



**Yellow Medicine *ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN* Partnership  
Policy Committee Meeting**

**DATE:** Monday, August 4, 2025  
**TIME:** 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
**PLACE:** Watershed Office, Minnesota

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## **Minutes**

### **Attendance**

**Elected Officials:** Jerry Nelson (YM SWCD), Gary Crowley (Lyon County), Gary Laleman (Lyon SWCD), Bill Briggs (YMRWD), Mike Croatt (LqP SWCD), Stacy Tuffto (LQP County), Ron Antony (YM County), Jeff Paluch (Lincoln SWCD)

**Staff:** Dale Sterzinger, Brayden Anderson, Michelle Overholser, Jeremiah Timm, Luke Olson, Jolene Johnson, Brendon Reiss, Phyan Schicker John Biren, Ben Skorczewski

1. Approve the Agenda – Brigg moved to approve the agenda, Laleman seconded. Motion carried.
2. Approve Minutes – Tuffto moved to approve the minutes, Croatt seconded. Motion carried.
3. Partner Updates – Luke reported that WBIF funds should be available end of September to beginning of October. RCPP soil health grants should be available soon. Dale reported that the SWCD had a booth at the county fair, there has been a lot of interest in soil health and he has 4 new projects under design for the YM1W1P. Rhyan said the SWCD has a few drain water management projects in the LQP watershed.  
Brayden reported that they are working on RCPP and the funds should be available soon. They also have some interest in some basin projects but only 1 is in a priority area.  
John introduced Ben Skorczewski, the new technician with Lyon SWCD. They are also working on RCPP.
4. PWG Update – Overholser gave an update on the topics discussed at the last PWG meeting on July 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - a. Discussion on 2026 Comprehensive Plan from the PWG meeting
    - Reductions – Michelle presented the data and reductions she calculated

using MPCA’s data and the data provided by the PWG on the Watershed Plan Progress Table. Using these results the group reviewed progress and the current priority areas.

- Review plan goals – Objective 1, add 1,000 acre-feet of storage. This goal was not met, but the definition also needs to be changed in the new plan. Kerry indicated that she was going to work on the definition on page 32 of the plan. The group would also like to incorporate a goal for temporary storage into the new plan.
- Priority areas – The group reviewed the results of the calculated reductions and came up with a couple of recommendations or ideas for the policy committee to consider. There are a couple of maps attached to illustrate what those ideas might look like.
- Cost-share rates, match 26/27 grant – The group discussed adjusting the cost-share rates for then next grant. Looking at possibly dropping them to 85% vs 90% to cover more of the 10% match that is required by the grant.

## 5. Updates/Discussion

### a. WBIF Grant Progress/Update

- 2024/2025 – The current budget is listed in this chart. The current plan is to move funding from Technical and Education an Outreach into BMPs

Category	Budget	Encumbered	Spent	Balance
Admin	\$100,000		\$26,752.50	\$73,247.50
Technical	\$100,000			\$100,000
Cost Share – Structural	\$708,460	\$642,594.03	\$158,805.06	\$65,865.97
Cost Share – Non Structural	\$400,000	\$375,794	\$375,794	\$24,206
Project Split between grants	\$4,076.67	\$4,076.67	\$4,076.67	\$0
Education and Outreach	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$15,000
Totals	\$1,323,460	\$1,018,388.03	\$538,675.73	\$305,071.97

- 2026/2027 WBIF
  - Budget – After discussion Antony moved to keep the budget for this grant the same as the 24/25 WBIF grant. Briggs seconded. Motion carried.
  - Cost share amount – Discussion on if we should consider changing cost share rates to account for the increase in flat rate soil health contracts. No motion made at this time.

- b. Cost-share Projects – The Policy Committee reviewed the follow projects.
- Charles Timm – Sandnes 20 – Cover Crops & Reduced Tillage - \$45,692  
Antony recommended for approval. Paluch seconded the motion. Motion carried.
  - Joel Timm – Wood Lake 26 - Cover Crops & Reduced Tillage - \$51,650  
Briggs recommended for approval. Laleman seconded the motion.  
Motion carried.
  - David Boulton – Alta Vista 27 – Basins - \$63,828.27 Croatt recommended  
for approval. Laleman seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- c. Comprehensive Plan Update – Discussion
- Review Reductions – Overholser presented the data and reductions she calculated using MPCA's data and the data provided by the PWG on the Watershed Plan Progress Table.
  - Priority Areas – Overholser presented a few maps of some of the ideas the PWG had regarding priority areas. The group would like to see more of the WRAPs data before making a decision.
  - Timeline and goals – The group still has not seen any WRAPs data so now we are hoping to see some WRAPs data by the November meeting so that we can move the priority area discussion forward. The group is still going to try to have a plan ready by April for public comments.
  - Funding – Didn't have a lot of discussion here. The partners are expecting to see similar funding in the next WBIF grant and that funding should come through in September.

## 6. Adjournment

**Next Meeting Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> 9:00 a.m. YMRWD office**