Red Lake River
One Watershed, One Plan
Policy Committee
August 15, 2018
9:30 AM
Location: Red Lake Watershed District

Facilitator: Peter Nelson  Note taker: Tammy Audette

Invitees:
Policy Committee: Orville Knott, Red Lake SWCD; Gene Tiedemann, RLWD: Don Diedrich, Polk Co. Commissioner; Don Jensen, Pennington Co. Commissioner; Ron Weiss, Red Lake County Commissioner; Russ Severson, West Polk SWCD; Grant Nelson, Pennington SWCD.
LGU Lead staff: Myron Jesme, Tanya Hanson, Nicole Bernd, Peter Nelson, and BWSR Board Conservationist staff: Matt Fischer

Preparation: Review Agenda, Minutes, Draft Cost-Share Policy, and Resolution

Please bring: Agenda, Minutes, Cost-Share Policy and Resolution

**Agenda Items**

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<td>✔ Call to Order</td>
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<tr>
<td>✔ Review and Approve Agenda</td>
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<td>9:30 – 9:45</td>
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<td>✔ Minutes of February 21, 2018</td>
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<td>✔ Cost-Share Policy</td>
<td>DISCUSS/DECIDE</td>
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<td>✔ Grants</td>
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<td>▪ Clean Water Fund Grants</td>
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<td>▪ PTMApp Grant Update</td>
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<td>✔ Project Implementation Timeline</td>
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<td>✔ Resolution to Amend Plan</td>
<td>DISCUSS/DECIDE</td>
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Red Lake River Planning Group  
One Watershed One Plan (1W1P)  
Policy Committee Meeting Minutes  
August 15, 2018

The meeting was convened by Chairman Orville Knott at 9:30 a.m. The following Policy Committee members (or their alternates) and Local Governmental Unit staff were present:

Policy Committee Members present: Orville Knott, Red Lake SWCD; Don Diedrich, Polk Co. Commissioner; Ron Weiss, Red Lake County Commissioner; Gene Tiedemann, RLWD; and Grant Nelson, Pennington SWCD.

Local Governmental Unit Staff present: Myron Jesme, RLWD; Matt Fischer, BWSR; Peter Nelson, Pennington SWCD; Bryan Malone, Pennington SWCD, Tanya Hanson, Red Lake SWCD, and Nicole Bernd, Polk SWCD.

The Policy Committee reviewed the agenda. Motion by Grant Nelson, seconded by Gene Tiedemann, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Don Diedrich, seconded by Ron Weiss, to approve the February 21, 2018 Policy Committee meeting minutes as approved. Motion carried.

Peter Nelson stated that an Engineering Technician was hired for the Technical Service Area 1 through the Pennington SWCD to work with six counties in the northwestern Minnesota area.

Peter Nelson stated that notices for the Other Waters Map, as an addendum to the plan, were sent to the plan authorities.

Peter Nelson informed the Policy Committee that the Red Lake River 1W1P was successful in receiving a $75,000 grant from the National Association of Conservation District, to hire an employee to assist with federal programs and projects in the planning area of the Red Lake River 1W1P.

The PTMApp Grant was set to expire the end of June 2018 but was extended to the end of the year.

Peter Nelson stated that the Planning Work Group developed a draft Side Water Inlet (SWI) Cost Share Policy for the grant that the Red Lake River 1W1P received. The grant in the amount of $677,551, was executed on July 25, 2018 and expires December 31, 2021. Myron Jesme stated that the Cost Share Policy will also include a policy on contracts with landowners. Cost share contracts will be approved by the Local Governmental Unit with jurisdiction and will cover 75% of the practice. A local match, which could also be in-kind, would be required from either the county, SWCD, watershed or federal funds. Myron Jesme indicated that if the project involves a legal drainage system, the drainage system could cover the costs of the local match or the District could decide to use funding from our Capital Project. Myron Jesme stated that if the project is within the right of way of a legal drainage system, the contract would be with the ditch.

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authority and not the land occupier assuming the ditch system already owns the right-of-way. Peter Nelson stated that $2,000 was estimated for each SWI structure. The Cost Share Policy states that the Coordinator and the Fiscal Agent of the Red Lake River 1W1P must review all contracts, followed by contract approval from each individual Board for approval. Discussion was held on how the Planning Work Group will handle the reporting of the grant. Motion by Gene Tiedeman, seconded by Grant Nelson, to approve the Red Lake River 1W1P side Water Inlet Cost Share Program Policy. Motion carried.

Clean Water Grants applications are due by August 31, 2018. The Pennington SWCD is applying for three streambank projects located within the Red Lake River 1W1P. The RLWD is taking the lead on one application, the outlet of the Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project.

Bryan Malone stated that the Pennington SWCD will apply for a Culvert Inventory Grant. Myron Jesme stated that the stream power index is finished, therefore completion of the culvert inventory would be helpful.

Bryan Malone stated that they were successful in receiving a National Association of Conservation District (NACD) grant in the amount of $75,000 to hire a Technician to work on conservation plans and designs for SWI’s within the Red Lake River 1W1P. Bryan Malone stated that several details need to be worked out for the position, one being the office location. Advertising for the position will take place soon.

Discussion was held on the possible reorganization of the MPCA 319 Grant Program. MPCA and the EPA recognize the fact that they need to work on a smaller watershed scale. The Planning Work Group filled out a two-page criteria sheet and submitted it to the MPCA. With over 40 applications received, 19 were selected, with the Red Lake River 1W1P selected as an area to be considered. A meeting will be held in September to review the program.

Houston Engineering, Inc. has been working on the PTMAApp grant, with completion by the end of the year. The remaining balance of the grant is $7,986. The next step of the PTMAApp is to look at the targeted implementation plan. This information will be included in the Red Lake River 1W1P as an appendix.

The Policy Committee reviewed the Project Implementation Timeline. As part of the Workplan, a timeline of what will be completed each year is required. It was noted that this is a general timeline. The Planning Work Group will start out with SWI’s, with a streambank project for the outlet of Pennington County Ditch 96 south of St. Hilaire scheduled for 2020. Administrative actions are color coded in gray. The RLWD is identified as the fiscal agent and the Pennington SWCD as the Coordinator in the grant agreement, which are both one-year terms. Discussion was held on a septic system inventory to identify systems that are public health threats.

The Policy Committee reviewed a Resolution to Amend the Plan. Myron Jesme stated that the establishment of a Watershed Management District (WMD) was not included in the Red Lake River 1W1P. The RLWD is working on the Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project as well as the Black River Impoundment both of which may require the

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establishment of a WMD. The Resolution to Amend the Plan would incorporate WMD’s into the plan. Development of a WMD would assist the RLWD in funding the project in an equitable mechanism based on the acres of each parcel within the project. The project was petitioned by the City of Thief River Falls and Pennington County to divert flood waters around the city, rather than coming into town. Matt Fischer stated that he would recommend including a WMD watershed wide. Motion by Gene Tiedemann, seconded by Grant Nelson, to approve the Resolution to Amend the Red Lake River 1W1P to include the creation of Water Management District’s. Motion failed due to a lack of majority vote. Members of the Planning Work Group provided discussion on revising the resolution. Discussion was held on the timeline of amending the plan for approval by BWSR, which would also include holding a Public Hearing.

A short recess was held to allow for members of the Planning Work Group to revise the Resolution to Amend the plan to be brought back to the Policy Committee for consideration.

The Policy Committee reviewed the revisions made to the Resolution to Amend the Plan for the Red Lake River 1W1P. Motion by Gene Tiedemann, seconded by Grant Nelson, to approve the revised Resolution to Amend Plan for the Red Lake River 1W1P. Motion carried.

Chairman Orville Knott adjourned the meeting.

Don Diedrich, Secretary