

Blue Earth River Watershed Planning Partnership

Policy Committee Meeting #2 Minutes

December 18, 2023

Members Present: Kevin Paap, Blue Earth County; John Rollings, Blue Earth SWCD; Bruce Anderson, Faribault County; Curt Helland, Freeborn SWCD; Roger Pohlman, Jackson County; Steve Flohrs, Martin County; Larry Cowing, Martin SWCD; Britney Kawecky, City of Fairmont; Chantill Kahler Royer, Martin SWCD alternate; Michele Miller (online), City of Fairmont alternate

Staff Present: Nathan Carr, Faribault SWCD; Rachel Wehner, Freeborn County; Brenda Lageson, Freeborn SWCD; Ashley Brenke, Martin SWCD; Jesse Walters, Martin SWCD; Hannah Neusch, City of Fairmont; Adam Beilke, BWSR; Jill Sackett Eberhart, BWSR

Meeting was called to order by Nathan Carr at 9:00 am.

1 – Welcome and Introductions

2 – Approval of Agenda

Motion by Kevin Paap, seconded by Steve Flohrs to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3 – Approval of Minutes

Motion by Steve Flohrs, seconded by Roger Pohlman to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

4 – Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

Discussion on the Request for Qualifications. Timelines were reviewed and revised.

Motion by Kevin Paap, seconded by Britney Kawecky to approve the RFQ with the revised schedule. Motion carried unanimously.

5 – RFQ Subcommittee

Discussion on setting up a subcommittee to review the RFQ responses. Consensus that the subcommittee would bring their recommendation to the full Policy Committee.

Motion by Steve Flohrs, seconded by Curt Helland to have the Policy Committee officers and staff from the administrative and fiscal lead comprise the subcommittee (Larry Cowing, Bruce Anderson, Roger Pohlman, Nathan Carr, Ashley Brenke). Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion on which consultants should receive the RFQ.

Motion by Bruce Anderson, seconded by Steve Flohrs to send the RFQ to HEI, ISG, Barr, WSN, and EOR. Motion carried unanimously.

6 – 60 day Notification to Plan Letter

Review of the Notification to Plan Letter. Discussion on the current list. People from neighboring Counties/SWCDs and more organizations will be added to the mailing list.

Motion by John Rollings, seconded by Britney Kawecky to approve sending out the Notification to Plan Letter with the additions to the mailing list. Motion carried unanimously.

7 – Next Steps

At the next meeting, we will begin discussing the public “kick-off” meeting.

8 – Schedule Next Meeting

Motion by Bruce Anderson, seconded by Steve Flohrs to set the next meeting for Monday, February 26 at 9:00 am.

Motion by Kevin Paap, seconded by John Rollings to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.