

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Bois de Sioux and Mustinka Watersheds**  
**1W1P Steering Committee Meeting**  
**9/25/18 at 11:30 am**

<u>Member Organizations</u>	<u>Committee Representative</u>	<u>Designated Alternate</u>
Big Stone County	Danny Tuckett	
Big Stone SWCD	Beau Peterson	
Grant County	Greg Lillemon	
Grant SWCD	Joe Montonye	Jared House
West Otter Tail SWCD	Brad Mergens	Ben Underhill
Otter Tail County	Kyle Westergard	
Stevens County	Bill Kliendl <b>[Absent]</b>	
Stevens SWCD	Matt Solemsaas	
Traverse County	Lynn Siegel	Bruce Johnson <b>[Absent]</b>
Traverse SWCD	Sara Gronfeld	Bruce Johnson <b>[Absent]</b>
Wilkin County	Breanna Koval	
Wilkin SWCD	Craig Lingen	Don Bajumpaa <b>[Absent]</b>
Bois de Sioux Watershed	Jamie Beyer	Linda Vavra

**Others Present:**

BWSR	Henry Van Offelen
BWSR	Pete Waller
Bois de Sioux Watershed	Chad Engels <b>[Absent]</b>

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 11:30 am by Linda Vavra and introductions were made.

**Approve May 29, 2018 Minutes:** Upon motion by Solemsaas, seconded by Mergens and carried unanimously, the Minutes of May 29, 2018 were approved.

**Update from Policy Committee – Officers:** Vavra relayed that, earlier this morning, the Policy Committee approved the following: President, Ron Staples; Vice-President, Randy Larson; Secretary, Jay Backer; Treasurer, Linda Vavra.

**Update from RFQ Subcommittee & Next Steps:** Lillemon asked the group if we should move forward with a combined RFQ or with separate RFQ's (for meeting facilitation and plan writing).

VanOffelen emphasized that it is important for committee members to stay engaged, especially with a large group, in order to ensure that the subsequent plan is a local plan.

Montonye expressed concerns that facilitators need to continuously make efforts to draw-out local participation, actively seeking the thoughts and ideas of the local agencies and local constituents, and also asked how we can release a facilitator if he/she isn't meeting our expectations. He also stated that the facilitator must understand and prioritize input from local government and citizens. VanOffelen

suggested that contract milestones be provided that match plan content requirements, and that the work plan could be amended.

If facilitation services are separate, Waller recommended exploring services through West Central Initiative. Beyer passed along a reference provided by Chad Engels.

Committee members agreed to allow the RFQ Consultant Sub-Committee determine appropriate language for the RFP, and to solicit interview questions from the Steering/Technical Committee.

**5-Minute Presentations:** Committee members shared their agency's primary responsibilities, recent projects, and goals for 1W1Plan. Loosely, the individuals in the group:

- 1) Manage Water Quantity through 103E Drainage Ditch Systems – Annual Inspections & Repairs
- 2) Manage Water Quantity through Projects – Culvert Sizing, Permits, & Impoundments
- 3) Manage Water Quality through Monitoring – River Watch and WRAPS
- 4) Manage Water Quality through Research – experience with U of M and NDSU
- 5) Manage Water Quality through Construction – Projects like TCD #52
- 6) Work with water planning, feedlots, septic systems, building permits, setbacks, variances and conditional uses, shoreland ordinances, noxious weeds, aquatic species, emergency management, buffer enforcement, wetland conservation act, recycling, hazardous waste
- 7) Conduct revenue-generating services: seeding, mowing, tree planting, surveying, planting native plants, weed management, plant fabric installation, rain garden design and installation, drill rentals, buffer compliance
- 8) Jointly work on projects with the State of MN, USDA, and NRCS like: CRP, EQUIP, CSP, RIM, shared buildings and joint funding, Water Quality Certification Program, State Environthon, diversion channels
- 9) Use tools like drone footage, E-Link, PTMApp
- 10) Initiate projects such as education and outreach; Bonanza Education Center; buffer alternative practices, groundwater nutrient management
- 11) Work on soil health initiatives – demonstration plots, teaching producers to build stewardship ethic; hiring a crop consultant to relay best practices; programs and education for cover crops; sediment basins
- 12) Value local opinions and knowledge of the land; this knowledge trumps state bureaucratic processes initiated in St. Paul
- 13) Value taxpayer goal expectations of increasing water quality, increasing soil health, addressing flood problems, and increasing wildlife habitat
- 14) Mitigate agricultural, urban, and lakeowner issues
- 15) Work with varied geology: lakes and sloughs, stocked fisheries, board membership tied to land rather than population, glacial moraine, rolling topography, beach ridge, Red River Valley
- 16) Some have limited revenue sources and aggressively seek-out grants; all look for cost-share opportunities

Under 1W1Plan, overall the group is looking forward to future collaboration, being part of bigger projects, funding opportunities, prioritization of projects, measurable results and improvements.

Waller indicated that over the past 20 years, BWSR has significantly expanded. In 1992, the agency had a \$5 million budget and oversaw less than twenty programs. Today, their budget is \$180 million; 84% is pay thru grant money, that returns 10% to BWSR for administration.

Montoneye recommended that the RFQ Consultant Committee look for a consultant who is flexible and understands that hard deadlines won't work, and that the official work plan schedule needs to be scaled-back in the spring and fall, due to agricultural activities.

**Buffer Update:** Grant County did not approve all of the 6-pack alternative practices, and their more restrictive Shoreland Ordinance does not permit alternative practices. Otter Tail will post non-compliance on their website, and at this time, is estimated to be 1,000 parcels. Because Otter Tail instituted a voluntary buffer program prior to the enactment of the 2015 State Law, they are fighting the perception that buffers are still mandatory. Stevens County reported that they have 3 producers who will not be compliant by November 1<sup>st</sup>. Big Stone County stated that they have approved many alternative practices, and have about 24 land owners out of compliance. Wilkin County reported that many of the buffers were placed in CRP.

**PTMapp Update:** Gronfeld relayed that IWI is working on the program; stakeholders have been asked individually for their primary resource points for reduction. After those are determined, IWI will do the modeling. Van Offelen recommended fewer resource points, and emphasized that they are critical; he told the group that they should consider picking points together. Gronfeld told the group that, because IWI is backed-up, PTMapp won't be used for this 1W1Plan, but it could be used for targeting and measuring future activities.

**Future Meetings:** There have been a few requests for a Water Planning 101 session, to go through the basics of what a comprehensive plan is, how it is used, and how it is put together. Waller will setup a time, and Beyer will extend an invitation Policy Committee members, also. Montoneye recommended an opportunity to become familiar with member agency rules. Pete asked the committee to consider a bus tour, once citizens are on-board, to tour local sites, work them into plan inventories, and work them into the subsequent work plan. He also recommended that the committee consider offering some information sessions for the group on, for eg, the hydrology of cover crops, tiling, etc.

## **NO OCTOBER MEETING**

**NEXT MEETINGS: NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> AT 9 AM & NOVEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup> AT 9 AM**