

MINUTES
Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team
Monday, February 10, 2025

The Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team met for their bi-monthly meeting at 3:00 p.m. Monday, February 10, 2025, 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), 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:**

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.02, Water Plan Policy Team members Victoria Deitschman and Dawn White will remotely attend the Policy Team meeting on Monday, February 10, 2025 at 3:00 pm via Microsoft Teams. Policy Team member Deitschman will be seen and heard via electronic means and will participate from 6133 402nd Street, North Branch, MN 55056, a location open and accessible to the public. Policy Team member White will be seen and heard via electronic means and will participate from Gulf State Park, 20115 State Park Road, Gulf Shores, AL 36542, 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), Madelyn Kinny (AIS Specialist), Ben Elfelt (Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District - LID), Monica Kinny (Water Resource Specialist - LID), Anne Wilkinson, Pat Conrad, Alex Furneaux, and Juniper Matlock (Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc. EOR), Casey Thiel (Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District), Greg and Nancy Anklan (Pioneer Lake Homeowners Association), Jackie Anderson (Comfort Lakes Association), Kate McDonald (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, MPCA), Lorene Gray (Center Lakes Association), Mark Wachter (Chisago – Lindstrom Lakes Association), and Nancy Moe-Mergens (Center Lakes 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 Vice-Chair, Robert Klatt, called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Team members and visitors were introduced.

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

West Rush Lake Letter of Support

Wilson Witkowski reviewed with the Policy Team the draft letter of support to the U.S. House of Representatives Pete Stauber for Rush Lake Improvement Association's request for Congress to address phosphorus pollution in West Rush Lake that leads to persistent harmful algal blooms. The Policy Team voted to authorize the letter at their meeting on January 13, 2025. They approved the draft version presented to them at the February 10, 2025, meeting.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Funding Letter of Support

Wilson Witkowski reviewed with the Policy Team the draft letter of support requesting Governor Walz to maintain the full funding of the state AIS Prevention Aid program for FY 2025-27 to support Chisago County's extensive and collaborative AIS work and programs. Policy Team member Kern asked if the local lake associations are signing a similar letter of support. Wilson Witkowski has contacted all seven lake association presidents to sign a letter.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Dahlberg offered a motion approving the letter of support to maintain full funding of the Department of Revenue County Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid program for FY 2025-27 to support Chisago County's extensive and collaborative work in preventing the spread of AIS. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team member Kern and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion carries as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Dahlberg, Deitschman, Kern, Klatt, Mell, Schneider, and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** none.

Lake Management Planning Stakeholder Input

Wilson Witkowski reviewed with the Policy Team the efforts since 2023 to work with lake associations in the county to find their planning needs for lakes in their associations. At the July 8, 2024 meeting, the Policy Team recommended to the Chisago County Board of Commissioners to move forward with a phased comprehensive strategic lake management plan with EOR. On August 21, 2024, the County Board approved the scope for assessment and monitoring for a countywide lake management plan.

Anne Wilkinson with EOR presented the concern matrix that is part of the Task 1 goal setting and stakeholder input in EOR's scope for lake management planning. Policy Team members and visitors reviewed the five concern areas within the matrix and provided additional concerns for each lake and lake groupings located within the county. EOR will provide a presentation on the overall results of the concern matrix input and goals at the next Water Plan Policy Team meeting on March 24, 2025.

Agency Updates

None provided.

The next meeting of the Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team is scheduled for Monday, March 24, 2025, 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 4:49 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, Deitschman, Kern, Klatt, Mell, Schneider, and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** none.