

MINUTES
Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team
Monday, January 11, 2021

The Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team met for their bi-monthly meeting at 3:00 p.m. Monday, January 11, 2021 via a virtual Meeting with the following Policy Team members present: John Eret (Citizen at Large), Larry Nelson (Citizen at Large), Mike Robinson (County Commissioner), Kurt Schneider (Environment Services), Frank Storm (Chair), and Dawn White (Citizen at Large). **ABSENT:** Craig Mold (Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District), Brian Sandel (Citizen at Large), and Betty-Jo Thorsten (Public Health).

Also present: Eric Alms (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency), Craig Mell (Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District), Jerry Spetzman (Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District) and Susanna Wilson Witkowski (Water Resource Manager).

Each Policy Team member, and others present, attended the meeting 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, were allowed to view documents presented during the virtual Meeting via their devices and to participate in discussion through microphones located in their devices.

The Chair, Frank Storm, called the business meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. It was determined that a quorum of members were present.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Storm offered a motion to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2020 Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team meeting. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team Member White and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Eret, Nelson, Robinson, Schneider, Storm and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Mold, Sandel, and Thorsten.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Storm offered a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team member Eret and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion carries as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Eret, Robinson, Schneider, Storm and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Mold, Nelson, Sandel, and Thorsten.

Citizen At-Large Term

Wilson Witkowski updated the Policy Team on the Citizen At-Large term, which expired on January 1, 2021.

Lower St. Croix One Watershed One Plan

Wilson Witkowski updated the Policy Team on the Lower St. Croix One Watershed One Plan process. This included:

1. Chisago County Board of Commissioners Plan approval and Policy Committee appointments (November 18, 2020),
 - a. Chris DuBose (alternate Mike Robinson)
 - b. Mike Mergens (alternate Steve Paquay)

- c. Lance Peterson (alternate Dawn White)
2. Implementation Policy Committee meeting (January 25, 2020),
3. Draft Watershed Based Implementation Funding budget for 2021 (\$1.2 million),
4. New Lower St. Croix – Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan webpage
5. Changing framework for Water Plan Policy Team. Develop outline for a process, which may include in-person workshops, and
6. Review interactive map at a future meeting.

2021 Clean Water Grants

Mell provided an update on three 2021 Clean Water grants received by the Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District: Direct Drainage, Phase 2 Goose & Rush Lakes, and North Branch Sunrise River.

Conductivity Monitoring

Spetzman provided an overview of the results of 2020 Conductivity/Chloride monitoring of lakes in Chisago County. All lakes showed low levels for conductivity/chloride and no lakes exceeded State of Minnesota water quality standards.

Invasive Phragmites Monitoring

Wilson Witkowski gave an update on Invasive Phragmites monitoring in Nessel & Fish Lake Townships. Only one location of Invasive Phragmites was identified near Rush Lake.

Fisheries Newsletter

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Hinckley Area 2020 fall/winter newsletter.

2020 AIS Program Updates

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the 2020 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program and Watercraft Inspections. This included:

1. Aquatic Plant Point Intercept surveys completed on Little Horseshoe, Mandall, Pioneer, Rabour and School Lakes,
2. Zebra mussel veliger and Spiny Waterflea tow results,
3. Applications open for Minnesota AIS Advisory committee, and
4. Minnesota AIS Research Center 2020 report.

2021-2031 Management Plan

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the preliminary draft of the Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District 2021-2031 Management Plan.

2021 Activities

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on 2021 planned activities. This includes:

1. AIS prevention,
2. Children's Water Festival,
3. Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District program coordination,
4. Lower St. Croix – Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan,
5. Water Plan Policy Team framework, and
6. Water quality monitoring.

Agency Updates

Spetzman provided an update on the upcoming Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District annual meeting on February 1, 2021. Alms provided an update on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency statewide chloride management plan.

The next meeting of the Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 8, 2021.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Eret offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 p.m. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team Member Robinson and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion carries as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Eret, Nelson, Robinson, Schneider, Storm and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Mold, Sandel, and Thorsten.