



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

DATE: Monday, August 14, 2023
TIME: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
PLACE: Watershed Office, Minneota

Minutes

Attendance:

Board: Dale Fier (Lincoln SWCD); Bill Briggs (YMRWD); Gary Crowley, (Lyon Co.); Mike Croatt (LQP SWCD); Gary Laleman (Lyon SWCD); Ron Antony (YM Co.); Elmo Volstad (YM SWCD); Jerry Nelson (YM SWCD Alternate); Stacy Tuffto (LQP Co.)

Staff: Kerry Netzke, Rhyan Schicker, Tyler Knutson, Ed Lenz, Jolene Johnson, Dale Sterzinger, Michelle Overholser

1. Approve the Agenda - Antony moved to approve. Fier seconded. Motion passed.
2. Approve Minutes – Crowley moved to approve. Briggs seconded. Motion passed.
3. Partner Updates: Partners gave brief updates on programs and WBIF projects.
4. Updates/Discussion (New Business)
 - a. Grant Progress/Update – Overholser presented an update on WBIF grant funds.
 - b. 2020/2021
 - Cost-Share
 - Encumbered – All, Budget \$654,603
 - Admin – Budget \$60,000
 - Spent - \$24,704.36
 - Unspent - \$35,295.64 Planning to move to Cost-Share
 - Technical – Budget \$100,000
 - Spent - \$80,332.29
 - Unspent - \$19,667.71
 - Total to add to Cost-share
 - \$54,963.35
 - c. 2022/2023
 - Cost-Share Budget - \$549,603.00
 - Encumbered - \$255,561.90
 - Spent - \$36,823.55
 - Unencumbered - \$257,217.55
 - Submitted for approval - \$320,515
 - Admin – Budget \$50,000
 - Spent \$13,800.78
 - Nothing spent in Planning and Assessment (\$25K), Equipment (\$15K), or Technical (\$150K).

- \$190,000
- d. MidPoint Planning Grant
 - SAMs – reviewed the budget submitted for the midpoint planning grant and the proposal of the work to be completed by Respect and sees value in moving forward.
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 - e. CRP Incentive Grant
 - Grant – the BWSR CRP piolet grant should be available in the next month or two in the amount of \$53K. CRP incentives are currently available through the WBIF grant but is not something that has been done yet.
 - Amount – Discussion centered around the CRP incentive amount. It is currently set as a 1 time payment of \$50/acre. The group is questioning whether that is a large enough amount. After discussion the policy committee asked for the SWCDs to look more into these amounts and come up with a recommendation for the next meeting.
 - f. Soil Health Outreach
 - Soil Health Outreach – The group discussed additional ways to further our soil health outreach. Lyon and the YMRD has been sending out targeted letters, YM and YMRW have developed flyers, YM is sending out postcards and Lincoln is currently developing their postcard mailing. Other thoughts for furthering Soil health outreach included discussion about possibly incentivizing a 3rd crop in the rotation, finding some way to guarantee that a landowner who tries cover crops won't lose income, possibly by using crop insurance rates. The group recognizes that Soil Health practices and programs are going to continue to have a large impact on our mission and is trying to find innovative ways and ideas to encourage and promote these practices across the watershed.
 - g. Cost-share Projects –
 - James Traen – Marble 23 \$104,826.00 – 410 Grade Stab - Laleman recommended to approved funding. Fier seconded. Motion passed.
 - Ben Jerzak – Limestone 19 \$33,429 – 340 Cover - Crops Briggs recommended to approve funding. Fier seconded. Motion passed.
 - Fierview Dairy – Alta Vista 25 - \$135,166 – 340 Cover Crops – Briggs moved to recommend funding; Antony seconded. motion passed.

5. Adjournment

Next Meeting November 13th 9:00 a.m.