Lower St. Croix
One Watershed, One Plan
Steering Team
Meeting #1
October, 12 2017:
9:00 AM to 12 Noon:
Wyoming Public Library:

Facilitator: TBD

Note taker: Angie Hong

Craig Mell and Casey Thiel – Chisago SWCD
Karen Kill – BCWD
Mike Sorensen, Mike Kinney and Jackie Anderson – CLFLWD
Julie Westerlund, Barb Peichel and Dan Fabian – BWSR
Tiffany Determan – Isanti SWCD
Jay Riggs – WCD
Matt Moore – SWWD
Jessica Collin-Pilarski and Stephanie Souter – Washington County

Attending:

Mike Isensee – MSCWMO
Kris Larson – Pine SWCD
Caleb Anderson – Pine County
Jerry Spetzman – Chisago Lakes LID
Susanna Wilson Witkowski – Chisago County
John Hanson – VBWD
Jamie Schurbon – Sunrise River WMO and Anoka SWCD
Jim Shaver – CMSCWD
Angie Hong – EMWREP

Steering Team Ground Rules
• We will start / end on time
• Members will complete pre-work, read materials, and be prepared to meet
• Note-taker is to capture highlights of the discussion and decisions made, but not detailed minutes
• We will be respectful and promote open communication
• We will operate on consensus – seek general agreements all can “live with.”
• We will identify clear deadlines for when tasks are assigned to members and strive to meet them (both in developing materials and responding/providing feedback)
• If necessary, we will hold conference calls between in-person meetings to report on progress

1. Background:
   • Local government roundtable
     o Matt Moore: Guiding principles for 1W1P came from 8410 Rule, developed several years ago.
       ▪ Advisory committee from local government roundtable, consists of reps from SWCDs and WDs (partners in metro include Dakota SWCD, 2 WDs and 2 WMOs). Working to finalize funding mechanism for 1W1P.
       ▪ Original white paper called for 15 admin/70 projects/15 competitive grants funding formula
       ▪ White paper is on BWSR (1W1P page) or Local Government Water Roundtable website
       ▪ At least 15% of Clean Water Funds will go to local implementation
       ▪ State doesn’t have the resources and doesn’t know the local problems – we do.
     o Questions:
       ▪ Who will decide how the money is spent? Our local partners or a new regional entity?
       ▪ Could this be a way for us to send money to the upper portions of the St. Croix basin where there is less local funding?
   • Grant application and resolution
Total Clean Water Funds for 2016 - $221 million
- $22 million in SWCD capacity funding
- 1W1P implementation $9.75 million; 1W1P planning - $3.99 million

What does it mean to do water planning at this scale?
- Counties, SWCDs, and WDs already have plans
  - Washington County: WCD comp plan + 6 WMOs watershed plans + county groundwater plan
    - SWWD updated through 2026
    - VBWD updated through 2025
    - MSCWMO updated through 2025
    - BCWD updated through 2026
    - CMSCWD update due in 2020
    - CLFLWD update due in 2021
  - Chisago County water plan updated through 2023
  - Anoka County
    - Sunrise WMO update due in 2020
  - Pine County water plan updated through 2020; SWCD is county water planner
  - Isanti County update due in 2018
- Outside metro area, there must be a county water plan. Tax levies for WMOs are capped at $250,000 (103D). Inside the metro, WMOs can do surface water mgmt. and are allowed to levy taxes at a higher rate (103B).
- The 1W1P process does not negate any existing powers granted through 103B, 103C, and 103D
- One way this process could happen: Look at existing plans, identify gaps, identify duplicative efforts, and identify programs or activities that could be done better at a larger regional scale. The larger watershed plan would include and defer to existing local plans.
  - BWSR could provide additional funding to enhance local water plans in areas where it is needed
- Once the plan is complete, it is a way to easily allocate funding for high priority projects and programs

2. Formalize steering team
   - Decision: Steering team will include everyone at the meeting today. Ramsey Co. will not be participating. More than one person from an entity can attend meetings but there will only be one “vote” per entity. We will operate on consensus (ie. develop a plan that everyone can live with).
     - The SWCDs will comprise the sub-group that plans meetings and agendas. Draft agendas will be sent to fill group prior to meetings.
   - Advisory group will include gov. partners plus additional stakeholders such as nonprofits, Lake Associations, and other community groups
   - Only entities that adopt the 1W1P plan can apply for funds through 1W1P in the future. Competitive funding will continue to be available to those that don’t (if they have their own plan). Not determined yet if entities can “double-dip” and get both 1W1P funding AND competitive grants.

3. Discuss MOA
   - Assign someone from the group to draft the MOA – Matt Moore
   - Chisago SWCD or Washington CD to be fiscal agent
Schedule:
  i. Partners to sign MOAs in Jan. 2018
  ii. Plan completed by Dec. 2019

Funding: Flexibility to acquire more funding from BWSR for planning process (our planning grant currently is $77,000). If we spend the money before the plan is complete, however, partners are still responsible to complete the work.

4. Grant work plan and planning approach
   i. Develop the work plan as staff
      a. Work plan will determine if we need to hire consultants to write the plan or facilitate conversations. If internal staff do the work instead of consultants, they are eligible to receive funding through the planning grant.
      b. People to develop work plan: Jamie*, Suzanne, Mike K., Jim, Jay, Matt, Craig, Dan, Tiffany

5. Engaging boards
   i. Develop brief summary with 3-4 talking points for each partner to bring to their board – Karen
   ii. Work plan and MOA ready around January
   iii. Is there a way to make the policy committee less cumbersome? Do county commissioners and board members have to attend policy meetings or can they delegate to staff?

6. Meeting schedule
   i. Second Thu. of every month, 9:30-11:30am at Wyoming Library
   ii. Next meeting on Nov. 9