

MINUTES

Regular Meeting March 8, 2021

The meeting of the Lake of the Woods Watershed Joint Powers Board was held at the Lake of the Woods Courthouse and remotely.

The meeting was called to order by JPB Chair, Nancy Dunnell at 9:00 a.m.

JOINT POWERS BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Dunnell, Jan Miller, Bill Thompson, and Russell Walker

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Hirst, Janine Lovold (Zoom), Scott Johnson, Corryn Trask (Zoom), Tony Nordby (HEI, Zoom) Jeff Hrubes (BWSR, Zoom) and Chad Severts (BWSR, Zoom)

AGENDA

A motion was made by Miller with a second by Walker to approve amended agenda.

Affirmative: Walker, Thompson, Miller, Dunnell

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: JANUARY 11, 2021 MINUTES

Minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Walker with a second by Miller to approve January 11, 2021 Minutes.

Affirmative: Miller, Walker, Thompson, Dunnell

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The financial reports were reviewed.

MILESTONE REVIEW:

The work completed up to March was reviewed along with the upcoming activities that still need to be completed.

OLD BUSINESS

POLICY- ROSEAU SWCD COST SHARE PROGRAM FOR AG PRACTICES

The updated draft LOWW Cover Crop Program Policy was reviewed and discussed. Scott Johnson went over minor changes from the draft Policy seen at the previous meeting. BWSR will be meeting later today to decide whether to allow contract lengths to be one year or the standard three years per Roseau SWCD request. If BWSR decides against the request of the one-year contract length, the Policy will be amended in June to reflect that decision. The Policy was approved on a motion by Miller with a second by Walker.

Affirmative: Walker, Thompson, Miller, Dunnell

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING – APRIL 7, 2021

The 18 main member list of the Advisory Committee was reviewed. A member title was revised. The list of other potential members that may attend special Advisory Committee meetings depending on their expertise was also gone over. The draft agenda was reviewed and discussed. The main Advisory Committee member list was approved on a motion made by Thompson with a second by Walker.

Affirmative: Walker, Thompson, Miller, Dunnell

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

WATERSHED BASED IMPLEMENTATION FUND MATCH

The Roseau County Ditch 10 Project that was going to be used to cover the match, ended up being funded mainly by state disaster funds rather than by FEMA. State funds cannot be counted towards match. Around \$40,000 of

the match is already covered by programs and practices through local partner and landowner contributions, but approximately \$20,000 is still needed. Other potential ways that match could be satisfied or become consistent was discussed.

The implementation committee requested that the Joint Powers Board develop or adopt guidance regarding match requirements for future funding requests prior to the next work plan and next round of Watershed Based Implementation Funding. There are various options that could be considered including: member dues, setting standard match rates for cost-share practices, linking cost-share rates on plan priorities, taking account for partners and NRCS project dollars and staff time within the watershed area and more.

No decision was made. The JPB members are to discuss potential match with their respective Boards and gather ideas for the June 14 meeting. Over the next several months the Implementation Committee will continue to discuss and bring forward some recommendation to the JPB at the June meeting.

AGREEMENT FY20-05 AMENDMENT: WRWD STREAMBANK PROJECTS

| Activity | Original Budget | Proposed | Match amount / source | Revised Match amount / source |
|------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Streambank/Shoreland | 125,000 | 98,000 | 13,650 | 9,800/ WRWD & Landowner |
| Technical/Engineering | 35,000 | 62,000 | 0 | 6,200/WRWD |

The request to allow for a \$27,000 fund shift from the streambank/shoreland construction activity to the technical and engineering activity and the proposed match changes was reviewed. No additional funds are requested. The engineering and technical work had already been done for the other landowners who ultimately decided to not move forward with projects. Six sites had been surveyed and designed; however, only three sites will be move forward to implement projects (A total of three landowners are still interested.) Quotes and bids are currently going on with anticipated construction being completed in early summer. Potentially, the landowners who dropped out may reconsider once they see the benefits of the finished projects.

A motion by Miller with a second by Walker to approve the Cooperative Agreement funding changes as amended in the above table.

Affirmative: Miller, Walker, Dunnell, Thompson Opposed: None Motion carried.

HARBOR RESTORATIONS AND DREDGING

The JPB was asked to be the lead agency to pursue harbor restoration and dredging for Zippel, Bostic and Warroad harbors as they represent all the Boards. Other local government and businesses have desired better navigation for years. The City of Warroad could also be asked to join in the effort. Watershed Based Implementation Funds may not be able to cover most or all project aspects, although grant requests for other funds such as Lessard-Sams may be done. With projects and plans in place for resolving sediment issues coming from upper watershed areas along with a consolidated voice, this project may be successfully be accomplished. More discussion will be taking place in future meetings. The Advisory Committee will also be made aware of this consolidated effort and interest.

PUBLIC OUTREACH – COMMUNICATION PLAN

The JPB discussed having a public meeting and the need to determine the driving force behind the meeting. For now, it was decided to have this type meeting at the beginning every beginning funding cycle to go over what had been done and what will be going on in the future.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

REIMBURSEMENT GRAND AND FUNDING AVAILABILITY

The 50% Watershed-Based Implementation Funding allocation is close to being expended. Partners will need to float expenses at least a couple months until a reconciliation is completed and the next allocation of 40% of the Watershed Based Implementation Funding is received.

Next Meeting

- April 7th, 2021 – Advisory Committee Meeting
- June 14, 2021 – Joint Powers Board Meeting

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am on a motion by Miller with a second by Walker.

Affirmative: Walker, Thompson, Miller, Dunnell Opposed: None Motion carried.

Secretary

Date