

MINUTES
Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team
Monday, March 11, 2024

The Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team met for their bi-monthly meeting at 3:00 p.m. Monday, March 11, 2024, 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), David Kern (Citizen at Large), Robert Klatt (Citizen at Large), Craig Mell (Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District), Scott Noland (Vice-Chair and Citizen at Large), Kurt Schneider (Environment Services), Dawn White (Chair and Citizen at Large), and Annalise Wiger (Public Health). **ABSENT:** None.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.02, Water Plan Policy Team member John Eret and Annalise Wiger remotely attended the Policy Team meeting on Monday, March 11, 2024 at 3:00 pm via Microsoft Teams. Policy Team member Eret was seen and heard via electronic means and participated from 79 Avenue Vicente, Sagres, Portugal, a location open and accessible to the public. Policy Team member Wiger was seen and heard via electronic means and participated from the 26133 Newton Ave., Chisago City, MN 55013, 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.

Also present: Susanna Wilson Witkowski (Water Resource Manager), Camden Droppo (Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist), Ben Elfelt (Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District - LID), Abby Shea (Minnesota Department of Health), Garrett Miller (Comfort Lake – Forest Lake Watershed District), and Greg Tschida (Rush Lake Improvement 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 Klatt offered a motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2024, Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team meeting. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team Member Noland and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Dahlberg, Eret, Kern, Klatt, Mell, Noland, Schneider, White, and Wiger. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** none.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Mell 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, White, and Wiger. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** none.

New Water Plan Policy Team Members David Kern and Annalise Wiger introduced themselves.

Upcoming Presentations

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on having the following presentations on the 2023 Chisago County Water Resources annual reports at the March 11 meeting, on the Washington County Groundwater Plan at the May 13 meeting, and on Drinking Water in Chisago County on July 11.

Presentation – 2023 Annual Reports

Elfelt, Droppo, and Wilson Witkowski gave a presentation on the 2023 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. Amendment Request to FY23 Watershed Based Implementation Funds - County Board Approval - The Chisago County Board of Commissioners approved the amendment request at their meeting on February 21, 2024.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Updates

- a. AIS Treatment and Education Grants Applications 2024 - Policy Team Review and Recommendations – Wilson Witkowski reviewed with the Policy Team the ARPA funded AIS Treatment and Education Grant applications for 2024 submitted by six of the seven lake associations in Chisago County. 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 April 4, 2024.

Water Plan Policy Team Member White offered a motion accepting the six lake association application requests for the 2024 Aquatic Invasive Species Treatment and Education Grants for Lake Associations and recommending approval of the application requests and grant agreements to the Chisago County Board of Commissioners at their next meeting. 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, White, and Wiger. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** none.

- b. Lake Management Planning – Wilson Witkowski reviewed with the Policy Team the Work Plan for 2024 Lake Management Planning Assistance provided by Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc. (EOR) to prioritize and select lakes that will most benefit from having a lake management plan. The Policy Team discussed amending the work plan to provide the final report in August of 2024.

Consulting Services

Wilson Witkowski reviewed with the Policy Team the General Engineering and Administrative Services Agreement between Chisago County and EOR for water resources consulting. The agreement, which includes the Work Plan for 2024 Lake Management Planning Assistance, will go to the County Board at their meeting on March 20, 2024.

Rush Lake Support Letter

Team Members Dahlberg and Kern, and Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the Policy Team on the request for support submitted from the Chisago County Board of Commissioners on March 6, 2024 to U.S. Representative Pete Stauber for U.S. federal appropriation for phosphorus mitigation treatment to restore Rush Lake from harmful algal blooms.

Invasive Phragmites Monitoring

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on Invasive Phragmites monitoring in 2023 in the cities of Stacy, Taylors Falls and Shafer, and Amador, Sunrise North and South, and Shafer Townships. Zero locations of invasive phragmites were identified.

Plant Classifications

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) proposed plant classification for invasive phragmites as a Prohibited Invasive Species.

Aquatic Invasive Species Program Updates

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

- a. Zebra Mussel Veliger and Spiny Waterflea Tow Results,
- b. Sunrise and South Center Lake Aquatic Plant Surveys,
 - i. Sunrise Lake Web Map Link,
- c. Watercraft Inspections and Decontaminations,
- d. AIS Workshop on April 23, 2024, and
- e. Wild Rivers Conservancy, Purple Loosestrife Volunteers Needed.

Impaired Waters List

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's 2024 Impaired Waters List.

East Metro Water Resources Education Program (EMWREP)

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the EMWREP annual report for 2024.

Carlos Avery

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the DNR Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area Master Plan Update and opportunities for public comment.

We Are Water MN Exhibit

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the Open House Kick-Off on March 19, 2024, events and outdoor and indoor locations for the exhibit coming to Chisago County from June 20 - August 12, 2024.

Agency Updates

Team Member Mell provided an update on the upcoming Lower St. Croix Partners, Workshop on the Water events in June, July, and September.

The next meeting of the Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team is scheduled for Monday, May 13, 2024, 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 4:45 p.m. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team Member Noland and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion carried as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Dahlberg, Eret, Kern, Klatt, Mell, Noland, Schneider, White, and Wiger. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** none.