

MINUTES
Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team
Monday, November 18, 2024

The Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team met for their bi-monthly meeting at 3:00 p.m. Monday, November 18, 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), Victoria Deitschman (Public Health), John Eret (Citizen at Large), David Kern (Citizen at Large), Robert Klatt (Citizen at Large), Craig Mell (Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District), Kurt Schneider (Environment Services), and Dawn White (Chair and Citizen at Large). **ABSENT:** Scott Noland (Vice-Chair and Citizen at Large)

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), Madelyn Kinny (AIS Specialist), Ben Elfelt (Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District - LID), Monica Kinny (Water Resource Specialist - LID), Abby Shea (Minnesota Department of Health, MDH), and Mike Sandager (Comfort Lake – Forest Lake Watershed District).

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 Mell offered a motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2024, Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team meeting. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team Member Eret and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Dahlberg, Deitschman, Eret, Kern, Klatt, Mell, Schneider, and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Noland.

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

New Water Plan Policy Team Member Victoria Deitschman introduced herself.

Citizen At-Large Term Expirations

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the Citizen At-Large terms currently held by John Eret, Bob Klatt, Scott Noland, and Dawn White that expire in January 2025. The Chisago County Administration Department will be posting the open position for appointment by the County Board of Commissioners.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Updates

a. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Treatment and Education Grants

Wilson Witkowski reviewed with the Policy Team the requests for reimbursement from five of the seven lake association in Chisago County for 2024. Remaining unused funds will be rolled over to the 2025 grant awards and redistributed.

Wilson Witkowski reviewed with the Policy Team the ARPA AIS grant applications for 2025 submitted by five 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 December 4, 2024. All ARPA funded agreements must be encumbered by December 31, 2024, and spent by December 31, 2025.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Schneider offered a motion accepting the five lake association application requests for the 2025 Aquatic Invasive Species Treatment and Education Grants for Lake Associations, reallocating the remaining \$7,700 in unused funding to those five 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 Mell and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion carries as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Dahlberg, Deutschman, Eret, Klatt, Mell, Noland, Schneider, White, and Wiger. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Noland.

b. ARPA Spending Update

Wilson Witkowski reviewed with the Policy Team on the current spending for ARPA funded projects and activities. Including the AIS Treatment and Education grants, Water Resources truck purchase, Lower St. Croix Watershed planning projects, and new AIS signage.

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

a. St. Croix Scenic Riverway Signage Project

Team Member White provided an update on the effort to post consistent signage throughout the riverway to define public and private land boundaries.

a. Work Plan for FY 2025

Wilson Witkowski and Team Member Mell provided an update on the review of the 1W1P, 2025 Annual Work Plan by the Chisago County Board of Commissioners at their meeting on December 4, 2024.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Mell offered a motion recommending approval of the Lower St. Croix, Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Work Plan for 2025 – 2026 to the Chisago County Board of Commissioners at their next meeting. Motion seconded by

Water Plan Policy Team member Eret and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion carries as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Dahlberg, Deitschman, Eret, Klatt, Mell, Noland, Schneider, White, and Wiger. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Noland.

a. Lower St. Croix (LSC) Partnership

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the LSC Partnership Education program video for 2024. <https://youtu.be/e41Rlx11Y8o>

EMWREP

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the East Metro Water Resources Educational Partnership program and the upcoming request to the Chisago County Board of Commissioners at their meeting on November 20, 2024, to approve Chisago County entering into an agreement with Washington Conservation District and EMWREP members for EMWREP services in 2025 – 2027.

Hazard Mitigation Plan

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the request for public input for the Chisago County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Water Quality Monitoring

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the Chisago County Water Quality Monitoring Report for 2023.

Aquatic Invasive Species Program Updates

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the following agenda items:

- a. Watercraft Inspections and Decontaminations,
- b. Zebra Mussel Watch,
- c. Fall Dock and Lift programs including,
 - i. Zebra Mussel Check, and
 - ii. Hiring Lake Service Providers, and
- b. Zebra Mussel eDNA Monitoring

Children's Water Festival

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the in-person Chisago County Children's Water Festival on September 26, 2024.

We Are Water MN Exhibit

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the exhibit in Chisago County from June 20 - August 12, 2024, including the following events:

- a. Poetry Contest Winners, and
- b. Closing Webinar on September 17, 2024.

Upcoming Presentation

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on upcoming presentation of the West Lake Restoration Project at the next Policy Team meeting on January 13, 2025.

Agency Updates

None provided.

The next meeting of the Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team is scheduled for Monday, January 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 4:24 p.m. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team Member Klatt and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion carried as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Dahlberg, Deitschman, Eret, Kern, Klatt, Mell, Schneider, and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Noland.