

MINUTES
Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team
Monday, January 10, 2022

The Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team met for their bi-monthly meeting at 3:00 p.m. Monday, January 10, 2022 via an in-person meeting held at the Chisago County Government Center, Conference Room 150B in Center City, MN and a virtual Meeting with the following Policy Team members present: Chris DuBose (County Commissioner), Craig Mell (Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District), Brian Sandel (Citizen at Large), Kurt Schneider (Acting Chair, Environmental Services), and Dawn White (Citizen at Large). **ABSENT:** Betty-Jo Thorsten (Public Health).

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.02, Water Plan Policy Team member Craig Mell remotely attended the Policy Team meeting on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 3:00 pm via Microsoft Teams. Policy Team member Mell was seen and heard via electronic means and participated from the Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District office, 38814 Third Avenue, North Branch, MN 55056, a location open and accessible to the public.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.02, Water Plan Policy Team member Brian Sandel remotely attended the Policy Team meeting on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 3:00 pm via Microsoft Teams. Policy Team member Sandel was seen and heard via electronic means and participated from 49448 Forest Blvd, Rush City, MN 55069, a location open and accessible to the public.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.02, Subd. 3, persons interested in monitoring the meeting electronically from a remote location may view the meeting through the Microsoft Teams meeting link below.

Also present: Garrett Miller (Comfort Lake – Forest Lake Watershed District), Susanna Wilson Witkowski (Water Resource Manager), Camden Droppo (Chisago County Aquatic Invasive Species) and John Eret.

Each Policy Team member, and others present, attended the meeting in person or at a location of their choice through a personal device (e.g. laptop, tablet, cell phone or personal computer). Each Policy Team member, and others present, could view documents presented during the virtual Meeting via their devices and to participate in discussion through microphones located in their devices.

Acting Chair, Kurt Schneider, called the business meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. It was determined that a quorum of members was present.

Water Plan Policy Team Member Mell offered a motion to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2021 Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team meeting. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team Member White and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion

carried as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** DuBose, Mell, Sandel, Schneider and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Thorsten.

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

Citizen At-Large Terms

Wilson Witkowski updated the Policy Team on the Citizen At-Large terms, which expired on January 1, 2022. Dawn White has reapplied for a Citizen At-Large term. John Eret and Frank Storm have not yet reapplied. Lawrence Nelson is not reapplying for a Citizen At-Large term.

Lower St. Croix One Watershed One Plan

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership. This included:

1. 2021 1W1P County Conservation Award, Association of Minnesota Counties and Board of Water and Soil Resources – for Chisago, Anoka, Isanti, Pine and Washington Counties,
2. Watershed Based Implementation Funding Work Plan and Budget 2021 – 2022 Updates
 - i. Activity 7: Internal Analyses Call for Project Updates and Applications – Review of the Activity 7 applications submitted by Chisago County for Little, North and South Goose, and East and West Rush Lakes,
3. Changing Framework for Water Plan Policy Team, Purpose and Mission Review – Wilson Witkowski and Team Member Schneider provided a review of, and the Policy Team discussed, the most recent draft of the revised Policy Team Purpose and Mission. Wilson Witkowski will provide a revised draft Purpose and Mission based on discussion for review at the next Policy Team meeting. The Policy Team will continue to develop a strategic type plan outlining the Team role, actions and expectations of Team members, and tracking completed water planning activities, and
4. Reviewing Interactive Map <https://maps.barr.com/LSCWD/1W1P/index.html#/-/92.6959/45.2585/9>.

Chisago County Geologic Atlas

Wilson Witkowski provided an update that printed maps are available of the Chisago County Geologic Atlas. The maps are also available on the Chisago County website at <https://www.chisagocounty.us/294/Geologic-Atlas>.

EMWREP

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the East Metro Water Resources Educational Partnership program and the upcoming request to the Chisago County Board of Commissioners to approve Chisago County entering into an agreement with Washington Conservation District and EMWREP members for EMWREP services in 2022.

MAISRC

John Eret provided an update on the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) Research and Management Showcase (September 22, 2021). Team Member DuBose discussed implementing a new water plan charge to support water planning activities countywide.

Invasive Phragmites Monitoring

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on Invasive Phragmites monitoring in 2021 in Chisago Lake North and South, Franconia and Lent Townships and Harris. Only two locations of Invasive Phragmites were identified in Lent and Chisago Lake North Townships. Team Member DuBose discussed reaching out to landowners who have not responded to the letters sent by University of Minnesota to treat invasive phragmites located on their property.

2021 AIS Program Updates

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the aquatic invasive species (AIS) and watercraft inspection program. This included:

1. East Rush, Linn and South Lindstrom Lakes Aquatic Plant Point Intercept Surveys (August 2021), and
2. Zebra Mussel Veliger and Spiny Waterflea Tow Results.

2022 Activities

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on 2022 planned activities. This includes:

1. AIS prevention,
2. Children's Water Festival (September 2022 TBD),
3. Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District program coordination,
4. Lower St. Croix – Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan,
5. Water Plan Policy Team framework, and
6. Water quality monitoring.

Workshops/Conferences

Wilson Witkowski provided an update on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) upcoming Winter 2022 Virtual Trainings for floodplain and shoreland management.

Agency Updates

Miller provided an update on the AIS plan for Comfort Lake – Forest Lake Watershed District for 2022.

The next meeting of the Chisago County Water Plan Policy Team is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 14, 2022 at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be hybrid in-person and virtual.

Water Plan Policy Team Member DuBose offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 p.m. Motion seconded by Water Plan Policy Team Member White and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion carries as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** DuBose, Mell, Sandel, Schneider and White. **OPPOSED:** none. **ABSENT:** Thorsten.