

MINUTES
Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team
Monday, May 8, 2023

The Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team met for their bi-monthly meeting at 3:00 p.m. Monday, May 8, 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 (Vice-Chair and Citizen at Large), Kurt Schneider (Environment Services), and Dawn White (Chair and Citizen at Large). **ABSENT:** Betty-Jo Thorsten (Public Health) and Brian Sandel (Citizen at Large).

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), Camden Droppo (Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist), Jackie Anderson (Comfort Lake Association), Jason Houle (Green Lake Association), and Tom Sahlmen (Goose Lake Landowners Association).

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, Dawn White, 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 March 13, 2023, Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team meeting. 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, Schneider, and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Sandel and Thorsten.

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

ARPA Funded Programs

Wilson Witkowski reviewed with the Policy Team the ARPA funded AIS Treatment and Education Grant 2023 applications submitted by Chisago County lake associations. The Policy

Team provided a recommendation for approval to the Chisago County Board of Commissioners for all the submitted grant applications and agreements. The applications and agreements will go to the County Board at their meeting on May 17, 2023.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Mell offered a motion recommending approval of the seven lake association application requests and grant agreements for the 2023 Aquatic Invasive Species Treatment and Education Grants for Lake Associations, including the 2023 request for Comfort Lakes Association. 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, Schneider, and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Sandel and Thorsten.

Presentation – 2022 Annual Reports

Elfelt, Droppo, and Wilson Witkowski gave a presentation on the 2022 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, Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (LSC CWMP)

Wilson Witkowski provided updates on the following agenda items:

- a. Policy Committee Citizen alternate appointment of Brenda Green,
- b. Implementation Policy Committee Meeting (April 24, 2023), and
- c. St. Croix Workshop on the Water (June 27, 2023).

Water Plan Policy Team Member Mell offered a motion to fund up to 4 Citizen at Large members of the Policy Team to attend the 2023 Workshops on the Water (\$30 per person registration totaling \$240). Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team member Dahlberg and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion carries as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** DuBose, Eret, Klatt, Mell, Noland, Schneider and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Sandel and Thorsten.

Historical Actions & Budget Request Next Steps

Wilson Witkowski reviewed with the Policy Team the recommendation to table the review of actions items not yet completed in the LSC CWMP Annual Report, as county staff is currently developing the annual report for 2022 and may have updated information to review at the next Policy Team meeting.

Water Quality Monitoring

Wilson Witkowski reviewed with the Policy Team the water quality monitoring plan for the northern Chisago County lakes for 2023.

Invasive Phragmites Updates

Wilson Witkowski requested input from the Policy Team on funding the treatment of invasive phragmites through the use of drones on locations outside of the Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District. The Policy Team recommends using water plan funding to treat invasive phragmites via drones in 2023.

Aquatic Invasive Species Program Updates

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

- a. Watercraft Inspections and Decontaminations,
- b. Prevention, Early Detection, Rapid Response Plan,
 - i. Zebra Mussel Watch Program - Monitoring Plates
 - ii. Zebra Mussel Veliger and Spiny Waterflea Sampling
 - iii. Water Access Monitoring Program
 - iv. Starry Trek (August 2023)
- c. Northern Lakes Point-Intercept Surveys (Sunrise), and
- d. Right of Way Workshop held on March 21, 2023.

Replacing Failing Septic Systems Grant

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the \$240,000 Replacing Failing Septic Systems to Protect Groundwater grant the county received for environmental justice areas and low-income Chisago County residents to improve or replace their septic systems.

East Metro Report

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the East Metro Water Resources Education Program Annual Report for 2022.

Hinckley Area Fisheries

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the Hinckley Area Fisheries Office, Field Notes for Winter 2023.

Lake Pledge

Team Member Eret provided an update on the Lake Pledge campaign for Hennepin County.

Wilson Witkowski provided updates on the following agenda items:

- Lake Level Readings and Slow-No-Wake Ordinance Updates
- Adopt a Drain – Chisago County

Workshops/Conferences

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the Navigate to a Cleaner Lake workshop on May 20, 2023.

Agency Updates

Team Member Mell provided an update on staff field work and project installation including agricultural best management practices, soil health, lakeshore and Lawns to Legumes, direct drainage and St. Croix escarpment, and Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District projects. Elfelt provided an update on the removal of vegetation to improve navigation within the North Center - North Lindstrom channel.

The next meeting of the Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team is scheduled for Monday, July 10, 2023, at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be hybrid in-person and virtual.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Eret 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, Schneider, and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Sandel and Thorsten.