

MINUTES
Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team
Monday, July 10, 2023

The Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team met for their bi-monthly meeting at 3:00 p.m. Monday, July 10, 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:** 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), Eric Alms (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency), and citizen Jo George.

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 3:06 p.m.

Team members and visitors were introduced.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Mell offered a motion to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2023, Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team meeting. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team Member Klatt 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.

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

Treatment Grants

Wilson Witkowski updated the Policy Team on the approval of the 2023 – 2024 Aquatic Invasive Species Treatment and Education Grant applications for lake associations by the

Chisago County Board of Commissioners on May 17, 2023, and current requests for grant reimbursement.

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

Wilson Witkowski and Policy Team Members provided updates on the following agenda items. The Policy Team discussed meeting with the lake associations in Chisago County at the November Team meeting to determine their interest in forming a Coalition of Lake Associations, as an opportunity to meet on a formal basis to network and discuss topics such as lake management planning. Wilson Witkowski will meet with Team Member Noland to develop a meeting agenda for the Policy Team to review at discuss at their next meeting.

- a. St. Croix Workshop on the Water Video review (June 27, 2023), and
- b. Adoption of the Rum and Snake River 1W1P – The previous Chisago County Local Water Management Plan expires in September of 2023 and the land areas located outside the Lower St. Croix Watershed within the County will not have a watershed management plan.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Mell offered a motion to recommend to the Chisago County Board of Commissioners to Approve Resolutions to Adopt the Rum and Snake River One Watershed, One Plans. 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, Schneider and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Sandel.

Policy Team Purpose and Mission

Wilson Witkowski updated the Board on the Policy Team Purpose and Mission Resolution approved by the Chisago County Board of Commissioners on June 21, 2023. Wilson Witkowski discussed with the Policy Team the recommendation to table the review of action items not yet completed in the LSC CWMP Annual Report, as the annual report for 2022 is not yet completed.

Slow-No-Wake Policy

Wilson Witkowski reviewed with the Policy Team the collaborative effort between the Environmental Services Department and County Sheriff Water Patrol to develop the new Slow-No-Wake Ordinance Buoy and Sign Placement Policy, which describes the location of buoys and signs associated with the ordinance.

Invasive Phragmites Updates

Wilson Witkowski and Elfelt provided an updated on receiving a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant from the MN Department of Natural Resources to treat invasive phragmites located along the shorelines in the Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District.

Aquatic Invasive Species Program Updates

Wilson Witkowski 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. Starry Trek (August 19, 2023)
- iv. Decontamination Blitz (August 2023)

Lake Pledge

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

We Are Water MN

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the Minnesota Humanities Center; We Are Water MN exhibit application for 2023.

Children's Water Festival

Wilson Witkowski, Team Member Mell and White, provided an update on volunteers needed for the Chisago County Children's Water Festival on September 21, 2023.

Workshops/Conferences

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the Summit for Volunteers workshop on August 22, 2023.

Agency Updates

Team Member Mell provided an update on the passing of Chisago SWCD Board Supervisor Roland Cleveland and the appointment for his position.

The next meeting of the Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team is scheduled for Monday, September 11, 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 4:33 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.