

MINUTES
Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team
Monday, September 13, 2021

The Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team met for their bi-monthly meeting at 3:00 p.m. Monday, September 13, 2021 via a virtual Meeting with the following Policy Team members present: John Eret (Vice Chair), Larry Nelson (Citizen at Large), Brian Sandel (Citizen at Large), Kurt Schneider (Environment Services), Frank Storm (Chair), Dawn White (Citizen at Large). **ABSENT:** Chris DuBose (County Commissioner), Betty-Jo Thorsten (Public Health).

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.02, Water Plan Policy Team member Craig Mell will remotely attend the Policy Team meeting on Monday, September 13, 2021 at 3:00 pm via Microsoft Teams. Policy Team member Mell will be seen and heard via electronic means and will participate 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, 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: Melissa King (MN Board of Water & Soil Resources), John Freitag (MN Dept of Health), Blayne Eineichner (Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District), Garrett Miller (Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District), Jerry Spetzman (Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District), Susanna Wilson Witkowski (Water Resource Manager), Camden Droppo (Chisago County Aquatic Invasive Species).

Each Policy Team member, and others present, attended the Virtual 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, Frank Storm, called the business meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. It was determined that a quorum of members was present.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Eret offered a motion to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2021 Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team meeting. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team Member Nelson and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Eret, Mell, Nelson, Sandel, Schneider, Storm and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** DuBose 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 Nelson and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion carries as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Eret, Mell, Nelson, Sandel, Schneider, Storm and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** DuBose and Thorsten.

Presentation – 2020 Annual Reports

Spetzman and Wilson Witkowski gave a presentation on the 2020 water resources annual reports, which included Water Quality Monitoring, Aquatic Invasive Species, Water Resource Programs and the Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District.

Mask Mandate

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the COVID-19 mask mandate being lifted in Chisago County.

Hybrid Meetings

Wilson Witkowski reviewed with the Policy Team options for future hybrid Policy Team meetings. The consensus of the Policy Team was to continue providing hybrid options for the near future. However, the Policy Team recommended information from Chisago County Assistant Attorney Jeff Fuge for any restrictions on locations for Team members if they are attending the meeting virtually.

Lower St. Croix One Watershed One Plan

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership. This included:

- a. Watershed Based Implementation Funding Work Plan and budget 2021-2022 updates,
- b. Policy Committee meeting updates (July & September 2021),
- c. Changing framework for Water Plan Policy Team Subcommittee meeting update (June 11, 2021), and
- d. Review of interactive map at a future meeting.

Wilson Witkowski reviewed with the Policy Team the recommendations from the Subcommittee meeting held on June 11, 2021 to determine the future framework and next steps for the Policy Team. The Policy Team discussed the purpose of the Team and decided to have the Subcommittee continue to review and revise the current Policy Team Purpose, Mission, transitional role and being a recipient of information, and how to track completed water planning activities.

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on lake level readings and the new lake level gauge located at Horseshoe Lake, which allows for monitoring and enforcement of the Slow-No-Wake Ordinance.

Delisting

Spetzman provided an update on the recent State of Minnesota delisting of North and South Center Lakes, a related snapshot article written by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, a news story on KARE 11 highlights, and a written news article and blog – A Martha Stewart Guide to Lake Water Quality.

Fisheries Newsletter

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the Department of Natural Resources Hinckley Area Fisheries Field Notes (Summer 2021).

Genetic Analysis

Wilson Witkowski provided the Policy Team with information for lake associations to obtain genetic analysis of Eurasian and Hybrid Watermilfoil through the University of Montana.

Phragmites Treatment

Spetzman provided an update on fall 2021 invasive Phragmites roadside treatment within the Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District.

2021 AIS Program Updates

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

- a. New AIS Chisago County employee Camden Droppo,
- b. Watercraft inspections and decontamination,
- c. Decontamination Blitz (August 6-8, 2021),
- d. Starry Trek results (August 21, 2021), and
- e. Zebra Mussel Watch program – monitoring plates.

Children's Water Festival

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the upcoming Chisago County Children's Water Festival on September 23, 2021.

Workshops

Wilson Witkowski provided updates on upcoming workshops/conferences. This included:

- a. Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) - Research and Management Showcase (September 22, 2021), and
- b. North American Invasive Species Management Association Annual Conference (September 27-30, 2021).

Water Plan Policy Team Member Schneider offered a motion to fund up to 3 Citizen at Large members of the Policy Team to participate in the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) Research and Management Showcase on September 22, 2021. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team member White and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion carries as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Eret, Mell, Nelson, Sandel, Schneider, Storm and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** DuBose and Thorsten.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Schneider offered a motion to fund up to 3 Citizen at Large members of the Policy Team to participate in the North American Invasive Species Management Association Annual Conference on September 27-30, 2021. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team member Eret and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion carries as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Eret, Mell, Nelson, Sandel, Schneider, Storm and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** DuBose and Thorsten.

Agency Updates

Freitag provided information on Source Water Protection grants available in September 2021. King provided information on the Watershed Based Implementation funding available to Greater Minnesota, available funding for the Lawns to Legumes program, individual

support grants and Neighborhood Demonstration projects through the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

The next meeting of the Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team is tentatively scheduled for Monday, November 8, 2021 at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be hybrid.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Eret offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 p.m. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team Member Schneider and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion carries as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Eret, Mell, Nelson, Sandel, Schneider, Storm and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** DuBose and Thorsten.