

YELLOW MEDICINE **ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN**
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
February 26, 2018
BWSR Conference Room – 1400 East Lyon Street – Marshall, MN

Members Present:

Committee members present: Rick Anderson (Lyon County), Ron Antony (Yellow Medicine County), Tim Buyse (YMRWD), Joe Drietz (Lincoln County), Tim Dritz (YMRWD), Jeff Johnson (LQP SWCD), Luke Johnson (Area II), Gary Laleman (Lyon SWCD), Roy Marihart (LQP County) and Hollis Weber (YM SWCD).

Plan Work Group (PWG) Members Present:

Jason Beckler (BWSR), John Biren (Lyon County/SWCD), Chessa Frahm (LQP SWCD), Jolene Johnson (Yellow Medicine County), Tyler Knutson (YM SWCD), Kerry Netzke (Area II), Michelle Overholser (YMRWD), Dale Sterzinger (Lincoln SWCD) and Lucas Youngsma (DNR).

Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

Agenda

Motion made by Drietz, seconded by Marihart, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Minutes

Motion made by Luke Johnson, seconded by Drietz, to approve the January 30, 2018 Policy Committee meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Updates

- The Clean Water Council presentation has been rescheduled for March 19, 2018. Netzke has a prior commitment; Overholser has agreed to present Netzke's portion of the presentation. Along with Emily Javens and Julie Blackburn, the presentation will recap the Yellow Medicine 1W1P development, results of the SAM/ACPF Linkage project, and current status (MOA for Implementation, funding sources and work plan, policies and budget).
- Area II was declined for a MN Conservation Corps apprentice for summer 2018. There were not enough apprentices for the number of applicants. Lyon and Yellow Medicine SWCDs are receiving apprentices and efforts will be made to have the apprentices receive some experience with Area II. The inventory of small dam structures within the 1W1P boundary could possibly be started.
- Following the last Policy Committee meeting on January 30, all payments were made and the final report for the YM 1W1P grant and amendment was submitted in eLINK. The 10% retainer (\$19,161.80) was requested and received by Area II. The grant and amendment are now closed.
- Netzke attended the YMRWD meeting on February 12 to present the cost-share policies developed by the PWG, application and contract process, and budget for the Watershed Performance-Based Funding. Overholser recapped the District's response which was positive. Despite discussion regarding whether the administration funding for the YMRWD would be sufficient, YMRWD was reminded that the appropriation will cover a period of about 16 months instead of 24. Should additional funds be needed

in one of the work plan categories, 10% of the grant amount can be moved by Change Order. Amounts greater than 10% can be moved by amendment which is also relatively easy to do.

•**Conservation Plan Writer** – Beckler updated the group that BWSR recently hired a coordinator (Mary Peterson) for these positions. She contacted Beckler regarding office space (LQP SWCD) and other questions. The current NRCS State Conservationist vacancy may be slowing this as an amendment to the original agreement will be necessary.

Approve FY18-FY19 Watershed Performance-Based Funding Policies and Budget

The work plan and budget are due to BWSR by March 12, 2018. Overholser and BWSR staff have developed a work plan which will likely be submitted by the end of this week. Overholser provided a DRAFT cost-share policy for YMRWD which was reviewed with the Board. The policies are a combination of the policies presented to the Policy Committee on January 30, additional policies added by the Plan Work Group on February 6, and policy language from Yellow Medicine SWCD's policy. Some details and language will be revised before the YMRWD Board of Managers will approve the policy on March 12.

Changes to the budget are minimal. The "Staffing" category was renamed "Technical Services" in order to cover all sources of engineering or consultant services. Dollar amounts per category remain the same knowing that change orders and amendments are possible, if needed.

Motion made by Anderson, seconded by Johnson, to approve the cost-share policies and budget presented and to allow YMRWD to enter into agreement with BWSR for the Watershed Performance-Based Funding. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Policy Committee Bylaws Revisions

The existing Bylaws were provided with some revisions illustrated by strikeout for deletions, and bolded underlined italics for additions. Items to be discussed include: term-limits, open meeting law requirements, meeting location to be within the Plan area (Minnesota), meeting frequency, per diems paid to delegate members only. The Chairman asked for volunteers for a subcommittee to recommend revisions to the Bylaws and bring back to the next meeting. Subcommittee members include: Rick Anderson, Michelle Overholser, Tim Buysse and Hollis Weber. Anderson suggested meeting after the regularly scheduled YMRWD Board meeting on March 12.

With no other business to address, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 9.44 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry Netzke, Area II Executive Director