



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

**DATE:** Monday, Aug 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
**TIME:** 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
**PLACE:** Watershed Office, Minneota

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## **Minutes**

**Elected Officials Attendance:** Thomas Remmele (YM SWCD), Gary Crowley (Lyon County), Gary Laleman (Lyon SWCD), Joe Drietz (Lincoln County), Bill Briggs (YMRWD), Mike Croatt (LQP SWCD), Ron Antony (YM County).

**Staff Attendance:** Brayden Anderson, Dale Sterzinger, Rhyan Schicker, Michelle Overholser, Jeremiah Timm, Mark Hiles, Luke Olson, Brock Boerboom.

1. Approve the Agenda **Briggs moved to approve the agenda. Remmele seconded. Motion carried.**
2. Approve Minutes – **Briggs moved to approve the minutes. Croatt seconded. Motion carried.**
3. Partner Updates
  - a. Dale (Lincoln SWCD) reported that they are working on 5 new projects in the watershed, and gave a brief update on WCA changes.
  - b. Brayden (YM SWCD) stated that the office is working on some staffing changes and has 2 possible projects they are working on.
  - c. Rhyan (LQP SWCD) reported on a soil health mentor meeting recently attended and said they are seeing a lot of interest in practices in their area.
  - d. Lyon SWCD did not have anything to report.
  - e. Luke (BWSR) talked about some CRP incentive changes, the soil health grant coming to SWCDs and talked about the grant reporting workshop that was recently held.
  - f. Mark Hiles (BWSR) discussed the currently available competitive grants.
4. PWG Update – The group met at the end of July to recap the Hwy 75 field day. The group also discussed the next 10-year Comprehensive Plan. The group feels the information gathered from the Midpoint planning summary and the most recent WRAPs are going to play a crucial role in determining the next priority areas..

Overholser will also be working on gathering and compiling all the available data from WBIF projects and non WBIF projects, which will provide the group with much needed information about what the next plan should ultimately look like.

Information obtained from the Water Storage project may also play a large part in this process.

The group also held a discussion regarding removing the \$300 cap on the CRP incentive. The PWG group feels that most CRP rates are already at \$300 and the current policy doesn't do a lot to incentivize any contracts.

## 5. Updates/Discussion

### a. WBIF Grant Progress/Update

- 2022/2023 – The grant reconciliation has been completed and the grant is currently fully encumbered. The reconciliation identified a couple of areas that could be improved, but no non-compliance issues were found.
- 2024/2024 – All the funds budgeted for non-structural practices have been encumbered. There is still \$223,931.18 available for structural practices.

### b. Watershed Storage Modeling – Nothing new to report.

c. CRP Incentive Grant – After discussion, the committee would like to see draft language of what the change would look like. It will be discussed at the next meeting. They would also like to see the practices limited to wetland restoration, flood plain restoration and protection and for WHP.

### d. 2024 RCPP – Not a lot to update here. This program is an NRCS program. Luke is going to get more information and see what these numbers look like.

### e. Cost-share Projects

- Tim Neyens – Limestone 14 - \$83,132.19 – **Laleman moved to recommend for funding. Briggs seconded. Motion passed.**
- William Briggs – Norman 23 - \$83,418.88 - **Antony moved to recommend for funding. Remmele seconded. Briggs abstained. Motion passed.**
- Randy Brown – Royal 2 – Cover crops - \$21,427.20 **Antony moved to recommend for funding. Remmele seconded. Motion passed.**
- William Briggs – Norman 23 – Cover crops - \$19,300 **Remmele moved to recommend for funding. Laleman seconded. Briggs abstained. Motion passed.**

## 6. Adjournment

**Next Meeting November 4<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m.**