

# Watonwan Watershed 2W2P – Policy Committee Meeting

Friday, March 1, 2019

Watonwan County Human Services Building, St. James, MN

## **Present:**

Rich Enger  
Tom Appel  
Will Purvis  
John Rollings  
Jim Eigenberg

## **Representing:**

Watonwan SWCD Supervisor  
Cottonwood County Commissioner  
Blue Earth County Commissioner  
Blue Earth SWCD Supervisor  
Jackson County Commissioner

## **Present:**

Tony Berg  
Clem Windschitl  
Ray Gustafson  
Larry Hansen

## **Representing:**

Brown County Commissioner  
Brown SWCD Supervisor  
Watonwan County Commissioner  
Jackson SWCD Supervisor

Heidi Rudolph  
Dave Bucklin  
Ashley Brenke  
Josh Votruba  
Jill Sackett Eberhart

Watonwan SWCD  
Cottonwood SWCD  
Martin SWCD  
Watonwan Watershed Technician  
BWSR

Kay Gross  
Andy Meyer  
Chris Bauer  
Lee Tapper  
Charlie Sawdey

Cottonwood County  
Brown County  
Jackson SWCD  
MN ConservationCorp  
Houston Engineering Inc.

**Call to Order:** Watonwan Watershed 2W2P Policy Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairman Rich Enger at 1:06 pm.

## **Roll Call Introductions**

## **Agenda**

Motion by John Rollings, second by Tony Berg to approve agenda as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

## **Minutes**

Motion by John Rollings, second by Tony Berg to approve the January 16, 2019 minutes as presented. Motion carried, all yes.

## **Bills to Pay, Financial Statement for Consultant – Heidi Rudolph**

Motion by Clem Windschitl, second by Ray Gustafson to approve the bills to pay totaling \$20,052.90. Motion carried, all yes.

## **Open House (Kick Off Meeting) – Heidi**

Open House – Kick Off was held on Monday, January 28, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the American Legion, St. James, MN. Very well attended with 130+. Pleased with attendance and conversation; a lot of groups represented. Compliments to the Steering Committee for the set-up and organization of the event.

## **The Watershed Plan – What Do You Envision? – Jill Sackett Eberhart**

Why are we here? Looking forward at data, staff and state agency knowledge; What needs to be done in a 10 year time period? How do we get those things identified and how do we accomplish them?

What do you think it would look like if the process totally failed?

No Change, landscape doesn't change. Trends continue as they are. There have been a lot of failures already. Be able to put priorities where needed. Not getting projects on the ground. Cost prohibitive for landowners. There is no end to the work being done. Upland treatment for the watershed.

What do we want to see? Funds being spent on visible practices. Lake water quality improvements. Working in prioritized sub watersheds. Good testing to show results. Nitrogen applications, work with agronomists on education. Working on uplands and projects in outlying areas – choose the best places for our practices. Reach out to our partners to get their input (experience).

## **Advisory Committee List – Josh Votruba**

Motion by John Rollings, second by Larry Hanson to approve the Advisory Committee member list as presented today; with know we could have changes in the future. Motion carried, all yes.

Do need a Policy Member as an Ex-Officio at the Advisory Committee Meeting. Need to have a Policy Committee member in attendance. Rich Enger and/or Ray Gustafson will attend the Advisory Committee meeting; if unable to attend find an alternate. (Ex-Officio members).

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**2W2P POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**MARCH 1, 2019**

Advisory Committee members will be advising the Policy Board and making suggestions as to the plan content.

Will include all Policy Committee members on Advisory Committee minutes and agendas.

**HEI – Agenda Items – Charlie Swadey**

**Issues Prioritization Structure and Issues Prioritization Categorization**

Resource Concern – Issues were compiled by Kick-Off Meeting participants, survey responses and the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee gave each issue a priority level (low, medium, high). Thresholds were as follows LOW (0-5); MEDIUM (6-10); and HIGH (11 and Up).

Low priorities will not be given goals. 52 issues have been identified as Medium or High.

Issues can be moved up in priority but not lowered. Houston complimented the Steering Committee on how well they completed the process and its submission to Houston. Ninety-seven total issues set forward in the beginning by Houston.

1. Agricultural Drainage Systems – 4 Issues - Priority Level – Low (0) Medium(2) High(2)
2. Lakes – 5 Issues - Priority Level – Low(1) Medium(1) High(3)
3. River and Streams – 8 Issues - Priority Level – Low(3) Medium(3) High(2)
4. Wetlands – 5 Issues - Priority Level – Low(2) Medium(2) High(1)
5. Flooding – 3 Issues - Priority Level – Low(1) Medium(0) High(2)
6. Groundwater and Drinking Water – 6 Issues - Priority Level – Low(2) Medium(2) High(2)
7. Water Quantity – 7 Issues - Priority Level – Low(5) Medium(0) High(2)
8. Aquatic Habitat – 5 Issues - Priority Level – Low(3) Medium(1) High(1)
9. Terrestrial Habitat – 8 Issues - Priority Level – Low(3) Medium(1) High(4)
10. Public Knowledge of Behavior Relative to Water Issues – 7 Issues - Priority Level – Low(2) Medium(4) High(1)
11. Monitoring and Data Collection – 4 Issues - Priority Level – Low(2) Medium(1) High(1)
12. Planning and Coordination – 9 Issues - Priority Level – Low(4) Medium(3) High(2)
13. Urban Landscape – 5 Issues - Priority Level – Low(3) Medium(1) High(1)
14. Rural Landscape – 8 Issues - Priority Level – Low(2) Medium(1) High(5)
15. Shoreland and Riparian Areas – 4 Issues - Priority Level – Low(2) Medium(1) High(1)

Does not have to go Medium or High just because a State Agency says it should.

Motion by John Rollings, second by Jim Eigenberg to approve the Prioritization Structure and Resource Issue Concern Table as presented (through public input and local expertise), with the knowledge that the document will have Resource Concern Issues combined (if warranted). Motion carried, all yes.

**Extension of Agreement**

Being reviewed by BWSR with possible request for more information from Houston and local staff. If granted Houston will need an amended contract.

**Adjourn**

Motion by Will Purvis, second by Tom Appel to adjourn the meeting at 2:51 p.m. Motion carried, all yes.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, March 20, 2019 1:00 p.m. at the Watonwan County Human Services Building, St. James.

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Policy Committee Secretary

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Steering Committee Member – Minute Recorder