

MINUTES
Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team
Monday, March 14, 2022

The Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team met for their bi-monthly meeting at 3:00 p.m. Monday, March 14, 2022 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: Chris DuBose (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 (Environmental Services), and Dawn White (Vice Chair). **ABSENT:** Betty-Jo Thorsten (Public Health).

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.02, Water Plan Policy Team member Craig Mell remotely attended the Policy Team meeting on Monday, March 14, 2022 at 3:00 pm via Microsoft Teams. Policy Team member Mell was seen and heard via electronic means and participated from the Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District office, 38814 Third Avenue, North Branch, MN 55056, a location open and accessible to the public.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.02, Water Plan Policy Team member Brian Sandel remotely attended the Policy Team meeting on Monday, March 14, 2022 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: Jerry Spetzman (Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District), Susanna Wilson Witkowski (Water Resource Manager) and Camden Droppo (Chisago County Aquatic Invasive Species).

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.

Acting Chair, Wilson Witkowski, called the business meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. It was determined that a quorum of members was present.

Team members and visitors were introduced.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Schneider offered a motion to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2022, Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team meeting. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team Member White and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** DuBose, Eret, Klatt, Mell, Noland, Sandel, Schneider and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Thorsten.

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

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on Chisago County policy for holding hybrid Water Plan Policy Team meetings. Policy Team members who chose to participate remotely will need to provide in advance the location where they will be participating in the meeting. This location will be included with the meeting agenda.

Wilson Witkowski introduced new Policy Team Members John Eret, Robert Klatt and Scott Noland. Team member Eret was re-appointed by the Chisago County Board of Commissioners to the Policy Team.

Elect Chair and Vice Chair

The Policy Team discussed electing a Chair and Vice Chair.

Water Plan Policy Team Member DuBose offered a motion to nominate John Eret to serve as Chair of the Water Plan Policy Team and Dawn White to serve as Vice Chair of the Water Plan Policy Team. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team member Sandel and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion carries as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** DuBose, Eret, Klatt, Mell, Noland, Sandel, Schneider and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Thorsten.

Presentation – 2021 Annual Reports

Spetzman, Wilson Witkowski and Droppo gave a presentation on the 2021 Chisago County Water Resources annual reports. This included updates on aquatic invasive species, water quality monitoring, water resource programs and the Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District.

Lower St. Croix One Watershed One Plan

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership (1W1P). This included:

- A. Watershed Based Implementation Funding Work Plan and Budget 2021 – 2022 Updates.
 - a. Activity 7: Internal Analyses Applications Update. Funding will be provided for internal analysis of Forest Lake. However, North & South Goose, East & West Rush and Little Lakes did not meet the threshold criteria of minimum 50%, preferred 80% of external phosphorus load reductions and therefore were not eligible to receive funding for internal load analysis.

- B. Changing Framework for Water Plan Policy Team, Purpose and Mission Review. Wilson Witkowski reviewed with the Policy Team the most recent draft of the revised Policy Team Purpose and Mission. Team Member DuBose reviewed with the Policy Team on establishing a countywide funding source for water planning match funding, projects, and programs similar to the Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District funding and budget. Staff will bring proposed programs and activities for future funding at the next Policy Team meeting.

Water Plan Policy Team Member White offered a motion to accept the new draft Purpose and Mission for the Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team member Klatt and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion carries as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** DuBose, Eret, Klatt, Mell, Noland, Sandel, Schneider and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Thorsten.

- C. Rum River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan approval process.

Team Member DuBose left the meeting at 4:48 pm.

Chisago County Water Quality Monitoring Plan

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on planned development of a Chisago county-wide water quality monitoring plan.

EMWREP

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the approval of the East Metro Water Resources Educational Partnership program by the Chisago County Board of Commissioners at their meeting on January 19, 2022, and the recent EMWREP communications, program information and activity updates available to promote through the county and to share with lake associations and cities/townships.

Hinckley Area Fisheries

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the Minnesota DNR, Hinckley Area Fisheries Office, Field Notes for Winter 2022.

2021 AIS Program Updates

Wilson Witkowski and Droppo provided an update on the aquatic invasive species (AIS) and watercraft inspection program. This included:

- A. Watercraft Inspections and Decontaminations, and
- B. University of Minnesota, Wake Board Boat Study Update, and
- C. Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) – 2021 Research Report.
- D. AIS Management 101 Course Registration.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Schneider offered a motion to fund up to 3 Citizen at Large members of the Policy Team to attend the AIS Management 101 Course in March 2022 (\$75 per person registration totaling \$300). Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team member White and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion carries as follows: **IN FAVOR**

THEREOF: DuBose, Eret, Klatt, Mell, Noland, Sandel, Schneider and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Thorsten.

- E. AIS Detector Training, University of Minnesota (April/May 2022). The Water Plan budget will provide \$195 per person to send up to three members to the training. It was determined that no motion was needed. First come first served.

Workshops/Conferences

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on upcoming workshops/conferences. These included the 2022 Forestry Conference – Wild Rivers Conservancy (March 24, 2022), and the St. Croix Watershed Environmental Education Partnership (SWEEP) Meeting (March 30, 2022).

Agency Updates

No agency updates were provided.

The next meeting of the Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team is tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 9, 2022, at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be hybrid in-person and virtual.

Water Plan Policy Team Member White offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 p.m. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team Member Klatt and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion carries as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** DuBose, Eret, Klatt, Mell, Noland, Sandel, Schneider and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Thorsten.