

Sand Hill River 1W1P
Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 10th, 2023

Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, MN

Policy Committee Members: Don Andringa (SHRWD), Pete Revier (Mahnomens SWCD), Ken Pederson (East Polk SWCD), and Joan Lee (Polk County Commissioner)

Staff: Nicole Bernd (West Polk SWCD), Rachel Klein (East Polk SWCD), Aaron Neubert (Mahnomens SWCD), April Swenby (SHRWD), Zack Hermann (SHRWD/Houston Engineering), & Jacob Synder (Polk County Planning and Zoning)

BWSR Staff: Brett Arne

Consultant: Moriya Rufer (Houston Engineering)

Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Andringa: 2:05pm

Motion to Amend Agenda to include August 8, 2023 Minutes. Motion by Joan Lee, Seconded by Pete Revier. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve August 8, 2023 Minutes. Motion by Pete Revier, Seconded by Joan Lee. Motion carried unanimously.

Formal Review Wrap Up: Discussion was had on the Formal Review and the changes that came from it during the Advisory Committee. Motion to approve changes by Pete Revier, Seconded by Joan Lee. Motion carried unanimously.

Set up Public Hearing Date and Time: November 20th, 2023 at 11:15 am at the Sand Hill River Watershed District. Motion to set the Public Hearing Date by Pete Revier, Seconded by Joan Lee. Motion carried unanimously.

Planning Grant Update: April Swenby (SHRWD) presented the financials and totals for funds left of the planning grant. The Steering Committee met last week and went over potential uses and expenses for the remaining planning grant money. The Sand Hill River Watershed had a list of three areas that could use project development money and the Steering Committee agreed that those projects would be brought to this Policy Committee Meeting for approval to use up the remaining planning grant funds. Motion to approve using the leftover grant funds for project development on these three projects by Ken Pederson, Seconded by Joan Lee. Motion carried unanimously.

Implementation Roles: Discussion was had on fiscal agents and coordinator. Motion for SHRWD to be the fiscal agent and coordinator as West Polk SWCD by Pete Revier, Seconded by Don Andringa. All in favor: Pete Revier, Opposed: Joan Lee & Ken Pederson. Motion Failed.

Discussion was had and the two opposed parties are in favor of West Polk being the fiscal agent and coordinator. This line item will be moved to the next Policy Committee Meeting agenda.

Next Steps:

- Public hearing: November 20th at 11:15 am
- After the hearing all entities will go to their boards to approve supporting the plan. (MOA)
- Plan Timeline to completion
 - o January 3, 2024 – BWSR Northern Committee Meeting
 - All are welcome to attend
 - o January 24, 2024 – BWSR Board Meeting
 - Brett Arne (BWSR) will present the completed plan to the BWSR Board

Next Meeting: November 20th, 2023 at 11am

Meeting Adjourned at 2:43pm

David Arne
Secretary *Chair*

11-20-23
Date