

Des Moines River Watershed

One Watershed, One Plan

Policy Committee – Meeting #2
Minutes

Date: May 20th, 2021

Location: 4-H Building at Murray County Fairgrounds and Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Tom Appel, Cottonwood County; Tom Muller, Cottonwood SWCD; Mark Bartosh, HLWD; Phil Nasby, Jackson County Commissioner; Rick Anderson, Lyon County; Steve Prairie, Lyon SWCD; Richard Koons, Martin County; Dave Thiner, Murray County; Karen Hurd, Murray SWCD; Justin Ahlers, Nobles County; Ashley Brenke, Martin SWCD; John Biren, Lyon County/SWCD; John Shea, Nobles SWCD; Kay Gross, Cottonwood County/SWCD; Andy Geiger, Jackson County; Valerie Cihak, Jackson County; Sarah Soderholm, Murray County; Rick Nelson, Nobles County SWCD; Doug Goodrich, BWSR; Bryan Spindler, MPCA; Katherine Pekarek-Scott, MPCA;

Call to Order: Chairman, Rick Anderson, called the meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Phil Nasby to approve the minutes from the last policy committee meeting on March 18th, 2021. Second by Dave Thiner. With no opposition, the motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

Advisory Committee Recommendations: Discussed the current list of Advisory Committee members. It can include public citizens, citizen groups, water quality groups, etc. Ashley indicated that the group can continue to add members after the kick-off meeting. Richard said he knew of a couple of people from Martin County that might like to be added. Justin asked if there would be a cap on the number of advisory board members. Right now, there are about 35 and 9 of them are state-agency people who may not attend all meetings. Andy suggested that if the group gets too large it could be broken down into sub-groups. It was also discussed that sometimes interest starts strong and can fade over time. Other people that will be looked into adding is MNDOT, City of Worthington, Cattlemen's Association, and Corn and Soybean Producer Associations.

Consultant Contract: Discussed the interviews with the two engineering groups: HEI and ISG. It was a close competition and there didn't seem to be a clear winner as they were both good in different ways. Ultimately, the sub-committee decided on HEI. The contract has not gone through legal review. Tom indicated that the Watonwan Watershed Plan used HEI and they were easy to work with.

A Motion was made by Tom Appel to approve the subcommittee's selection of HEI and authorize negotiations between the Jackson SWCD Board and HEI. Second by Justin Ahlers. With no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Public Notice Notification List: The mailing list includes all state agencies required, townships, members of the committees, neighboring watersheds, water quality groups, and a conservation board from one main county in Iowa.

A motion was made by Richard Koons to approve the notification list. Second by Tom Muller. With no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

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Public Notice Notification Letter: There are a few unknowns at this time. The date and locations of the two meetings are being determined but it will happen in late July. The website will be on the Murry County website and is in the creation process. Despite this, the letter will be ready to send tomorrow or the beginning of next week, which is preferable due to the timing of the kick-off meeting.

A motion was made by Phil Nasby to approve the notification letter. Second by Karen Hurd. With no opposition, the motion passed unanimously.

Schedule Next Meeting: The next meeting on June 17, 2021 is tentative, depending on having enough agenda items to discuss by this time. A Windom location was discussed, but most likely will not be available in June.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Submitted Respectfully,

Tom Muller
Secretary