

MINUTES
Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team
Monday, May 13, 2024

The Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team met for their bi-monthly meeting at 3:00 p.m. Monday, May 13, 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), 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). **ABSENT:** John Eret (Citizen at Large) and Annalise Wiger (Public Health).

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.02, Water Plan Policy Team member Craig Mell remotely attended the Policy Team meeting on Monday, May 13, 2024 at 3:00 pm via Microsoft Teams. Policy Team member Mell was seen and heard via electronic means and participated from 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.

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, MDH), Garrett Miller (Comfort Lake – Forest Lake Watershed District), Smita Rakshit (Washington County), and Stephanie Grayzeck Souter (Washington County).

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 3:03 p.m.

Team members and visitors were introduced.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Klatt offered a motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 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, Kern, Klatt, Mell, Noland, Schneider, and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Eret and Wiger.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Noland offered a motion to approve the agenda, as amended. 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, Kern, Klatt, Mell, Noland, Schneider, and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Eret and Wiger.

Washington County Presentation

Stephanie Grayzeck Souter provided a presentation on Washington County's Groundwater Plan history and detailed information on their ten-year plan update including plan vision statement, goals and issue areas, plan adoption timeline, and alignment with the Lower St. Croix One Watershed, One Plan goals and projects.

The Policy Team discussed next steps and funding a possible groundwater plan by developing a scoping document that would identify gaps or overlapping projects or programs in the Lower St. Croix, Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (LSC CWMP) and Appendix D for Chisago County. Funding options include possible state program grants, clean water funding and county tax levies. Issues to address in a plan include educating private well and septic owners, providing grants and loans, and developing strategies to address. Team Member Mell mentioned Chisago SWCD staff is trained to complete campus groundwater use reports such as completed for the Rush City High School in 2019/2020.

Abby Shea with the MDH discussed state statute requirements for county groundwater plans and sample plans available through Anoka County and Isanti SWCD. The Policy Team recommended developing a request for proposal for 2025 for a consultant to prepare a scoping document including costs and components for a groundwater plan using the Anoka County plan as an example.

LSC CWMP

Wilson Witkowski provided updates on the following agenda items:

- a. Lower St. Croix, Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (1W1P)
 - i. Implementation Policy Committee Meeting (April 22, 2024)
 - ii. Amendment Request to FY23 Watershed Based Implementation Funds - County Board Approval
 - iii. 1W1P and Appendix D: Chisago County – Annual Report 2023
 - iv. St. Croix Workshop on the Water (June 24, 2024)

Water Plan Policy Team Member Noland offered a motion to fund up to 3 Citizen at Large members of the Policy Team to attend the 2024 Workshop on the Water (\$30 per person registration totaling \$90). 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, Kern, Klatt, Mell, Noland, Schneider, and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Eret and Wiger.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Updates

a. Aquatic Invasive Species Treatment and Education Grants Applications 2024 - Wilson Witkowski reviewed with the Policy Team that on March 20, 2024, the Chisago County Board of Commissioners approved the Policy Team recommendation from the March 11, 2024 meeting for the lake association grant applications and agreements. The deadline for submitting reports and documentation for reimbursement is October 4, 2024.

b. Lake Management Planning – Wilson Witkowski reviewed with the Policy Team that on March 20, 2024, the Chisago County Board of Commissioners approved 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. EOR will provide a recommendation at the July or September Policy Team meeting.

Aquatic Invasive Species Program Updates

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

- a. Watercraft Inspections and Decontaminations starting on April 26, 2024,
- b. Prevention, Early Detection, Rapid Response,
 - i. Zebra Mussel Watch Program - Monitoring Plates
 - ii. Zebra Mussel Veliger and Spiny Waterflea Sampling
 - iii. Water Access Monitoring Program
 - iv. Starry Trek on August 10, 2024,
- c. Lakes Point-Intercept Surveys (Horseshoe and Fish),
- d. AIS Workshop Updates held on April 23, 2024,
- e. 4-H Water Watchers – AIS Presentations,
- f. Aquatic Plant Identification Workshop on July 25, 2024,
- g. AIS Detector Training Reimbursement in May-June 2024, and
<https://maisrc.umn.edu/detectors-core>
- h. Invasive Phragmites Webinar on May 22, 2024.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Schneider offered a motion to fund up to 3 Citizen at Large members of the Policy Team to attend the Aquatic Plant Identification Workshop on July 25, 2024 (\$80 per person registration totaling \$240). Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team member Noland and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion carries as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Dahlberg, Kern, Klatt, Mell, Noland, Schneider, and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Eret and Wiger.

Impaired Waters List

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

Water Quality Monitoring

Wilson Witkowski reviewed with the Policy Team the water quality monitoring plan for the northern Chisago County lakes for 2024.

Adopt-a-Drain

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the efforts through the Lower St. Croix Partnership to advertise and find more volunteers to adopt storm drains in Chisago County in 2024.

Lake Level Readings and Slow-No-Wake Ordinance

Droppo provided an update on the current lake level elevations and high-water conditions for lakes countywide and reviewed the county Slow-No-Wake ordinance updates.

We Are Water MN Exhibit

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the events and outdoor and indoor locations for the exhibit coming to Chisago County from June 20 - August 12, 2024, including the Well Water Screening Clinic on June 14, 2024. Team Member White suggested Wilson Witkowski present at the upcoming Chisago County Master Gardner meeting on June 11, 2024, on volunteering for the We Are Water MN exhibit.

Agency Updates

None.

The next meeting of the Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team is scheduled for Monday, July 8, 2024, at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be hybrid in-person and virtual.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Kern 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, Kern, Klatt, Mell, Noland, Schneider, and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Eret and Wiger.