

Blue Earth River Watershed Planning Partnership

Policy Committee Meeting #1 Minutes

November 29, 2023

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

Staff Present: Scott Salsbury, Blue Earth County; Jerad Bach, Blue Earth SWCD; Nathan Carr, Faribault SWCD; Hadley Mensing, 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 – Consider Approval of Bylaws

Review of bylaws. Discussion about online voting. Consensus was to keep it as-is in the draft bylaws (no online voting).

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

3 – Election of Officers

Motion by Steve Flohrs, seconded by Roger Pohlman to nominate Larry Cowing as Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by John Roper, seconded by Jeff Bell to nominate Bruce Anderson as Vice Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Steve Flohrs, seconded by Jeff Bell to nominate Roger Pohlman as Secretary. Motion carried unanimously.

4 – Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Planning Presentation

Jill Sackett Eberhart, BWSR presented on the history of water planning in Minnesota and the Comprehensive Watershed Management planning process.

5 – Consider Setting Recurring Meeting Date/Time and Location

Motion by Britney Kawecki, seconded by Jeff Bell to set the recurring meeting date and time for the 3rd Monday of the month at 9:00 am in Blue Earth at the Ag Center Conference Room.

Motion carried unanimously.

6 – Workplan and Budget

Review of the Planning Grant workplan, budget, and timeline. The total budget is \$247,170.

Motion by Roger Pohlman, seconded by Jeff Bell to recommend the grant documents and grant agreement for approval by Martin SWCD. Motion carried unanimously.

7 – Notification of Planning

There is an official notification letter sent to stakeholders and state review agencies of the intent to write a plan and to request input. This letter will be reviewed at the next meeting. Please send Nathan Carr, Ashley Brenke, or local staff the names of any organizations that should receive the letter.

8 – Next Steps

In addition to sending out the notification to plan letter, next steps include sending out a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to consultants and start discussing the public “kick-off” meeting.

9 – Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Monday, December 18 at 9:00 am.

Motion by Jeff Bell, seconded by John Rollings to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.