

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

The Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team met for their bi-monthly meeting at 3:00 p.m. Monday, November 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: Robert Klatt (Citizen at Large), Craig Mell (Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District), Scott Noland (Citizen at Large), Brian Sandel (Citizen at Large), Kurt Schneider (Environment Services), and Dawn White (Acting Chair and Citizen at Large). **ABSENT:** Chris DuBose (County Commissioner), John Eret (Chair), and Betty-Jo Thorsten (Public Health).

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.02, Water Plan Policy Team members Craig Mell and Dawn White attended the Policy Team meeting on Monday, November 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. Policy Team member White was seen and heard via electronic means and participated from 404 Panay Avenue, Naples, FL 34113, 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: Susanna Wilson Witkowski (Water Resource Manager), Ben Elfelt (Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District), and Camden Droppo (Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist).

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, White, called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m. It was determined that a quorum of members was present after Team Member Sandel arrived at 3:15 p.m.

Team members and visitors were introduced.

Elfelt and Wilson Witkowski reviewed the staffing transition for the Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District (LID), retirement for Jerry Spetzman, change in LID Role for Susanna Wilson Witkowski, and new LID Administrator Ben Elfelt and Specialist Monica Kinny.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Schneider offered a motion to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2022 Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team meeting. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team Member Mell and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as

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

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

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

Wilson Witkowski provided updates on the following agenda items:

- a. Implementation Policy Committee Meetings (7-25 and 9-26-22),
- b. Watershed Based Implementation Funding Work Plan for FY23,
- c. St. Croix River Workshop on the Water (July 20, 2022),
- d. Workshop at the Winery (August 24, 2022), and
- e. Viewed the Partnership 2022 Education Snapshot Video.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i_LL28QnKyc

Historical Actions & Budget Request Next Steps

Wilson Witkowski reviewed with the Policy Team the Historical Actions and Next Steps document to show future Policy Team actions. The Policy Team recommended reviewing the Policy Team Role and Budget Request agenda item 8c at the January 2023 meeting.

Wilson Witkowski reviewed with the Policy Team the draft, revised Table 1: Chisago County Appendix Objectives, to show yearend progress reporting for the objectives, including dollars spent, parties responsible for the work and funding sources. Wilson Witkowski will complete the yearend reporting for 2022 to review at the January 2023 Water Plan Policy Team meeting.

Wilson Witkowski updated the Policy Team on the Chisago County Water Resources American Rescue Plan memo and request to the county Budget and Finance Subcommittee. On September 9, 2022, the Subcommittee recommended approval of the following requests to the Chisago County Board of Commissioners. The County Board approved the requests at their meeting on November 9, 2022.

1. Water Resources Match Grant
 - a. \$250,000 - For developing a Water Resource Match Grant program for lake associations.
2. Lower St. Croix Watershed Planning
 - a. LSC CWMP:
 - i. \$5,000 - Laptops for Water Resource Manager and AIS Specialist.
 - ii. \$5,000 to \$10,000 – Purchase new AIS signage at all public water accesses in the county.
 - iii. \$5,000 – Develop AIS Rapid Response plans.
 - iv. \$1,200K – Implement a Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring program at Sunrise Lake.
 - v. \$100,000 to \$200,000 - Develop a countywide groundwater plan.
 - b. Chisago County Appendix D:
 - i. \$50,000 to \$100,000 – Develop countywide Lake Management Plans.

Invasive Phragmites Treatment

Elfelt provided an update on the recent drone treatment of invasive phragmites near Ivywood Trail located within the LID.

Elfelt provided an update on the dewatering of the pond located near Kroon Lake in Lindstrom to eradicate and control goldfish within the pond.

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. Decontamination Blitz (August 5 – 7, 2022)
 - ii. Starry Trek Updates (August 20, 2022),
 - iii. Water Access Monitoring Program, and
 - iv. Zebra Mussel Watch Program – Monitoring Plates.

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Proposed Invasive Species Classification Change.

We Are Water MN Exhibit

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the planning committee work and exploration of applying in July of 2023 to host the We Are Water MN exhibit in Chisago County in 2024.

Shoreland Owners Guide

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the completion of a best practices guide for shoreland owners, based on a template created by the Lower St. Croix Watershed partnership.

Children's Water Festival

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the in-person Chisago County Children's Water Festival (September 22, 2022). Wilson Witkowski reviewed the County News Review article on the festival and the video created by Jack Doepke with Chisago Lakes TV. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=83mFTIZtycA&t=12s>

The national Project WET office will also post the video to their website.

Agency Updates

No agency updates were provided.

Team Member Klatt arrived at the meeting at 4:26 p.m. Team Member Mell had left the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

The next meeting of the Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team is scheduled for Monday, January 9, 2023 at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be hybrid in-person and virtual.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Noland offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:50 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:** Klatt, Mell, Noland, Sandel, Schneider, and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** DuBose, Eret, and Thorsten.