review and implementation is billable to the grant, no contract necessary.
- Conservation Plan Writer: Jason explains that it is not likely the YMRWD will receive a plan writer.
- Bylaws- 30 day comment period met. **Motion made by Luke Johnson, seconded by Roy to approve the Bylaws as presented. Roll call vote, motion passes unanimously.**

The next 1W1P Policy Committee meeting will be held November 19th, 2018 from 1-3 PM.

With no other business to address, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 1:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Overholser
YMRWD Administrator