Meeting Minutes
NFCR 1W1P Policy Committee Meeting
10:30 am – 1:00 pm, Wednesday, March 14, 2018
Meeker County Government Center, Litchfield, MN

Attendance: Chuck Uphoff, Stearns SWCD; Doug Hanson, Kandiyohi SWCD; Roger Imdieke, Kandiyohi County; Bob Brauchler, NFCRWD; Randy Pederson, Pope SWCD; Larry Lindor, Pope County; Doug Krueger, McLeod County; Jeff Mergen, Stearns County; Mike Housman, Meeker County; Tom Petersen, CROW; Nicole Erickson, CROW; Diane Sander, CROW; Margaret Johnson, MFCRWD; Robert Anderson, McLeod Township; Diane Mitchell, Renville County; and Holly Hatlewick, Renville SWCD.

Meeting Summary:
• Agenda was amended and approved.
• January 3, 2018 PC Meeting Minutes approved and the February 21st, 2018 PWG/AC meeting notes were received.
• April 16th Public Hearing established. Each LGU is required to post the Public Hearing.
• Reminder that all LGUs need to designate their respective member to attend the Public Hearing and designate 90-day State Agency Plan review period immediately following the Public Hearing.
• PC approves detailed implementation funding: 40% Structural BMP's; Data Gaps 4%; General Administration by CROW 10%; Education/Outreach 1%; BMP Management Practices 25%; and Technical Assistance 20%.
• PC will have project and work plan approval authority.

Called to Order: Meeting called to order by Chair Housman at 10:33 am.

Review and Approve Agenda
Chair Housman called for review and approval of the March 14th agenda. Tom Petersen suggested to add LGU designation for public hearing to the agenda. Motion to approve the amended agenda by Chuck Uphoff, second by Doug Krueger. Motion passed.

Review of Minutes
Motion to approve the January 3, 2018 meeting minutes by Doug Krueger, second by Doug Hanson. Motion passed.

Designation of LGU Members for Public Hearing
Petersen reminded the group the need for all LGUs in the Planning process to designate their respective member to attend the Public Hearing and to designate that the 90 State Agency Plan review period commence immediately after the Public Hearing. Mr. Petersen reminded the group of the requirements and impressed how critical it is to the Plan’s approval process for the required protocol to take place as stated.

Budget Update
Diane Sander provided copies of the current project budget status and reported that 96% of the budget funding dedicated for HEI services and 71% of the funding dedicated for CROW services has been paid out. Housman asked if we are on-track to spend all of the supplemental BWSR funding, $28,095.26 to complete the project. Diane indicated they were on track for spending the rest of the budget.

Public Hearing
Diane discussed there are two versions of the Draft Plan available for review. The version open for public comment has been slightly modified in format, with not content, by HEI. PWG staff thought it was best to maintain the original draft for public comment until the Public Hearing to avoid confusion. Plan language has been simplified to increase readability, more pictures and text call-outs have been used. This will also be reformatted to an interactive PDF (after public comment/revisions) so the buttons at the bottom will be used to toggle between different plan sections. Petersen reported that each of the LGUs approved the release of the draft plan for 60-day comment period. McLeod County was the last LGU to get approval on January 30th. Comment period will end on March 31. A Public Hearing is required after the 60-day public comment period. Possible dates were provided. By consensus, the Public Hearing will...
be held on Monday, April 16th at 5:30 pm at the Meeker County Courthouse. To qualify for BWSR 1W1P implementation “seed money”...BSWR will need to approve the Plan on or before June 27th. Houseman asked if the Public Hearing needs to be posted by each LGU. The answer is yes.

**Informational Meetings**

Diane stated there will be three informational meetings:
- March 15th in Spicer, MN starting at 5 pm hosted by MFCRWD
- March 21st in Buffalo, MN starting at 4:30 pm hosted by CROW/Wright SWCD
- March 27th in Brooten, MN starting at 6 pm hosted by NFCRWD

Diane reported that county staff have a template for the meetings and can be tailored to each of the seven planning regions in the Plan. These meetings will provide information to help address questions about the North Fork Crow 1W1P draft plan. Various media outlets have been utilized for advertising the informational meetings: press releases, Facebook, websites, electronic newsletter, and emails.

**PTMAp Update**

Petersen stated that PTMAp treatment-train function is still being run by HEI. Once completed, results will be placed in the appendix of the Plan.

**Work-Plan and Implementation Grant Funding**

Petersen reported on a draft work-plan/process for dividing Implementation Grant funding as prepared at the February 21st PWG/AC meeting. BSWR will provide approx. $640,000 in grant funding for 2018 and 2019. We will have until December 31st 2021 to spend this grant. Petersen briefly explained the discussion and process used at the February 21st meeting to develop the recommendations to the PC. After detailed discussion it was determined that the PWG/AC would recommend the following split of funds to the PC: 40% Structural BMP’s; Data Gaps 4%; General Administration by CROW 10%; Education/Outreach 1%; BMP Management Practices 25%; Technical Assistance 20%. Specific project will be a “first-come/first -serve” per ranking criteria yet to be developed by the PWG/AC.

Petersen reminded the group that per the draft Plan, the PC approves the work plan before it goes to BWSR for approval and grant funding. Petersen suggested that the PC approve the ranking sheet (when developed) and approve the PWG budget split of funds. Uphoff stated the ranking sheet is huge in determining which proposed projects get grant funding. Policy Committee members stated they want a “better idea” on what the sites/projects are before included into a work plan. Houseman asked if the ranking process will come to the PC for approval. The answer is yes. Petersen summarized his understanding of the discussion of the process... in general the PC agrees to have approval of all projects before sending a work plan to BWSR. Further that the selection process and ranking will come back to the PC for action. Uphoff stated that the PC probably won’t make changes but it would be nice to know what projects are coming to the table and it what area. Imdieke reiterated that it is not the desire of the PC to micro-manage the process. Houseman said he would like the PC to receive fact-sheets for each of the proposed projects recommended for the work plan. Houseman summarized that 85% dollars are going for projects on the ground, with a general goal to spend BWSR grant funds throughout the watershed. Diane stated that BSWR is looking for results. Fund the projects that are ready in order to show the need for implementation funds. Houseman stated that we should try to “keep everyone in the game” by not favoring some planning reasons over another. Uphoff stated that the major resource concerns, biggest bang for the buck should be our first work plan strategy. Motion made to approve the implementation grant funding details and have the PC review and approve the work plan and projects recommended by PWG by Imdieke, second by Pederson. Motion passed.

**MOA for Implementation**

Petersen reminded the PC that the Plan calls for a documented process/role for the PC. Petersen suggested conversion of the Planning MOA into an implementation MOA for adoption by the PC for inclusion into the Plan. CROW staff will develop a draft for the next PWG/AC meeting and bring a draft to the PC at the May meeting.

**General Remarks**

Diane stated the next PC meeting will be the Public Hearing on April 16th. Diane reported there have been 5 comments submitted as to date on the draft plan. So far some cities are seeking implementation funding. Another comment is the need to reduce road salt to protect water quality.
Motion to adjourn made by Imdieke at 11:28 am. All vote in favor to adjourn.