

**POMME DE TERRE RIVER WATERSHED**  
**North 1W1P Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)**

Dalton Community Center, Dalton

November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting began at 9:00AM

Stephanie Adams as Note Taker

*Members Present: Ruth Hubbard, Loreli Westby, Rob Westby, Mark Starnier.*

*Also Present: Camilla Correll; EOR, Stephanie Adams; PDTRA*

**Intro**

Introductions made. Ruth and Loreli were also present at the previous Open House. Mark and Rob attended the Sept. Watershed Bus Tour.

**1W1P Presentation**

Presentation presented by Camilla on:

- Key features of the Pomme de Terre Watershed: acres, landscape changes, 81% Agricultural, Sub watershed, Counties.
- One Watershed, One Plan: MN Statutes authorized the Board of Water and Soil Resources to allow required planning documents to be replaced with one comprehensive watershed management plan. Planning document will make local partners eligible for watershed-based funding from BWSR.
  - o 1W1P is a 10-year implementation plan that identifies prioritized, targeted, and measurable restoration and protection strategies.
- 3 Phases of the plan – currently in 1<sup>st</sup> phase: Identification & Prioritization of Resources & Issues.
- Discussed: How will the buffer law effect the implementation plan? - 1W1P does not want to create redundancy. Some drainage ditches are not required to be buffered, 1W1P would only involve buffering if it is a goal above and beyond what the buffer law is trying to achieve.

**Issues Identification – “World Café”**

Group discussion on water resources concerns and issues within the watershed. Camilla asked a series of questions that were then discussed by the group.

Question #1: How do you interact with Water?

Discussed:

- Drainage – both positive and negative sides
- Recreations – Fishing, boating, swimming, beaches.
- Irrigation
- Hygiene
- Wastewater? Do we know where it is being discharged?

Question #2: What activities / behaviors impact or have the potential to impact our water resources?

Discussed:

- Invasive Species such as Zebra Mussels (recently found in Ten Mile and another lake within the watershed) and Milfoil. What does this mean for water quality? Zebra Mussels do tend to “clear up” lakes but what will happen long-term?
- Recreation, particularly on more popular public accesses and campgrounds (i.e. Ten Mile in some places. Growing on Pomme de Terre Lake) – increased public access = more potential for recreational stress.
- Drainage. Good for removing excess water, allowing for better timeliness of field activities, better crop production. Some drainage could lead to increased Phosphorous and Nitrate movement into the water system & Erosion. Grassed Waterways seen as a good practice.
  - Increased moisture over past 25+ years has changed drainage. (some fields never thought to need drainage aid now need it)
  - Connection between drainage and aquifers? If we are directing the drainage to surface water, how are we effecting groundwater levels?
- Development. More on lakeshore. Development in watershed is fairly sparse / concentrated in areas (i.e. Morris and popular lakes) More impervious surfaces, more lawns instead of natural vegetation, more recreational traffic / access / beaches along lakes.
- Flooding. Increased nutrient runoff, Lakes are high. Terraces wash out,
  - Landscape is changing due to moving soils. Black dirt is being lost or moved elsewhere. “clay knolls”
- Agriculture. A need for residue and cover crops to combat water and wind erosion. Cover crops and conservation tillage seem to be gaining a following in the area.
- Cattle in / near lakeshore. What and where do regulations exist?
- Fertilizer and manure – importance of amount and timing.
- Septic Tanks?

Meeting Adjured at 11:30AM

**POMME DE TERRE RIVER WATERSHED**  
**South 1W1P Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)**  
AgCounty Service Center, Morris  
November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
**MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting began at 5:00PM  
Stephanie Adams as Note Taker

*Members Present: Ed Brands, Brian Wojtalewicz*  
*Also Present: Camilla Correll; EOR, Stephanie Adams; PDTRA*

**Intro**

Introductions made. Ed also attended the Open House in Morris on Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>. Brian visited during part of the Watershed Bus tour in September and is part of the board of CURE.

**1W1P Presentation**

Presentation presented by Camilla – Same as presentation at North CAC meeting.

Discussion: What is the Pomme de Terre River Association? – Short Answer: A partnership between Counties and Soil and Water Conservation Districts to help obtain funding for projects to benefit the watershed.

**Issues Identification**

Group discussion on water resources concerns and issues within the watershed.

Discussed:

- Concern for “Blown out banks” within the lower portion of the Pomme de Terre Watershed and other areas of excessive erosion
- Concern for bare “black fields” susceptible to wind and water erosion
  - Cover Crops and conservation tillage should be a priority.
  - “Red Tape” a concern – insurance policy, what drives incentives?
  - Organic growers also face the strain of red tape and economic issues.
- Trajectory of technology development--towards bigger faster machines, more pattern tile, denser populations of commodity crops, enabling more yield per acre.
- Tile. No real mapping or data collection on what’s tiled.
  - Tile has potential to change where water is being diverted to (i.e. tile drainage from outside our designated watershed could be entering)
  - Concern for its impact on groundwater recharge and diversion into waterways, potential for greater stream flows.
- Wetlands and storage. Majority of wetlands are gone, cannot be fully restored. How do we ensure future groundwater storage?
- Septic Systems. What are the requirements in each of the counties?
  - Stevens has a requirement for inspection if conditioning additional building on land (?)
  - PdTRA has had voluntary incentives in the past to provide funding for updating.

- Monitoring. Would be very helpful if another gauge was present on the Pomme de Terre (Currently only one near the mouth of the Pomme de Terre – does not give us a very big picture of what's happening)
- Local culture changes / Appreciations of our natural resources
  - Idea of “Family farms” are changing
    - Younger generations moving out
  - Less hunters and trappers
  - How do people view our river? Is it appreciated?
    - People who use the river are typically more inclined to want to help the river.
  - There are state water trails and public access in lower portion of Pomme de Terre
    - Heavily wooded in some areas with large downed trees that prevent passage for some.
  - Appreciations of the past?
    - Pelicans
    - Some used to swim in the river
    - Historical journals of how clear and beautiful the Pomme de Terre River was
    - Trout fish in one of our streams (gone now)
  - Pelicans, Bald Eagles, and Wild Turkey populations have rebounded
  - Otter populations coming back?

Meeting Adjourned at 7:00PM