



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

**DATE:** Monday, April 10, 2023  
**TIME:** 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
**PLACE:** Watershed Office, Minneota

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## **MINUTES**

**Attendance:**

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

**Staff:** Kerry Netzke, Rhyan Schicker, Tyler Knutson, Courtney Snyder, Jason Beckler, Jolene Johnson, Michelle Overholser

1. Approve the Agenda – Antony moved to approve the agenda. Volstad seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Approve Minutes – Briggs moved to approve the minutes. Fier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Partner Updates
  - a. Knutson from YM SWCD reported that they have 12 projects in the works, 10 are shovel ready.
  - b. Schicker from LQP SWCD reported that they don't have any projects currently in the YM1W1P area but have 5 for their local plan.
  - c. Netzke for Area II reported that they are currently working on a dam repair in Nordland 6 and that there is a road retention project location in Alta Vista 27 that is in the works and that a storage grant is being applied for to help with cost of that project.
  - d. Snyder from Lyon SWCD reported that their office has been sending out outreach letters to promote side inlets and cover crops. They are also currently working on a few structural projects and the Cottonwood Lake project.
  - e. Johnson from YM environmental office had no update to give at this time.
  - f. Beckler from BWSR wanted to remind the group that preconstruction cover is allowed. He also reported that we should be expecting to see

some new soil health grants in the near future. The 1W1P group should also expect to see a \$53,000 grant for CRP incentives and that another RIM batching period is coming.

#### 4. Updates/Discussion (New Business)

##### a. Grant/progress

- Grant – The budgeted amount for Priority BMPs has all been encumbered. At this point there is \$35,295.64 left unspent in the Admin Category, and \$8,093.09 left in the Tech Assistance category. After discussion the policy committee came to a consensus to recommend that the grant be amended and that those funds be allotted to Priority BMPs. Laleman moved to recommend the change to the YMRWD board. Briggs seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- SAMs – Overholser received a quote from Respect to have them run SAMs for us. The plan would be to apply for a midpoint planning grant to pay for the cost. Antony moved to recommend that the midpoint planning grant be applied for and used to have SAMs ran. Briggs seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- PTMapp – Overholser reported that BWSR contracted to have PTMapp ran for the YM1W1P boundary area. She has been working with Houston to get them the data they needed. The project is supposed to be complete in June.

##### b. Cost-share Projects – None

##### c. Cost-share Policy – A committee of a few PWG members met to review the current cost-share policy and determine if any updates or changes should be made. The committee felt that changes were needed to the non-structural practices section of the Policy, especially considering the increase in soil health practices that we anticipate seeing. The biggest change in the non-structural practices sections was the allowance of a flat rate incentive to be offered and to remove the \$7500 maximum amount allowed per contract. The policy committee reviewed the proposed changes and after discussion a consensus was reached to recommend the proposed changes with the addition of changing the max acres for conservation cover from 10 to 20ac.

##### d. Plan Administration Discussion – Some concerns were brought to the District regarding the administration of the YM1W1P. One thing discussed was that the partners reported that BWSR had voiced concerns to them regarding future planning and assessments. The partners also want to ensure that the district has the ability to put more time into plan administration. The District reported that some job duties are being reassigned in order to free up time for the administrator to devote more time to the YM1W1P.

##### e. Biennial Summit – 2023 is the year to host a biennial summit. Discussion with the group about what type of format they would like to see and when would be a good time to hold the event. The group would like to see something along lines of a panel discussion included. The would like to get the cattleman's association to attend, along with local agronomist. It was also suggested that it waits until later in the year so that we may have WRAPs and or SAMs results at that time.

#### 5. Adjournment

**Next Meeting August 14<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m.**