

MINUTES
Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team
Monday, July 8, 2024

The Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team met for their bi-monthly meeting at 3:00 p.m. Monday, July 8, 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 (Citizen at Large), David Kern (Citizen at Large), Robert Klatt (Citizen at Large), Scott Noland (Vice-Chair and Citizen at Large), Kurt Schneider (Environment Services), and Dawn White (Chair and Citizen at Large). **ABSENT:** Craig Mell (Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District) and Annalise Wiger (Public Health).

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), Ben Elfelt (Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District - LID), Michelle Jordan (Board of Water and Soil Resources), Abby Shea and Anne Nelson (Minnesota Department of Health, MDH), Garrett Miller (Comfort Lake – Forest Lake Watershed District), and Anne Wilkinson (Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc. - EOR).

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 3:04 p.m.

Team members and visitors were introduced.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Schneider offered a motion to approve the minutes of the May 13, 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, Noland, Schneider, and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Mell and Wiger.

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

Drinking Water in Chisago County Presentation

Abby Shea and Anne Nelson provided a presentation on the status of drinking water in Chisago County. The presentation included summaries of contaminants in drinking water in the county, requirements for public water supplies, supply management areas in the county, private wells, the state drinking water plan and funding opportunities for addressing drinking water contaminants and concerns. The Policy Team discussed encouraging private well owners to test their wells, providing private well protection grants for individual homeowners and possible funding sources for the county to develop a future groundwater plan.

Lake Management Planning Presentation

Anne Wilkinson provided a presentation on the status of drinking water in Chisago County. The presentation included the options, timelines, costs and benefits, and recommendations for lake management planning in Chisago County based on the following topics:

- Aquatic Invasive Species
- Fisheries
- Recreation
- Navigation
- Shoreline Erosion, and
- Eutrophication.

The plan options include providing an assessment of the baseline conditions for lakes countywide, recommended actions or project level plans, and broader strategic management planning and costs for each plan based on individual lake, regional lakes or county-wide scope.

The Policy Team discussed pursuing the best option based on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding available for lake management planning and focusing on individual projects compared to strategic planning. The Policy Team discussed completing a countywide lake assessment (total cost \$35,000) and monitoring/modeling plan (total cost of \$75,000), including reporting. The Policy Team recommended updating the scope and deliverables, including the timeline for completion, and bringing the work plan to the Chisago County Board of Commissioners for review and approval at their meeting on August 21, 2024.

Water Plan Policy Team Member White offered a motion to move forward with the acceptance of a phased comprehensive strategic lake management plan with Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc. (EOR) for Chisago County Board of Commissioners review, consideration, and approval. **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Dahlberg, Eret, Kern, Klatt, Mell, Noland, Schneider, and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Mell and Wiger.

LSC CWMP

Wilson Witkowski provided updates on the following agenda items:

- a. Lower St. Croix, Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (1W1P), and
 - i. Conservation Development Innovation Tour (August 7, 2024).

Aquatic Invasive Species Program Updates

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the following agenda items, including Camden Droppo taking a position with the MN Department of Natural Resources in June 2024:

- a. Watercraft Inspections and Decontaminations,
- b. Prevention, Early Detection, Rapid Response,
 - i. Zebra Mussel Veliger and Spiny Waterflea Sampling, and
 - ii. Starry Trek (August 10, 2022).

Septic Systems Grant

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the current septic systems grants available to income qualified Chisago County homeowners through the MN Pollution Control Agency's, Replacing Failing Septic Systems to Protect Groundwater grant.

Lake Level Readings and Slow-No-Wake Ordinance

Wilson Witkowski 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.

Children's Water Festival

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on volunteers needed for the Chisago County Children's Water Festival on September 26, 2024.

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 following events:

- a. Youth Poetry Contest (Deadline July 16, 2024),
- b. Water Storytelling Event (July 16, 2024),
- c. Water and Art at the Uncommon Loon (July 17, 2024),
- d. Storytelling, Songs and Art at the Hallberg Center (July 26, 2024), and
- e. St. Croix River Paddle (July 30, 2024).

Agency Updates

None.

The next meeting of the Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team is scheduled for Monday, September 9, 2024, at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be hybrid in-person and virtual.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Eret offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:21 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:** Dahlberg, Eret, Kern, Klatt, Noland, Schneider, and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Mell and Wiger.