

MINUTES
Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team
Monday, March 9, 2020

The Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team met at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, March 9, 2020 in the Chisago County Household Hazardous Waste Facility Conference Room with the following Policy Team members present: Craig Mell (Chisago SWCD standing in for Policy Team member Craig Mold), Larry Nelson (Citizen at Large), Mike Robinson (County Commissioner), Frank Storm (Chair, Citizen at Large) Kurt Schneider (Chisago County Environmental Services/Zoning) and Betty-Jo Thorsten (Chisago County Public Health).

Also present: John Freitag (Minnesota Department of Health), Dawn White and Susanna Wilson Witkowski (Water Resource Manager).

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 Mell offered a motion to approve the minutes of the January 13 and February 10, 2020 Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team meetings. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team Member Schneider and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion carries as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Mell, Nelson, Robinson, Storm, Schneider and Thorsten. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Eret, Mold and Sandel.

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

Lower St. Croix One Watershed One Plan

Wilson Witkowski and Mell provided an update on the Lower St. Croix One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) process. This included:

- a. Stakeholder Public Input Meetings (February 20 and March 2, 2020),
- b. Policy Committee Meeting Updates (February 24, 2020),
- c. Organizational Arrangements – Joint Powers Discussion,
- d. Voting Structure,
- e. Timeline for the 60-Day Review of the Full Draft Plan by State Agencies and Next Steps, and
- f. Review the Draft Plan and Chisago County Appendix to the 1W1P.

Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grants

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) preliminary list of lakes located in Chisago County that will be receiving the DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Grants in 2020.

Minnesota State Noxious Weed List Update

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on a recent letter received from the MN Department of Agriculture regarding the Minnesota State Noxious Weed List and the reclassification of non-native phragmites.

Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Grant

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the status of Chisago County's application for the 2020 Minnesota Department of Agriculture - Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Grant.

Metro Carp Management Workgroup Update

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the Metro Carp Management Workgroup meeting held on March 3, 2020.

Aquatic Invasive Species Program Updates

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the Aquatic Invasive Species Program activities for 2020. This included:

- a. Watercraft Inspections,
- b. Prevention, Early Detection, Rapid Response Plan,
 - i. Zebra Mussel Watch Program - Monitoring Plates
 - ii. Zebra Mussel Veliger Sampling
 - iii. Spiny Waterflea Sampling
 - iv. Water Access Monitoring Program
 - v. Starry Trek (August 15, 2020)
- c. Invasive Species Workshop and the request to complete survey responses to determine workshop topics by March 13, 2020,
- d. Aquatic Plant Point-Intercept Surveys on Horseshoe, Mandall and Rabour Lakes, and
- e. AIS Detector Training sponsored by the University of Minnesota (May 2020).

St. Croix Watershed Environmental Education Partnership

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the new name for the St. Croix Watershed Environmental Education Partnership (SWEEP) and the upcoming events and activities for the SWEEP Earth Day 50th Anniversary Passport.

Upcoming Workshops/Conferences

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the following upcoming activities:

- a. State of Water Conference (April 30 – May 1, 2020),
- b. Earth Day Poster Contest deadline of April 17, 2020 and Earth Day Celebration & Tree Giveaway on April 22, 2020 (sponsored by Chisago County Household Hazardous Waste).

Water Plan Policy Team Member Mell offered a motion to provide funds from the Water Plan budget for the cost of registration for up to three (3) Citizen At Large Team Members to attend the State of Water Conference on April 30 – May 1, 2020. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team Member Schneider and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Mell, Nelson, Robinson, Storm, Schneider and Thorsten. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Eret, Mold and Sandel.

Agency Updates

Freitag provided an update on the Wellhead Protection Implementation Grants available through the MN Department of Health (MDH). Wilson Witkowski will forward grant information provided by Freitag to the Water Plan Policy Team. Thorsten and Freitag provided an update on the recent coronavirus epidemic and actions taken by Chisago County Public Health and the MDH.

The next meeting of the Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team is tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 11, 2020.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Mell offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:55 p.m. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team Member Schneider and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion carries as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Mell, Nelson, Robinson, Storm, Schneider and Thorsten. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Eret, Mold and Sandel.