

**MINUTES**  
**Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team**  
**Monday, January 9, 2023**

The Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team met for their bi-monthly meeting at 3:00 p.m. Monday, January 9, 2023 via an in-person meeting held at the Chisago County Government Center, Conference Room 150B in Center City, MN and a virtual Meeting with the following Policy Team members present: Dan Dahlberg (County Commissioner), John Eret (Chair), Robert Klatt (Citizen at Large), Craig Mell (Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District), Scott Noland (Citizen at Large), Brian Sandel (Citizen at Large), Kurt Schneider (Environment Services), and Dawn White (Acting Chair and Citizen at Large). **ABSENT:** Betty-Jo Thorsten (Public Health).

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.02, Water Plan Policy Team member Brian Sandel remotely attended the Policy Team meeting on Monday, January 9, 2023 at 3:00 pm via Microsoft Teams. Policy Team member Sandel was seen and heard via electronic means and participated from 49448 Forest Blvd, Rush City, MN 55069, a location open and accessible to the public. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.02, Subd. 3, persons interested in monitoring the meeting electronically from a remote location may view the meeting through the Microsoft Teams meeting link below.

Also present: Susanna Wilson Witkowski (Water Resource Manager), Ben Elfelt (Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District), and Camden Droppo (Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist).

Each Policy Team member, and others present, attended the meeting in person or at a location of their choice through a personal device (e.g. laptop, tablet, cell phone or personal computer). Each Policy Team member, and others present, could view documents presented during the virtual Meeting via their devices and to participate in discussion through microphones located in their devices.

The Chair, John Eret, called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Team members and visitors were introduced.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Mell offered a motion to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2022 Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team meeting. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team Member Schneider and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Dahlberg, Eret, Klatt, Mell, Noland, Sandel, Schneider. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Thorsten and White.

Team Member White arrived at 3:11 p.m.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Eret offered a motion to approve the agenda, as amended. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team member Schneider and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion carries as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Dahlberg, Eret, Klatt, Mell, Noland, Sandel, Schneider, and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Thorsten.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Schneider offered a motion to appoint member White as chair of the Water Plan Policy Team. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team Member Eret and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Dahlberg, Eret, Klatt, Mell, Noland, Sandel, Schneider, and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Thorsten.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Mell offered a motion to appoint member Noland as vice-chair of the Water Plan Policy Team. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team Member White and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Dahlberg, Eret, Klatt, Mell, Noland, Sandel, Schneider, and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Thorsten

Wilson Witkowski updated the Policy Team on the new process to provide the Water Plan Policy Team meeting agenda and packet information in a OneDrive folder rather than sending the information via email.

#### **Lower St. Croix, Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (LSC CWMP)**

Wilson Witkowski provided updates on the following agenda items:

- a. Policy Committee Citizen At-Large Representative and Alternate Appointments

#### **Historical Actions & Budget Request Next Steps**

Wilson Witkowski reviewed with the Policy Team the Historical Actions and Next Steps document to show future Policy Team actions.

Wilson Witkowski reviewed with the Policy Team the draft, revised Table 1: Chisago County Appendix Objectives – Annual Reporting 2022, to show yearend progress reporting for the objectives, including dollars spent, parties responsible for the work and funding sources. The Policy Team discussed revising Table 1 to clarify funding spent compared to estimated spending to review and prioritize at the next Team meeting.

Wilson Witkowski reviewed with the Policy Team the draft Policy and Procedures document. At the November 14, 2022 meeting, the Policy Team recommended reviewing this agenda item at the January 2023 Team meeting. The Policy Team discussed the revising the Policy and Procedures document and bringing the new version for review at the next Team meeting.

#### **American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA)**

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the ARPA funding approved by the Chisago County Board of Commissioners for Water Resources activities and plans for implementation. The Policy Team discussed having the Team review the treatment grants for lake associations overall program and applications to provide recommendations to the Chisago County Board for approval.

### **Invasive Phragmites Summary**

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on Invasive Phragmites monitoring in 2022 in the cities of North Branch, Rush City, Wyoming, and Rusheba Townships. Only one location of Invasive Phragmites hybrid population was identified in Wyoming.

### **Aquatic Invasive Species Program Updates**

Wilson Witkowski and Droppo provided an update on the following agenda items:

- a. East Rush Lake Southeast Bay, Lake Emily, Peterson, and Swamp Lakes Aquatic Plant Point-Intercept Survey results from 2022, and
- b. Zebra Mussel Veliger and Spiny Waterflea Tow Results.

### **East Metro Water Resources Education Program (EMWREP)**

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the EMWREP planning for 2023 and the use and sharing of the resources they develop with residents, cities, and townships in the county.

### **We Are Water MN**

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the application process and next steps for applying to have the We Are Water MN exhibit in Chisago County in 2024.

### **Hennepin County Lake Pledge**

Team Member Eret provided an update on the Hennepin County Lake Pledge website and campaign. The Policy Team will continue discussion at the next Policy Team meeting.

### **2022 Activities**

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on 2023 planned activities. This includes:

- a. American Recovery Plan Act Programs
- b. Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention
- c. Children's Water Festival (September 2023 TBD)
- d. Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District Program Coordination
- e. Lower St. Croix - Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (1W1P)
- f. Water Plan Policy Team Role and Framework
- g. Water Quality Monitoring

### **Agency Updates**

Team Member Mell provided an updated on working with EOR to locate areas in the Sunrise River watershed for funding projects. Mell updated the Policy Team on the Lower St. Croix partnership enhanced street sweeping program working with city public works staff to prioritize streets with high tree canopy located in North Branch, Rush City, and Wyoming. The Board of Water and Soil Resources approved two, \$250,000-dollar 2022 Clean Water Fund grants for the Chisago SWCD for best management practices in the Chisago Lakes Chain of Lakes watershed and Lawrence Creek, Dry Creek, and Direct Drainage to the St. Croix River.

Elfelt provided an update on the upcoming Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District (LID) Annual Meeting and Election for Area 1 and At-Large LID Board members on February 6, 2023. LID staff are currently completing annual reporting and permitting information.

The next meeting of the Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team is scheduled for Monday, March 13, 2023 at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be hybrid in-person and virtual.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Mell offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:56 p.m. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team Member Schneider and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Dahlberg, Eret, Klatt, Mell, Noland, Sandel, Schneider, and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Thorsten.