

**Pomme de Terre River Association
Joint Powers Board Meeting Minutes
9 a.m. Friday, December 13, 2019
ARS Soils Lab, Morris MN**

The Budget committee met for a work session at 8:30 prior to the regular meeting. Present: Keith Swanson, Joe Fox, Jeanne Ennen, Rod Wenstrom, Micayla Lakey, Andy Albertsen, Chris Staebler.

Chair Swanson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Board members present: Tim Kalina, Paul Barsness, Paul Groneberg, Dan Morrill, Dave Lonergan, Joe Fox, Rod Wenstrom, Jeanne Ennen, Keith Swanson.

Others present: Brad Mergens, Ben Underhill, Adam Maleski, Danny Tuckett, Greg Lillemon, Bill Kleindl, Andy Rice, Brad Wozney, Joe Montonye, Andy Albertsen, Matt Solemsaas, Pete Waller, Micayla Lakey, Chris Staebler.

Attendees introduced themselves to the group giving an overview of their position duties and some interesting facts about themselves.

Business Items

Jeanne Ennen moved to approve the Agenda as amended from original. Second by Rod Wenstrom. Passed unanimously.

Tim Kalina moved to approve the Minutes from the September, October and November meetings. Second by Joe Fox. Passed unanimously.

Upon recommendation from the budget committee, Jeanne Ennen moved to approve the 2020 budget. Second by Dave Lonergan. Passed unanimously.

Paul Barsness moved to approve the Treasurer's Reports from September, October and November. Second by Paul Groneberg. Passed unanimously.

Dan Morrill moved to approve payment of the bills from September, October, and November. Second by Rod Wenstrom. Passed unanimously.

Jeanne Ennen moved to remove the restriction on \$118004.70 of the fund balance. Paul Barsness. Passed unanimously. This funding will be unassigned in order to align more closely with present spending practices and accounting standards.

Agency Updates

Pete gave an update on BWSR activity. The PDTRA was not selected for the cover crop grant we recently applied for.

Coordinator's Report/Grant Updates

See written report. She has been attending SWCD meetings and meeting with individuals from BWSR, MPCA and other LGUs. She attended a We Are Water informational/planning meeting with Judy from Stevens SWCD. She mentioned this would be a good chance to do some education and outreach.

Joe Fox moved to approve the 2019 federal 319 grant agreement. Second by Tim Kalina. Passed unanimously.

Dan Morrill moved to remove Stephanie Adams and add Micayla Lakey to the signature cards at Riverwood Bank. Second by Jeanne Ennen. Passed unanimously.

Paul from MPCA recently confirmed that available funding from the 2016 Federal 319 grant can be spent on cover crop projects and the TAC will be discussing this in January. Andy Rice mentioned it might be helpful to ask about an extension on this grant as well.

She has been working on revisions and organizing the 60 day formal review of the draft CWMP.

She will be attending a BWSR grant reporting meeting next week in Fergus Falls.

Joint Powers Agreement

The board reviewed the Joint Powers Agreement and by-laws. No changes were recommended.

Paul Barsness moved to notify all SWCDs and county boards to select an alternate at their reorganizational meeting each year and notify the Watershed Coordinator. Second by Tim Kalina. Passed with one opposed.

Andy Albertsen lead discussion on the relationship between the TAC & JPB and the group reiterated the operations and expectations between groups. All parties agree that the two groups have an excellent working relationship at this time. Both should continue striving for excellent trust and accountability in order to sustain that relationship. Andy mentioned that he appreciated the opportunity to rotate as a TAC chair/vice chair in order to have more opportunity to stay updated in both groups. He encouraged the JPB chair to attend TAC meetings.

One Watershed One Plan

Timeline:

Only change to timeline would have the 60 day formal review start tomorrow if the plan is approved today.

Section Overview:

Micayla went through a section overview and the group discussed the Roles & Responsibilities of Involved Entities. Local entities will be very involved in the implementation of the plan. Pete explained the funding stream and how it will shift from competitive grants to more stable sources. Greg also commented that this may also change the way funding is allocated within the association, in order for each county to meet their goals.

Priority Areas:

TAC representatives outlined priority areas within the north and south regions. Brad Mergens & Ben Underhill highlighted future activities needed in Otter Tail County.

Andy Rice talked about the features seen in the Christina-Pelican Lakes area in Grant, Stevens and Douglas counties and described the reasoning behind the priority areas and potential projects/activities needed identified there.

Joe Montonye and Greg Lillemon discussed the Pomme de Terre River Lakes Chain area in Grant & Stevens counties. They talked about reductions and protections needed in this more agricultural area, with a focus on management-type changes.

Matt Solemsaas and Andy Albertsen talked about the Pomme de Terre River Corridor area in Stevens and Swift counties, which involves more urban areas than other portions of the watershed.

Matt and Danny Tuckett discussed the Drywood Creek area in Stevens, Swift and Big Stone counties and where the efforts will be focused.

Watershed-wide priorities were also highlighted. Education will become important in all areas. The focus in all areas will be on PTM—Prioritize areas, Target projects in that area and Measure results. Meeting goals will involve implementation of structural and non-structural practices.

Consensus was that all entities are poised to adopt the plan as drafted at this point.

Rod Wenstrom moved to approve the plan for 60-day formal review. Second by Joe Fox. Passed unanimously.

Next steps:

Micayla showed the board the letter which will go out to plan review authorities and the link on the web site where the plan is available for review. Comments must be submitted to Micayla and Pete between December 13, 2019 and February 11, 2020. All 12 member boards must approve the plan in a meeting during that review period and send a letter of comment. Suggested language is included in the 1W1P timeline. Two public hearings will be held presenting the plan to the public after that review period. At that time, the draft plan, hearing minutes, and summary of comments & resulting actions must be presented to the BWSR Board subcommittee. They will recommend the plan for approval by the BWSR board.

Additional Items

Keith's last meeting will be next December and he recommended someone else be elected Chair in January to help with this transition.

Keith also mentioned a project on the Pomme de Terre River where it crosses under Hwy 55 south of Barrett. The road from Hoffman to Barrett will be closed all winter and this project will have to be reconstructed in the future. The pilings previously installed were not adequately designed and failed and they have not been able to get a contractor to agree to complete the work.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m. The next meeting will tentatively be held February 14, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Ennen, Secretary/Treasurer

Date