

# Watonwan Watershed 2W2P – Policy Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

Watonwan County Farm Service Agency – Meeting Room, St. James, MN

## **Present:**

Rich Enger  
Larry Cowing  
Steve Flohrs  
Clark Lingbeek  
Clem Windschitl

## **Representing:**

Watonwan SWCD Supervisor  
Martin SWCD  
Martin Co. Commissioner  
Cottonwood SWCD  
Brown SWCD

## **Present:**

Tom Appel  
Ray Gustafson  
Jim Eigenberg  
John Rollings

## **Representing:**

Cottonwood Co. Commissioner  
Watonwan Co. Commissioner  
Jackson Co. Commissioner  
Blue Earth SWCD Supervisor

Heidi Salminen  
Kay Gross  
Chris Bauer  
Andy Meyer  
Jerad Bach  
Josh Votruba  
Brooke Hacker  
Drew Kessler

Watonwan SWCD  
Cottonwood County  
Jackson SWCD  
Brown County  
Blue Earth SWCD  
Cottonwood SWCD  
DNR  
HEI (Facilitator)

David Haler  
Dave Bucklin  
Julie Conrad  
Melanie Krueger  
Jill Sackett Eberhart  
Shaina Keseley  
Ashley Broussard

Watonwan County  
Cottonwood SWCD  
Blue Earth County  
Brown SWCD  
BWSR  
BWSR  
MN/IA Conservation Corp

**Call to Order:** Watonwan Watershed 2W2P Policy Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairman Rich Enger at 1:25 pm.

## **Roll Call**

### **Agenda – Presented**

Motion by Clark Lingbeek, second by Ray Gustafson to approve the agenda adding discussion to request GBERBA as Joint Power Entity for Watonwan Watershed 1W1P. Motion carried, all yes.

### **Minutes - Presented**

Motion by Steve Flohrs, second by Jim Eigenberg to approve the January 15 Policy Committee Meeting minutes. Motion carried, all yes.

### **Bills to Pay and Financial Statement – Heidi Salminen**

Concerns about Plan content from HEI - We feel we should withhold payment and discuss the issues we are having with our consultants. Would like to hold a payment and garner more attention to our concerns and how HEI can move forward in correcting and give us a revised DRAFT in a timely manner.

Have a face-to-face with Executive Committee, Steering Team Committee (4-5), BWSR staff and HEI and address all parties involved with project.

Motion by Jim Eigenberg, second by Steve Flohrs to approve paying all bills totaling \$7,526.68 except the Houston Engineering Inc. bill as of today's date. Motion approved, all yes.

Motion by John Rollings, second by Clark Lingbeek recommend to the Watonwan County Board to hold the Houston Engineering Inc. payment until the Steering Team and Executive Committee have met with and receive an acceptable solution and draft product from HEI. Motion carried, all yes.

Hold a face-to-face meeting with Executive Committee, Steering Team Committee, BWSR Staff and HEI.

Major Concerns as directed to HEI:

Scheduling Deadlines and Meeting Plan Writing Goals Not Met

Failure to make revisions (more than once) as requested by the Steering Team

Overall Failure to incorporate Watonwan Watershed Goals and Reduction Measures from the WRAPS

Comprehension of overall plan content is not being met

Some BWSR Plan Content Structure is Not Being Followed

Low Quality Rough Drafts

Much of the Plan Sections were written without Input or Direction from Watershed Members

~Implementation Program Section 8 (Example)

**Mandatory Steps Going Forward**

Face-to-Face Meeting (instead of Conference Call) with HEI, Executive Committee and Members of the Steering Team

**Action Plan Going Forward and Resolve the Issues**

Payment will temporarily be withheld

Why are we struggling with this process

The Plan is actually a step back from what we already know throughout our watershed

Made little effort to learn about the Watonwan Watershed – as was stated in your proposal

What is HEI going to do to fix our situation?

**GBERBA Entity**

Overview of Operational Agreement Workshop and discussion.

Motion by Tom Appel, second by Clark Lingbeek to approve approaching GBERBA and request the inclusion of the Watonwan 1W1P in the Joint Powers Agreement member. Motion carried, all yes.

Each member entity will talk with their respective group and discuss GBERBA as the Joint Powers Entity for Watonwan 1W1P.

**Plan Section 2**

Motion by John Rollings, second by Ray Gustafson to table the Plan Section 2 discussion for a future Policy Committee meeting. Motion carried, all yes.

**Adjourn**

Motion by Tom Appel, second by Ray Gustafson to adjourn Policy Committee Meeting at 2:35 p.m. Motion carried, all yes.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, March 18, 2020 1:00 p.m. location to be determined.

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Policy Committee Secretary

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Steering Committee Member – Minute Recorder