

Lower Minnesota River West-Comprehensive Watershed Management Partnership	Policy Advisory Committee Meeting #5 – Minutes	Date: 11/7/2024
		Time: 10:00 AM – 10:53 AM
		Location: USDA Service Center Conference Room 112 5 th Street Gaylord, MN 55334

Attendees: **Committee Members:** Charles Mathews – McLeod SWCD, Kevin Miller – HICWD, Paul Wiemann – Sibley SWCD, Eric Annexstad – Nicollet SWCD, Doug Krueger – McLeod County, Marie Dranttel – Nicollet County

Others: Jack Bushman – Sibley SWCD, Tara O’Brien – Sibley SWCD, Joel Wurscher – Sibley SWCD, Shane Bugeja – BWSR

Agenda Items

Minutes:

1. Call to Order
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Committee Chair Wiemann.
2. Review Meeting Agenda, Agenda Additions & Cancellations
 - a. The project tour planned for this meeting was cancelled and will be rescheduled for the spring of 2025. A motion was made by Krueger and seconded by Annexstad to remove the tour from the agenda and accept it as presented. Ayes- Annexstad, Dranttel, Krueger, Mathews, Miller, Wiemann. Motion carried
3. Approve Minutes from 8/1/2024
 - a. The committee reviewed the meeting minutes from the Policy Committee meeting on August 1st, 2024. A motion was made by Krueger and seconded by Annexstad to approve the meeting minutes. Ayes- Annexstad, Dranttel, Krueger, Mathews, Miller, Wiemann. Motion carried.
4. FY22/23 WBIF Update
 - a. Wurscher presented the FY22/23 WBIF budget to the committee. Discussion was held on the money remaining for staffing and projects. Bushman informed the committee that both the BWSR Clean Water Specialist and Board Conservationist assigned to this watershed have recently changed. Bugeja introduced himself to the committee.
5. FY24/25 WBIF
 - a. Approval of Budget Amendment
 - i. The committee was presented with an amendment to the FY24/25 WBIF budget. Wurscher discussed the changes with the committee, which include increasing the amount of money available for structural practices, while decreasing the amount of money available for non-structural practices. Discussion was held on the increased number of calls for technical assistance that the districts have received, and the belief that these will likely lead to WBIF-eligible structural projects. An additional discussion on the goals of the LMRW CWMP was held. A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Krueger to approve the amendments to the FY24/25 WBIF budget. Ayes- Annexstad, Dranttel, Krueger, Mathews, Miller, Wiemann. Motion carried.
 - b. Approval of Changes to FY24/25 WBIF Non-Structural Project Scoring
 - i. Per the request of the committee at the August 1st meeting, the LIWG developed changes to the FY24/25 WBIF Non-Structural Project Scoring System. These changes were presented to the

committee. Upon approval, they will be added to the FY24/25 WBIF Project Policy. Discussion was held on how the changes will be implemented. A motion was made by Krueger and Seconded by Annexstad to approve the scoring system changes. Ayes- Annexstad, Dranttel, Krueger, Mathews, Miller, Wiemann. Motion carried.

6. FY25 CRP State Incentive Program

- a. The committee was presented with the changes necessary to the FY25 CRP State Incentive Program. These changes included the addition of language from the Grants Administration Manual for the purpose of quality assurance and the inclusion of the CP21 practice to help aid in achieving plan goals. The committee held discussion on the CP21 practice and the lack of a federal Farm Bill. A motion was made Wiemann and seconded Dranttel to approve the policy as presented. Ayes- Annexstad, Dranttel, Krueger, Mathews, Miller, Wiemann. Motion carried.

7. Adjourn & Next Meeting

- a. The next meeting will be held on February 13th at 10 AM at the Sibley USDA Service Center.
- b. A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Annexstad to adjourn the meeting at 10:56 AM. Ayes- Annexstad, Dranttel, Krueger, Mathews, Miller, Wiemann. Motion carried.

Approved March 13th, 2025

Secretary