

# Mississippi River Sartell Watershed Policy Committee Meeting Agenda



**Date / Time:** Wednesday, October 14 at 8:30am - 10:00am

**Location:** Rice Lions Building  
Located by West Side Park at 101 4th Ave NW, Rice, MN

**Invitees:**

| Organization              | Policy Member                                       | Staff                                            |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Benton County             | Primary: Ed Popp<br>Alternate: Scott Johnson        | Roxanne Achman, Luke Edlund                      |
| Benton SWCD               | Primary: Chuck Rau<br>Alternate: Wade Bastian       | Mike McMillin                                    |
| Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe | Primary: Kelly Applegate<br>Alternate: Susan Klapel | Perry Bunting, Robert Wall                       |
| Morrison County           | Primary: Randy Winscher<br>Alternate: TBD           | Amy Kowalzek                                     |
| Morrison SWCD             | Primary: Scott Saeher<br>Alternate: Dave Hubner     | Destiny McDonald                                 |
| Stearns County            | Primary: Joe Perske<br>Alternate: Tarryl Clark      | Emily Forbord, Becky Schlorf                     |
| Stearns SWCD              | Primary: Arlyn Lawrenz<br>Alternate: Tom Gregory    | Kyle Weimann, Stephanie Hatzenbihler, John Maile |
| BWSR                      | N/A                                                 | Zach Guttormson, Brad Wozney                     |

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# Mississippi River Sartell Watershed Policy Committee Meeting Agenda



| Agenda Topic                                                                                                                                                                                          | Action                   | Presenter/<br>Speaker      | Time                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Call to order & Pledge of Allegiance                                                                                                                                                                  |                          | Chair                      | 8:30am                       |
| 1. Introductions: Name, Title, Organization                                                                                                                                                           | Discussion               | Chair                      | 8:30 – 8:35am<br>5 minutes   |
| 2. Approve Agenda                                                                                                                                                                                     | Decision                 | Chair                      | 8:35 – 8:37am<br>2 minutes   |
| 3. Approve Policy Committee Meeting Minutes from 9.9.2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft Meeting Minutes</li> </ul>                                                                     | Decision                 | Chair                      | 8:37 – 8:40am<br>3 minutes   |
| 4. Public Comment Period<br>(limit 3 minutes per person, up to 5 persons) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No materials</li> </ul>                                                              | As Needed                | Chair                      | 8:40 – 8:55am<br>15 minutes  |
| 5. Fiscal Agent Report on Planning Grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>September Financial Report</li> </ul>                                                                                 | Decision                 | Morrison SWCD              | 8:55 – 9:00am<br>5 minutes   |
| 6. CAC Summary Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3rd meeting report</li> <li>Overall summary report</li> </ul>                                                                            | Discussion               | Stearns CD -<br>John Maile | 9:00 – 9:05am<br>5 minutes   |
| 7. Landscape Stewardship Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft Landscape Stewardship Plan</li> </ul>                                                                                      | Discussion               | MNDNR -<br>Lindbergh Ekola | 9:05 - 9:15am<br>10 minutes  |
| 8. TAC Summary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9.9.2026 TAC summary report</li> </ul>                                                                                                          | Discussion               | HEI - Rachel Olm           | 9:15 - 9:20am<br>5 minutes   |
| 9. Land Protection Measurable Goal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summary of item</li> </ul>                                                                                                  | Decision                 | HEI - Rachel Olm           | 9:20 - 9:30am<br>10 minutes  |
| 10. JPO Intentions Placeholder language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summary of item</li> </ul>                                                                                             | Decision                 | HEI - Rachel Olm           | 9:30 - 9:35am<br>5 minutes   |
| 11. Recommend resolution for draft CWMP for formal Review, public comment period, joint public hearing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft MRSW CWMP</li> <li>Resolution Template</li> </ul> | Discussion &<br>Decision | HEI - Rachel Olm           | 9:35 - 9:50am<br>15 minutes  |
| 12. JPO Formation Round Robin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No materials</li> </ul>                                                                                                          | Discussion               | Chair                      | 9:50 - 10:00am<br>10 minutes |
| Adjourn                                                                                                                                                                                               | Decision                 | Chair                      | 10:00am                      |

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# Mississippi River Sartell Watershed Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date/Time:** Wednesday September 9, 2026, 8:30 am – 10:34 am

**Location:** Rice Lions Building – 101 NW 1<sup>st</sup> St. Rice MN 56379

**Voting members present:** Ed Popp (Benton County), Arlyn Lawrenz (Stearns SCD), Joe Perske (Stearns County), Dave Huber (Morrison SWCD), Randy Winscher (Morrison County)

**Voting members absent:** Kelly Applegate (MLBO), Chuck Rau (Benton SWCD)

**Staff/Public present:** Roxanne Achman (Benton County), Stephanie Hatzenbihler (Stearns CD), John Maile (Stearns CD), Becky Schlorf (Stearns County) Emily Forbord (Stearns County), Mike McMillin (Benton SWCD), Shannon Wettstein (Morrison SWCD), Zach Guttormson (BWSR), Brad Wozney (BWSR), Robert Wall (Mille Lacs Band Ojibwe), Rachel Olm (HEI), Duane Kroll (Ag)

**Minute taker:** Mike McMillin – Benton SWCD

## 1. Call to order:

- Perske called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

## 2. Approve Agenda:

- Motioned by Lawrenz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Winscher, all in favor, motion carried

## 3. Approve Policy Committee Meeting minutes from 6/10/26 Policy Committee Meeting

- Motioned by Lawrenz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Winscher, all in favor, motion carried

## 4. Public Comment Period:

- Popp entered the meeting at 8:35 am and relieved Perski as meeting chairman.
- No Comments

## 5. Timeline Update

- SAM Subcommittee - Olm provided a summary of the SAM subcommittee meetings.
- TAC – Olm provided a summary of the July 8<sup>th</sup> and August 12<sup>th</sup> Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings.
- CAC – Hatzenbihler provided a summary of the August 28<sup>th</sup> Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting. Hatzenbihler highlighted that the CAC identified top priority topics of surface water quality, ground water quality and ground water supply with priority practices being irrigation and soil health.
- LSP – Hatzenbihler provided an update on the status of Landscape Stewardship Plan (LSP) with the final meeting scheduled on September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Overall timeline - Olm and Hatzenbihler provided an update on the overall timeline of the plan development process and the first available round of funding through WBIF FY27. Currently there is a 1-month buffer in the plan development schedule to meet the FY2027 funding cycle request deadline of April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2027. If more time is needed, then the planning partners can request BWSR shifts the watershed

to the FY28 funding cycle, otherwise the watershed would need to wait until the FY29 funding cycle. Discussion was had.

**6. Fiscal Agent Report on Planning Grant:**

- Wettstein stated that as of 9/1/26, \$178,973.51 (69%) of the grant has been spent.
- The 10% contingency (\$23,700) has not been touched yet and there are no plans to use it at this point.
- HEI Services Amendment – the proposed contract amendment covers additional services provided by HEI including additional meetings for \$23,000.00 HSPF SAM revisions for \$4,000.00 and ADA compliance for \$2,500.00 for a total of \$29,500.00. This will increase the engineering costs from \$157,614.00 to \$187,114.00, still under the \$200,000.00 that was originally budgeted for engineering. Motioned by Winscher, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Perske to recommend that the fiscal agent, Morrison SWCD Board, move to approve the HEI services amendment 1. All in favor, motion passed.

**7. Implementation Agreement Decision Procedure:**

- Hatzenbihler provided an update on the discussions held by the attorneys representing the planning partners. The attorneys would like direction from the Policy Committee and their respective boards/councils on which type of Joint Powers Organization will be formed for implementation. Policy Committee members were encouraged to discuss with their respective boards, staff leadership, and attorneys.
- Discussion was held on the timeline for this decision. The BWSR representative had stated that the decision of which type of organization is intended should be included in the draft CWMP for the public comment period. Planning partners expressed that more time was needed and the BWSR representative offered to check on any flexibility with timing.

**8. Draft Plan and Internal Review:**

- Information internal review comments submission window was August 19 through September 9. Many comments were received and will be reviewed and discussed at the TAC meeting following the close of the PC meeting. Discussion was held on if additional review time was needed. The PC directed the TAC to aim to finish review work today and bring a draft CWMP to the October 14 PC meeting that is ready for formal review. PC directed TAC that if there was a lack of consensus on any plan content items, to present those to the PC on 10.14 for their decision. PC members and their respective boards are invited to provide comments on the draft plan either as part of the internal review period or during the upcoming formal review period.

Popp adjourned the meeting at 10:24 am.

# Mississippi River Sartell One Watershed, One Plan Partnership

## GRANT BUDGET and TRACKING

This document is an attachment to the 1W1P grant work plan and will be put into eLINK.

Updated 9/29/26 JLK

|                                                |               |                                                |             | LEAD                     |                            | BUDGET - ESTIMATED COST |                 |                |                                 |               |               |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                                |               |                                                |             |                          | Consultant Contract Budget | Consultant Amendment #1 | Original Budget | Current Budget | Total Expenses for entire grant | Total Avail   |               |
| Plan Development Costs                         |               |                                                |             |                          |                            |                         |                 |                |                                 |               |               |
| Pre-Planning                                   |               |                                                |             |                          |                            |                         |                 |                |                                 |               |               |
| Kickoff Event                                  |               |                                                |             | Facilitator              |                            |                         |                 | \$ 3,000.00    | \$ 3,000                        | \$ -          | \$ 3,000.00   |
| Planning                                       |               |                                                |             |                          |                            |                         |                 |                |                                 |               |               |
| Landscape Stewardship Plan                     |               |                                                |             | LSP Consultants          |                            |                         |                 | \$ 13,000.00   | \$ 13,000                       | \$ 9,000.00   | \$ 4,000.00   |
| Aggregate watershed information                |               |                                                |             | Plan Writer              |                            | \$ 9,617.00             |                 | \$ 8,000.00    | \$ 9,617.00                     | \$ 9,617.00   | \$ -          |
| Write the land and water resources narrative   |               |                                                |             | Plan Writer              |                            | \$ 7,480.00             |                 | \$ 7,000.00    | \$ 7,480.00                     | \$ 7,480.00   | \$ -          |
| Identify and prioritize resources and issues   |               |                                                |             | Facilitator, Plan Writer |                            | \$ 12,768.00            |                 | \$ 18,000.00   | \$ 12,768.00                    | \$ 12,768.00  | \$ -          |
| Establish measurable goals                     |               |                                                |             | Facilitator, Plan Writer |                            | \$ 19,548.00            |                 | \$ 15,000.00   | \$ 19,548.00                    | \$ 20,344.50  | \$ (796.50)   |
| Develop a targeted implementation schedule     |               |                                                |             | Facilitator, Plan Writer |                            | \$ 23,250.00            |                 | \$ 35,000.00   | \$ 23,250.00                    | \$ 32,374.75  | \$ (9,124.75) |
| Describe implementation programs               |               |                                                |             | Facilitator, Plan Writer |                            | \$ 2,992.00             |                 | \$ 8,000.00    | \$ 2,992.00                     | \$ 2,693.00   | \$ 299.00     |
| Determine plan administration and coordination |               |                                                |             | Policy Committee         |                            | \$ 2,304.00             |                 | \$ 1,000.00    | \$ 2,304.00                     | \$ 2,233.00   | \$ 71.00      |
| Write draft plan for review                    |               |                                                |             | Plan Writer              |                            | \$ 16,995.00            |                 | \$ 25,000.00   | \$ 16,995.00                    | \$ 24,819.75  | \$ (7,824.75) |
| Plan Review and Submission                     |               |                                                |             |                          |                            |                         |                 |                |                                 |               |               |
| Conduct formal review                          |               |                                                |             |                          |                            | \$ 4,104.00             |                 | \$ 15,000.00   | \$ 4,104.00                     | \$ -          | \$ 4,104.00   |
| Write final plan and submit to BWSR            |               |                                                |             |                          |                            | \$ 5,406.00             |                 | \$ 6,000.00    | \$ 5,406.00                     | \$ -          | \$ 5,406.00   |
| Other Costs                                    |               |                                                |             |                          |                            |                         |                 |                |                                 |               |               |
| HSPF SAM Revisions                             |               |                                                |             |                          |                            |                         | \$ 4,000.00     |                | \$ 4,000.00                     |               |               |
| ADA Compliance                                 |               |                                                |             |                          |                            |                         | \$ 2,500.00     |                | \$ 2,500.00                     |               |               |
| Consultant participation at committee meetings |               |                                                |             | Plan Writer              |                            | \$ 53,150.00            | \$ 23,000.00    | \$ 35,000.00   | \$ 76,150.00                    | \$ 65,669.05  | \$ 10,480.95  |
| Expenses: printing, travel                     |               |                                                |             |                          |                            |                         |                 | \$ 11,000.00   | \$ 11,000                       | \$ 456.70     | \$ 10,543.30  |
| SUBTOTAL: Plan Development                     |               |                                                |             |                          |                            | \$ 157,614              | \$ 29,500       | \$ 200,000     | \$ 214,114                      | \$ 187,455.75 | \$ 136,913.00 |
| Administration Costs                           |               | LGU Lead                                       | Hourly Rate | Hours                    |                            |                         |                 | Total          |                                 |               |               |
| Fiscal Coordination                            | Morrison SWCD | Varies - see invoices                          | 32.00       | \$2,912.03               |                            |                         | \$ 5,000        | \$ 5,000       | \$ 2,912.03                     | \$ 2,087.97   |               |
| Grant Reporting (Elink)                        | Stearns SWCD  | Varies - see invoices                          |             |                          |                            |                         | \$ 500          | \$ 500         | \$ -                            | \$ 500.00     |               |
| Grant Reporting (Elink)                        | Morrison SWCD | Varies - see invoices                          | 1.00        | \$81.52                  |                            |                         | \$ 1,000        | \$ 1,000       | \$ 81.52                        | \$ 918.48     |               |
| Note Taking                                    | Benton SWCD   | Varies - see invoices                          | 34.50       | \$2,678.77               |                            |                         | \$ 5,000        | \$ 5,000       | \$ 2,678.77                     | \$ 2,321.23   |               |
| Policy /Advisory Committee Coordination        | Stearns SWCD  | Varies - see invoices                          | 186.50      | \$15,160.56              |                            |                         | \$ 16,000       | \$ 16,000      | \$ 15,160.56                    | \$ 839.44     |               |
| Outreach Coordination                          | Stearns SWCD  | Varies - see invoices                          | 13.00       | \$791.45                 |                            |                         | \$ 2,000        | \$ 2,000       | \$ 791.45                       | \$ 1,208.55   |               |
| Website Development & Maintenance              | Morrison SWCD | Varies - see invoices                          | 16.75       | \$1,412.42               |                            |                         | \$ 3,500        | \$ 3,500       | \$ 1,412.42                     | \$ 2,087.58   |               |
| Meeting Expenses (facility, materials, food)   |               |                                                |             |                          |                            |                         | \$ 3,000        | \$ 3,000       | \$ 560.48                       | \$ 2,439.52   |               |
| Publication Expenses (notices, invitations)    |               |                                                |             |                          |                            |                         | \$ 1,000        | \$ 1,000       | \$ -                            | \$ 1,000.00   |               |
| SUBTOTAL: Administration                       |               |                                                |             |                          |                            |                         | \$ 37,000       | \$ 37,000      | \$ 23,597.23                    | \$ 23,539.83  |               |
| CONTINGENCY (add 10% to final amount)          |               | Contingency remaining in CURRENT BUDGET column |             |                          |                            |                         | \$ 23,700       | \$ 9,586       |                                 | \$ 9,586.00   |               |
|                                                |               |                                                |             |                          |                            |                         |                 |                |                                 |               |               |
|                                                |               |                                                |             |                          |                            |                         |                 | \$ 260,700     | \$ 260,700                      | \$ 211,052.98 | \$ 49,647.02  |
|                                                |               |                                                |             |                          |                            |                         |                 |                |                                 | 81%           |               |

# Mississippi River Sartell Watershed Community Advisory Committee Meeting Report



**Date / Time:** Tuesday, August 25 2-4pm

**Location:** Rice Lions Building at Westside Park  
101 NW 1st St, Rice, MN 56367  
In-person

**Attendees:** Janet Salk, Bob Guggenberger, Nate Hylla, Don Tschida, Darrel Ridler

**One-on-one meetings (8.24.2026 - 9.3.2026):** Nate Hylla, Craig Hanson, Diane Wojtanowicz

**Comments via email (9.3.2026 - 9.8.2026):** Bob Guggenberger, Don Tschida, Jerome Kahl, Janet Salk

| Agenda Topic                                                                                                                                            | Action      | Time       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1. Introductions and Check In                                                                                                                           | Discussion  | 20 minutes |
| 2. Watershed Refresh                                                                                                                                    | Information | 10 minutes |
| 3. Plan Sections previously discussed <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• LWRN</li><li>• Opportunities</li></ul>                                    | Information | 10 minutes |
| 4. Measurable Goals and Priority Resources                                                                                                              | Activity    | 30 minutes |
| 5. Implementation Programs and Schedule                                                                                                                 | Activity    | 30 minutes |
| 6. Additional Plan Sections <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Plan Administration and Coordination</li><li>• Executive Summary</li></ul>          | Activity    | 10 minutes |
| 7. Next Steps and Timeline <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Comment/response</li><li>• Internal Review</li><li>• Public Comment Period</li></ul> | Discussion  | 10 minutes |

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# Mississippi River Sartell Watershed Community Advisory Committee Meeting Report



## Measurable Goals and Priority Resources

- Top Priority Goals:
  - Surface Water Quality goals
    - Especially nutrients and chloride
  - Groundwater quality goal
    - Specifically the nutrient reduction actions to protect groundwater
  - Groundwater Supply goals
    - Especially irrigation water management
  - Soil Health
    - Especially cover crops
    - Solves a lot of the runoff issues.
    - We know that landowners are already doing these practices themselves, we just don't have a way to track those landowners, we can only track the ones that come into the office and get funding.
- Questions & concerns:
  - How did the TP and TN numbers come about? (multiple)
    - HEI modeling tool with the total dollar amounts for the plan over the next 10 years.
  - Where does the manpower come from for all this? (Bob)
    - This is going to come from the partners that helped write the plan, it is not limited to just these folks. There are other partners that can work with this plan too (City of Avon, Albany, Sartell, townships, etc.)
  - Phosphorus number goal - how will it be tracked? (Don)
    - We will be using a modeling tool that provides an estimate of phosphorus taken off the land based on practice. It will be reported to the state through eLINK.
  - Acre ft of storage goal
    - concern with this being a tough sell to landowners and not an attainable goal.
    - This goal could change in the future. There are areas in the watershed that are having wetland restorations, as well as, stormwater practices in developed areas.
    - 60 acre-feet is not much progress towards 25,000 acre-feet. Consider increasing this goal.
  - 1,515 acres in easements
    - Concern that this goal is intended to convert ag land to something else.
    - Please clarify that this goal is to protect land that is already forested or wetland through easements and restoration projects to develop healthy forest stands or functioning wetlands.

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- Achievable Goals:
  - Seal 50 wells to reduce contamination pathways
  - Reduce flooding in developed areas with stormwater BMPs treating 35 acres
  - Implement 8,000 acres of new soil health practices
  - Protect 1,515 acres through conservation easements
- Top Priority Lakes
  - Restored lakes in general but specifically Sullivan - would have a lot of influence on the watershed since it is in the headwaters.
  - Sullivan - headwaters area and would influence the whole watershed.
  - Two Rivers - TP reduction work to be done and flooding due to tile from farmers. CD 28 problem with sediment and excess water.
  - Middle Spunk - lives on the lake. (Keeping high quality lakes high quality)
  - Little Rock - Flows directly into Mississippi.
- Top Priority Streams
  - South Two River - reduce flooding
  - Platte River - due to the connection with Platte and Sullivan lake. Dam failure on Platte River.
  - Little Rock Creek - impairments and contribution to Little Rock Lake
  - Sucker Creek - contribution to Little Rock Lake

## Implementation Programs and Schedule

- Priority Actions Watershed Wide
  - Conduct feasibility studies for potential water storage projects in Two Rivers subwatershed
  - Conduct an agricultural survey to assess the level of soil health practice and structural BMP implementation
  - Compare ordinances in effect within the Mississippi River Corridor for opportunities to strengthen protection
  - Develop a policy to review public drainage projects for ecological impacts/improvements
  - Review county comprehensive plans for opportunities to connect with this CWMP and create an enhanced connection between county plans and this CWMP.
  - Prevent the spread of noxious weeds and invasive species.

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# Mississippi River Sartell Watershed Community Advisory Committee Meeting Report



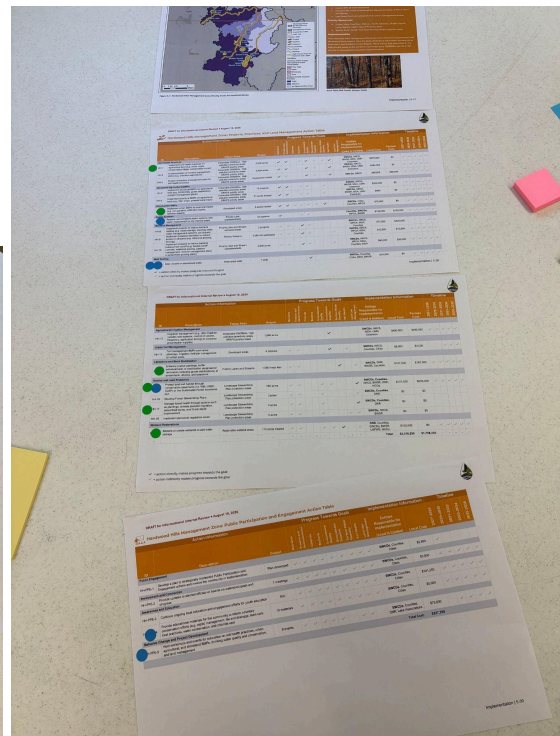
- Priority Actions in Northern Forest Management zone
  - Soil Health practices
  - Structural agriculture BMPs
  - Stormwater BMPs
  - Septic Systems
  - Bacteria Management
  - Well Sealing
  - Agricultural Irrigation Water Management
- Priority Actions in Central Plains Management Zone
  - Soil Health Practices
  - Agricultural Irrigation Management
  - Manage Forest health
- Priority Actions in Mississippi River Management Zone
  - None marked
  - MR-17... increase number of acres
- Priority Actions in Hardwood Hills Management Zone
  - Soil Health practices
  - Stormwater BMPs
  - Lakeshore and bank stabilization
  - Protection land through conservation easements
  - Manage Forest Health
  - Wetland Restorations
  - HH-16, 17, 18... add numbers to the table for these. There is local interest
- Questions & concerns:
  - Estimated cost per outreach event seems high.
    - Suggest decreasing amount
  - The estimated cost for youth education seems high.
    - Suggest decreasing amount
  - Conduct feasibility studies for potential water storage projects.
    - There was already a study done for the South Two Rivers subwatershed. Yes, this action is for further study if feasibility is needed for project sites.
  - Research Septic programs and replacing septic

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# Mississippi River Sartell Watershed Community Advisory Committee Meeting Report



- Achievable Actions
  - Develop a street sweeping program
  - Prevent the spread of noxious weeds and invasive species
  - Dam modification by Sullivan and Platte Lakes
  - Conservation easements in Northern Hills MZ
  - Wetland restorations in Northern Hills MZ
  - Wetland restorations in Central Plains MZ
  - Workshops and outreach events in Central Plains MZ
  - Workshops and outreach events in Mississippi River MZ
  - Septic systems replacements in Hardwood Hills MZ
  - Well sealing in Hardwood Hills MZ
  - Conservation easements in Hardwood Hills MZ



## Individual comments submitted via email

Bob Guggenberger: "First of all, I think the document you drafted is very well written. It is a detailed, comprehensive description of the watershed as well as the plan going forward. Job well done! My concerns with this program center around the ability to acquire the funding and manpower to execute the plan. My personal experience on the County AIS Committee and with our lake association has taught me that environmental issues have a low priority in our County and volunteers are nearly impossible to find. The saying "the wheels of government turn slowly" is a gross understatement. Movement is barely

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noticeable. Finally, I believe at least in the near future, our state and local government units will be cutting budgets rather than increasing due to our current administration.”

Don Tschida: “That is a lot of information to go through. I would say that it is quite impressive that such a detailed plan came together in what was a rather short time. For my part, the items that I think would make the most difference for quality and quantity would be Soil Health and along with that soil probes. The benefits of soil health are too many to mention. And the soil probes have the potential to save hundreds of millions of gallons of water annually and they can now track nitrogen events. Also a program that needs promoting is the Minnesota Ag Water Certification Program. Little Falls Centra Sota would be a contact point for information on that. Huge benefits for the water and the farmer or rancher.”

Jerome Kahl: “First off I want to thank you for all of your hard work during this whole process. I know at times it had been difficult for you and I appreciate all of the effort you made to keep us informed as best you could during this long process. Thank you again for all you did. A couple of thoughts, as I look over the drafted plan. My concern with the funding being involved with both state and federal monies I hope that we can still keep local control of the projects and decisions. It seems like the state and federal governments are taking more and more control of what is being done and we are losing power on a local level to make decisions. I believe the people involved with this process locally can make their decisions and are thoughtful in their input and making this plan work. When you start accepting so much state and federal money, more mandates are placed whether we agree with them or not and that is a concern for me. I like the idea of trying to eliminate 50 Wells that are abandoned or are no longer needed in this area. Protecting our water definitely should be a priority and eliminating or reducing chloride and other agents used with salt fertilizer, etc. is a good thing. The key will be finding the right balance with farmers still being able to produce their crops and protecting the waterways. I like the idea of building holding areas for the water to help with keeping the waters cleaner. With the addition of 7000 acres in the watershed to protect the water overall is a good thing, but it would need to be voluntary on the property owners and not mandated by the county or state. I’m assuming our tax dollars would be used to acquire these acres even though it’s through grants - the money came from the taxpayers. Landowners should not be forced to give up land, but instead work in cooperation if they feel it is necessary. Again, I would like to thank you for all of your effort in this process. And for allowing me to be a part of this process.”

Janet Salk: “It was a pleasure to work with you and hear the expert experience of everyone at the table. Thanks for the important work you do.”

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# Mississippi River Sartell Watershed Community Advisory Committee Summary Report



## Purpose:

The purpose of an advisory committee is to make recommendations on the plan content and plan implementation to the policy committee. The committee will assist and provide community input and make recommendations to the Policy Committee on the development and content of the plan. This is an optional committee in BWSR's Operating Procedures in order to meet public and stakeholder participation goals and requirements identified in rule and statute for existing local water plans.

## Objective:

Creating opportunities for the target audiences to provide input and ideas to develop the plan. Stakeholders are involved early in the process and are part of developing the ideas. The MRSW Collaborative will make a final determination of how to move forward but commits to considering input and ideas from stakeholders in the final decisions.

## Promise to the public:

We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the resources and issues that are developed. We will provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.

## Meeting Dates and Attendance:

- Meeting 1 - November 2025
  - Held two sessions to accommodate schedules with the same content and activities
  - Tuesday, November 18 2 - 4pm at Rice Lions Building
    - **Attendees:** Jerome Kahl, Janet Salk, Rob Jacobs, Diane Wojtanowicz, Craig Hanson, Bob Guggenberger, John Geisler, Clint Kathrein, Don Tschida, Paul Kuske, Darrel Ridler, Duane Kroll.
    - **Hosts:** Stephanie Hatzenbihler, Emily Forbord
  - Tuesday, November 20 6 - 8pm at Holdingford City Hall
    - **Attendees:** Jamie Moonen, Nate Hylla, Greg Symanietz, Elizabeth Mboutchom, Greg Standafer.
    - **Hosts:** Stephanie Hatzenbihler, Emily Forbord
  - Unable to attend: Jed Konsor, Kelly Martini.
    - Stephanie and Kelly connected virtually in early December.
- Meeting 2 - January 2026
  - Wednesday, January 28 at 2 - 4pm at Watab Town Hall
    - **Attendees:** Jerome Kahl, Janet Salk, Diane Wojtanowicz, Craig Hanson, Bob Guggenberger, Nate Hylla, Jed Konsor, Greg Symanietz, Clint Kathrein, Don Tschida, Elizabeth Mboutchom, Paul Kuske, Darrel Ridler, and Greg Standafer.
    - **Hosts:** Stephanie Hatzenbihler, Emily Forbord
    - Unable to attend: Kelly Martini, Rob Jacobs, Jamie Moonen, John Geisler

# Mississippi River Sartell Watershed Community Advisory Committee Summary Report



- Meeting 3 - August 2026
  - Tuesday, August 25 at 2 - 4pm at Rice Lions Building
  - **Attendees:** Janet Salk, Bob Guggenberger, Nate Hylla, Don Tschida, Darrel Ridler
  - **Hosts:** Stephanie Hatzenbihler, Emily Forbord
  - **One-on-one meetings (8.24.2026 - 9.3.2026):** Nate Hylla, Craig Hanson, Diane Wojtanowicz
  - **Comments via email (9.3.2026 - 9.8.2026):** Bob Guggenberger, Don Tschida, Jerome Kahl, Janet Salk

## Outcomes:

### Plan Section 3 - Issue/Opportunity Statements

- CAC was invited to review draft issue/opportunity statements and provide feedback, edits, and comments.
- The CAC supported the shift from issue to opportunity statements and were complimentary on how general the statements are framed allowing for local goals and actions to align with the statements. The statements were easy to understand. There was one editorial note for one issue that started with “there’s an opportunity to...” and that was brought to the TAC, the TAC agreed and revised the statement to reflect the recommended change.

### Plan Section 4 - Measurable Goals and Priority Resources

- Measurable Goals
  - The CAC provided ideas for actions and longer term goals that they would like to see in the watershed. The TAC used this input along with studies, reports, environmental data, and professional expertise to develop a measurable goal framework.
  - The CAC reviewed the goal framework and supported the draft goal language and structure.
  - The TAC developed the numerical and measurable components of the goals through implementation action brainstorming, HSPF models, and professional expertise.
  - The set of draft measurable goals shared during internal review were presented to the CAC. The CAC were supportive of the measurable goals as presented; however, there were several questions to better understand how the modeling informed the goals.
  - The CAC identified the following goals are their priorities:
    - Surface Water Quality goals
      - Especially nutrients and chloride
    - Groundwater quality goal
      - Especially the nutrient reduction actions to protect groundwater
    - Groundwater Supply goals
      - Especially irrigation water management
    - Soil Health

# Mississippi River Sartell Watershed Community Advisory Committee Summary Report



- Especially cover crops
- The CAC expressed concerns about the following:
  - Acre ft of storage goal
    - concern with this being a tough sell to landowners and not an attainable goal
    - The goal amount seems low, 60 ac/feet in 10 years out of 25,000 ac/feet needed.
  - 1,515 acres in easements goal
    - Concern that this goal is intended to convert ag land to something else.
    - Emphasis should be on acres that are already forested or wetlands but don't have long-term protections
- Priority Resources
  - The CAC brainstormed the following priority resources: Middle Spunk Lake, South Two Rivers, high quality lakes, Little Rock Lake, Mississippi River above the dam, Platte River out of Sullivan & Platte Lake, Avon Hills, DWSMAs, Aquifers, Restorable wetland areas, Drinking water, and Buffers
  - These priority resources are included in the plan. CAC reviewed the draft priority resources at a later meeting as proposed by the TAC and the CAC shared that their priority resources were reflected in the draft CWMP as listed below:
    - Top Priority Lakes
      - Restored lakes in general but specifically Sullivan - would have a lot of influence on the watershed since it is in the headwaters.
      - Sullivan - headwaters area and would influence the whole watershed.
      - Two Rivers - TP reduction work to be done and flooding due to tile from farmers. CD 28 problem with sediment and excess water.
      - Middle Spunk - lives on the lake. (Keeping high quality lakes high quality)
      - Little Rock - Flows directly into Mississippi.
    - Top Priority Streams
      - South Two River - reduce flooding
      - Platte River - due to the connection with Platte and Sullivan lake. Dam failure on Platte River.
      - Little Rock Creek - impairments and contribution to Little Rock Lake
      - Sucker Creek - contribution to Little Rock Lake

# Mississippi River Sartell Watershed Community Advisory Committee Summary Report



## Plan Section 5 - Implementation Schedule

- Implementation Actions
  - The CAC was excellent at brainstorming on-the-ground actions and projects that they would like to see as a result of this planning effort and associated financial assistance. The actions brainstormed were used to inform the implementation schedules developed by the TAC. The TAC organized various actions into groups for intentional flexibility to be able to respond to local conditions over the 10 years of implementation.
  - The CAC reviewed the implementation schedules and were asked to identify if any actions were missing. None were noted.
  - The CAC identified priority actions for watershed-wide and within each management zone as follows:
    - Priority Actions Watershed Wide
      - Conduct feasibility studies for potential water storage projects in Two Rivers subwatershed
      - Conduct an agricultural survey to assess the level of soil health practice and structural BMP implementation
      - Compare ordinances in effect within the Mississippi River Corridor for opportunities to strengthen protection
      - Develop a policy to review public drainage projects for ecological impacts/improvements
      - Review county comprehensive plans for opportunities to connect with this CWMP and create an enhanced connection between county plans and this CWMP.
      - Prevent the spread of noxious weeds and invasive species.
    - Priority Actions in Northern Forest Management zone
      - Soil Health practices
      - Structural agriculture BMPs
      - Stormwater BMPs
      - Septic Systems
      - Bacteria Management
      - Well Sealing
      - Agricultural Irrigation Water Management
    - Priority Actions in Central Plains Management Zone
      - Soil Health Practices
      - Agricultural Irrigation Management
      - Manage Forest health
    - Priority Actions in Mississippi River Management Zone
      - Conservation easements for forested lands and wetlands
    - Priority Actions in Hardwood Hills Management Zone
      - Soil Health practices
      - Stormwater BMPs

# Mississippi River Sartell Watershed Community Advisory Committee Summary Report



- Lakeshore and bank stabilization
- Protection land through conservation easements
- Manage Forest Health
- Wetland Restorations
- Conservation easements for forested lands and wetlands

## Testimonials from Don and Janet

### Don Tschida:

“That is a lot of information to go through. I would say that it is quite impressive that such a detailed plan came together in what was a rather short time. For my part, the items that I think would make the most difference for quality and quantity would be Soil Health and along with that soil probes. The benefits of soil health are too many to mention. And the soil probes have the potential to save hundreds of millions of gallons of water annually and they can now track nitrogen events. Also a program that needs promoting is the Minnesota Ag Water Certification Program. Little Falls Centra Sota would be a contact point for information on that. Huge benefits for the water and the farmer or rancher.”

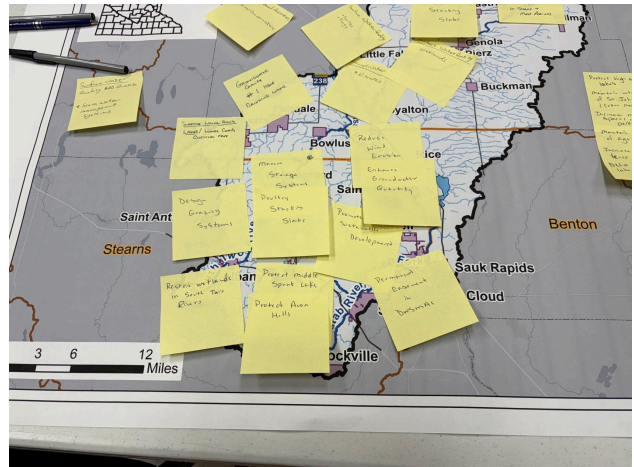
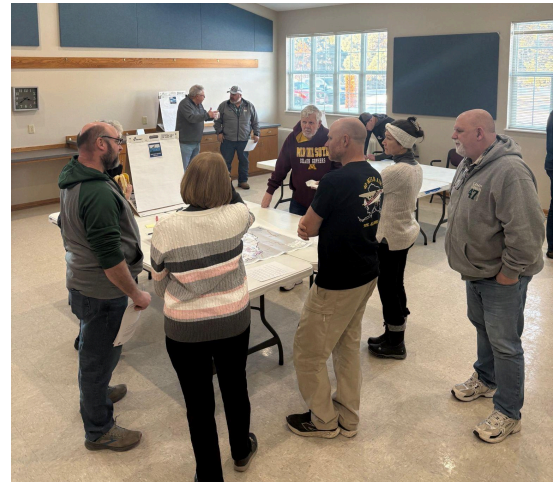
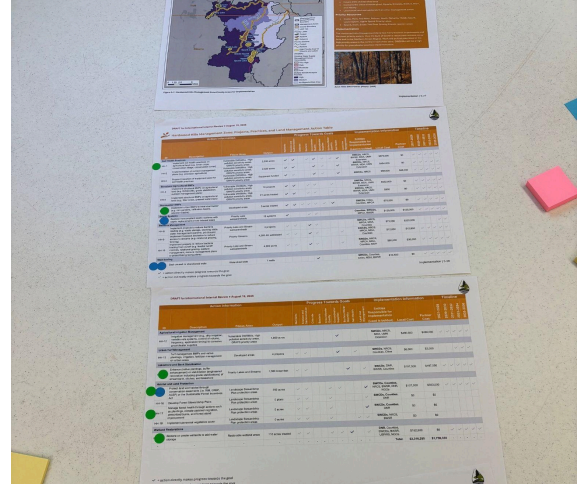
### Janet Salk:

“It was a pleasure to work with you and hear the expert experience of everyone at the table. Thanks for the important work you do.”

# Mississippi River Sartell Watershed Community Advisory Committee Summary Report



## Photos from the meetings



## Mississippi River Sartell Watershed Landscape Stewardship Plan



Please utilize this link to view the Final Draft Plan of the Landscape Stewardship Plan:

 **Final Draft Plan** - click this link to view the LSP.

(The file size is too large to include with the other packet materials.)

The Landscape Stewardship Plan informed the CWMP Land Protection Goals. It is a technical document that support CWMP development. It was utilized in a similar fashion to the WRAPS (watershed restoration and protection strategies) report and the GRAPS (groundwater restoration and protection strategies) report.

WRAPS was developed by the MPCA  
GRAPS was developed by MDH  
LSP was developed by DNR.



# Mississippi River Sartell One Watershed, One Plan

## TAC Meeting Report • September 9, 2026

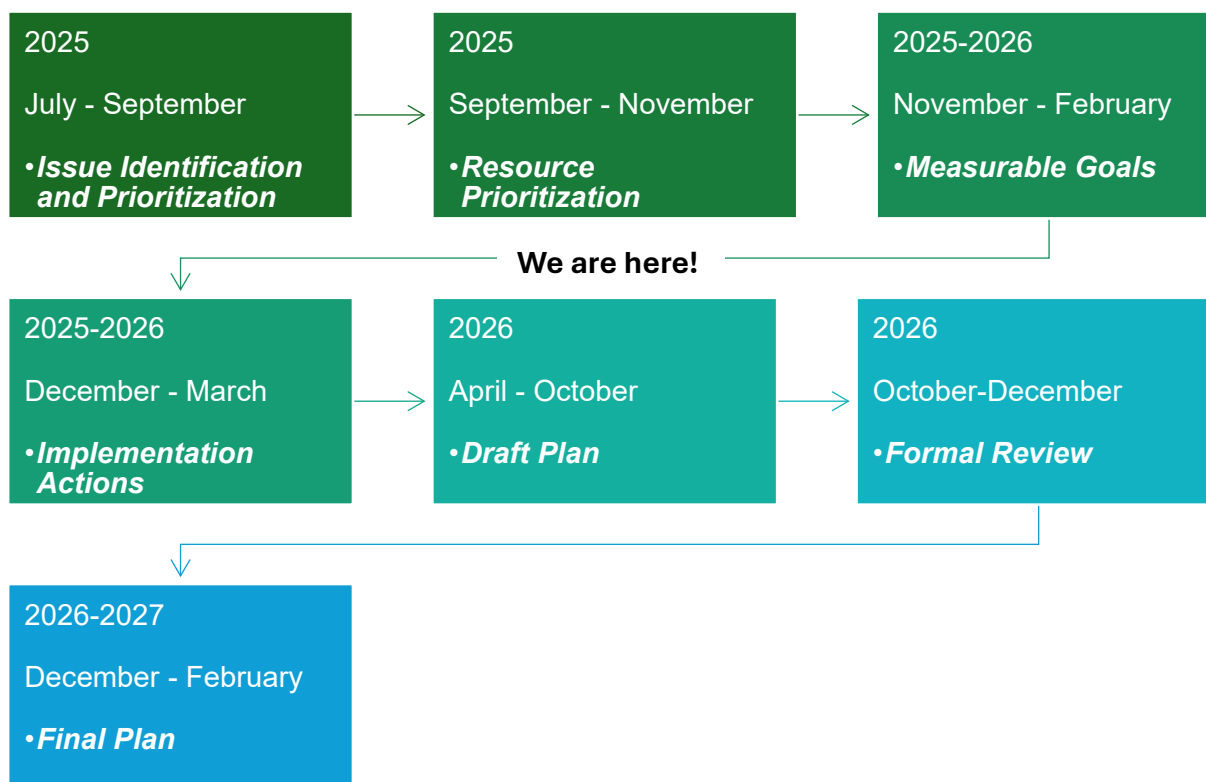
### Attendees

In Person: Annie Felix; Luke Edlund; Zach Guttormson; Shannon Wettstein; Brad Wozney; Kayli Overland; Phil Votruba; Paul Anez; Robert Wall; John Maile; Duane Kroll; Emily Forbord; Stephanie Hatzenbihler; Rachel Olm

Online: Kyle Weimann; Jeff Weiss

### Planning Timeline

This graphic is a simplified version of the overall timeline. This timeline is a general guide, and can be adapted to fit group needs as we go.





# Meeting Summary

## Internal Review

Comments received during the Internal Review were summarized into a Comment / Response table. The table was provided digitally to the TAC the night before the meeting, as well as printed off for those joining the meeting in person. Because members of the TAC did not have time to review the table, the TAC elected to review and discuss/ resolve each comment provided. The outcome of that discussion is provided as Attachment A.

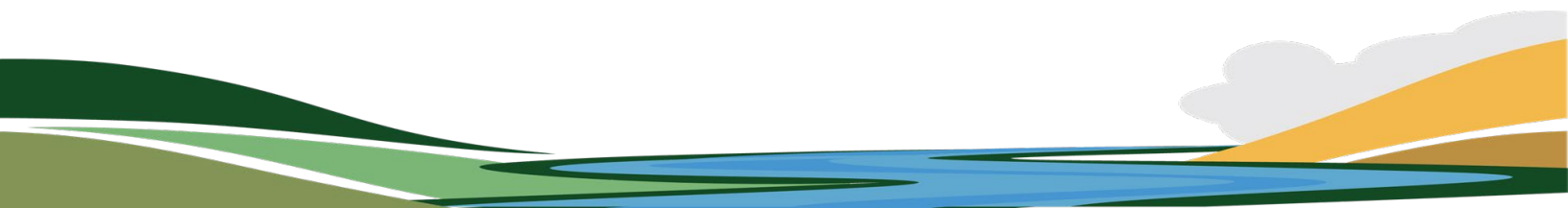
The Fist to Five voting process was used to make group decisions. For these votes, there were 15 TAC members present in person, with 1 TAC member voting remotely.

The TAC elected to flag one comment for Policy Committee attention:

- Comment #63 (Comment from Ag Reps):
  - **Comment:** The HSPF Sam Modeling results show a reduction of the following over 10 years: sediment 5.2%, phosphorus 2.6%, nitrogen 2.8%. These are insignificant reductions and we are spending \$6,835,600 to try to accomplish it. Since we are committing a significant amount of tax funds toward this effort, we want to be certain that the model has validity.
  - **Response:** HSPF is used to estimate landscape benefits of large scale conservation action. Literature supports benefits of conservation practices (that HSPF models) on water quality.

The TAC did not reach a consensus on the following comment, and thus flagged it for Policy Committee direction:

- Comment #62 (Comment from Ag Reps):
  - **Comment:** 1,500 acres of new easements is an extreme amount considering the vast amount of habitat already available. We have not addressed the approximately 800 acres of land that will be taken out of production for solar panels. The discussions to date have failed to account for or recognize the impact and economic damage that wildlife has to the local economy resulting from crop loss, vehicle hits, etc. The addition of more easements is not necessarily a localized goal, but rather a goal that is being imposed by





state agencies. There is a need to justify using tax payer dollars in this way if there is only a very limited improvement to water quality.

- **Response:** The current draft of the plan continues to spend the same amount of local dollars on land protection over the next ten years as current, estimated efforts. The plan's land protection actions and goals therefore rely heavily on outside funding, such as competitive grants, partnering agencies or organizations, or federal funds. The current draft sets a measurable goal of 1,515 acres of land protection through programs such as RIM, CREP, ACEP, or SFIA. To compare to current efforts, over the last 10 years, 1,018 acres of easements were implemented through RIM and ACUB alone.

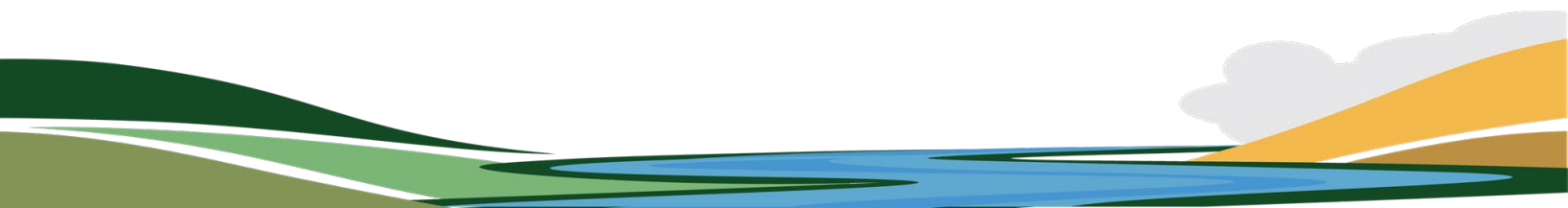
Add language: Land in riparian areas, highly erodible land, habitat complexes, and flood-prone areas are examples of land areas that may be priorities for protection. Map too is on Private Forest Management. Add detail about ACUB- only place available in MN for this use. County boards could explore county-wide ag preservation programs; acknowledge the prominence of protected land and challenge with land protection (loss of ag land, wildlife issues)

- **TAC Vote on Proposed Resolution** (using Fist to Five): Two 2s, Otherwise 3, 4, 5s

The TAC also acknowledged that Comment #44 and 45 were more complex in nature, as it resulted in moving around outputs and costs between planning regions. It is acknowledged that the TAC recommended the direction for revising the plan accordingly, but could not approve the revisions without seeing them on paper.

As part of the meeting, the TAC revisited the three items still being discussed during the Informational Internal Review. These comments are summarized in the "A Note to Reviewers" cover page memo of the Informational Internal Review. The comments and resolutions are summarized below:

- The Capital Improvement Projects list
  - The Steering Committee reviewed and revised this list
- The acres of land protection
  - See Comment #62: This will be brought to the Policy Committee for direction
- Priority Lake goals





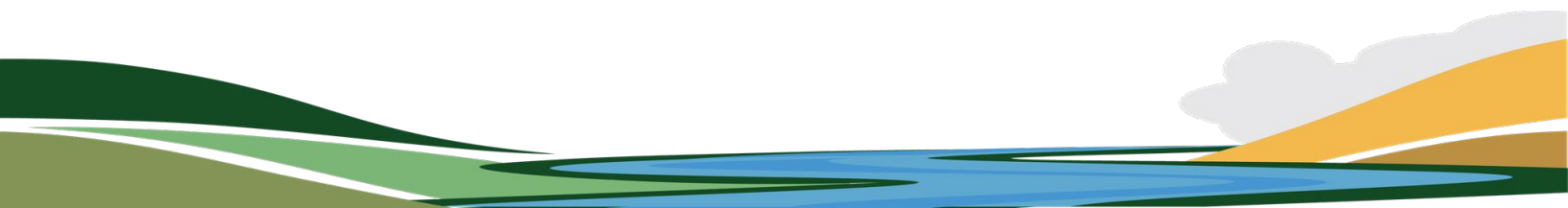
- This was discussed and resolved under Comment #27

The TAC completed a Fist to Five vote for the Internal Review Comment Table resolutions, save for those that were flagged for Policy Committee review or “Parking Lot” items. All TAC members voted 3s, 4s, or 5s to move forward.

The TAC then completed a Fist to Five vote for recommending this plan for Policy Committee consideration for Formal, 60-Day Review, subject to revisions recommended during the internal review AND Policy Committee direction on PC flagged comments. One TAC member voted 1, as there was a request to have more time to review and go back to clean up smaller unresolved issues or not clearly phrased items. The TAC provided an extended review period of September 25 for this individual. Another member of the TAC voted 2, as the review of comments felt rushed and the individual wanted more time to digest. All other members of the TAC voted 3, 4, and 5.



Next Steps: HEI to finalize plan for Formal Review



## The Mississippi River Sartell Watershed

### Informational Internal Review: TAC Comment / Response Table

| #  | Commenter | Plan Section         | Page # | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Change Needed (Y/N) | Discussed/Resolved by TAC | Resolution                                                                                                                          |
|----|-----------|----------------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | MPCA_PV   | Table 1 - Appendix E |        | Italicize E. coli within parenthesis                                                                                                                                                                      | Y                   | Y                         | Italicized                                                                                                                          |
| 2  | MPCA_PV   | Land & Water         | 2      | Note (e.g. Minneapolis and St. Paul) after downstream communities or include in text                                                                                                                      | Y                   | Y                         | Added cities                                                                                                                        |
| 3  | MPCA_PV   | Land & Water         | 5      | insert acronym MAWQCP right after usage. Currently it words it is assumed that it stands for.                                                                                                             | Y                   | Y                         | Added acronym                                                                                                                       |
| 4  | MPCA_PV   | Land & Water         | 5      | after manure runoff consider adding surface water resources e.g. "helping to protect surface and groundwater resources"                                                                                   | Y                   | Y                         | Added suggested text                                                                                                                |
| 5  | MPCA_PV   | Land & Water         | 9      | There are several watersheds in Minnesota with designated trout streams. Questioning the use of the word unique here?                                                                                     | Y                   | Y                         | Removed unique                                                                                                                      |
| 6  | MPCA_PV   | Land & Water         | 12     | Little Rock Lake was created in 1911 after the construction of the dam. Not sure enhanced would be correct term here as I believe the lake did not exist prior to.                                        | Y                   | Y                         | Removed enhanced                                                                                                                    |
| 7  | MPCA_PV   | Land & Water         | 15     | Is it worth noting DNR's Action Planning efforts for the Little Rock Creek area in Groundwater Quantity section which has been going on for several years?                                                | N                   | Y                         | Initial text on DNR groundwater management was removed in June 2025                                                                 |
| 8  | MPCA_PV   | Land & Water         | 16     | NC and Central Mn has been in a extreme drought for several years now is this worth noting in the Climate Section. Precipitation has not been increasing in recent years in many areas including the MRSW | Y                   | Y                         | 30-year trend is still increasing in the MRSW, by 0.39" per decade 1996-2025. Added there have been several recent years of drought |
| 9  | MPCA_PV   | Watershed opp        | 3,1    | Include wildlife in opening sentence?                                                                                                                                                                     | Y                   | Y                         | Added wildlife habitat as resource                                                                                                  |
| 10 | MPCA_PV   | Watershed opp        | 3,2    | when you add the number for the people it equals 32. instead of approximately could say over 30 or 30+ just a thought.                                                                                    | Y                   | Y                         | Rephrased to over 30                                                                                                                |
| 11 | MPCA_PV   | Watershed opp        | 3,7    | Extra spaces in table text that could be adjusted for GQ and SWQ                                                                                                                                          | Y                   | Y                         | Evened out spacing in groundwater issues. SWQ spacing left alone so as to keep icon the same size                                   |
| 12 | MPCA_PV   | Watershed opp        | 3,8    | The Mississippi River System (including the Missouri River) is the fourth longest. It is not the fourth longest without the Missouri system included.                                                     | Y                   | Y                         | Added system                                                                                                                        |
| 13 | MPCA_PV   | Watershed opp        | 3,9    | Should periodic drought be noted here as well? This area has been in an extreme drought for several years.                                                                                                | Y                   | Y                         | Added drought to extreme weather section                                                                                            |
| 14 | MPCA_PV   | Measurable Goals     | 4,3    | TSS is not a Core metric for assessing lakes in Minnesota                                                                                                                                                 | Y                   | Y                         | Rephrased statement "No MRSW lakes or streams are impaired due to.." to remove lakes                                                |
| 15 | MPCA_PV   | Measurable Goals     | 4,4    | Last paragraph says cannot be removed once in the environment, suggest using unfeasible as it is possible but not financially feasible                                                                    | Y                   | Y                         | Rephrased to 'not feasible to remove'                                                                                               |
| 16 | MPCA_PV   | Measurable Goals     | 4,21   | I did not see PFM spelled out in text/report?                                                                                                                                                             | Y                   | Y                         | Map is taken from the Draft Landscape Stewardship Plan, therefore acronym not used in the CWMP. Added acronym to caption            |
| 17 | MPCA_PV   | Measurable Goals     | 7,7    | Consider adding the MPCA 319 Small Watersheds Focus program for Financial/Technical for projects & research and data                                                                                      | Y                   | Y                         | Program added                                                                                                                       |

| #  | Commenter | Plan Section     | Page #               | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Change Needed (Y/N) | Discussed/Resolved by TAC | Resolution                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----|-----------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 18 | Emily F   | Acknowledgements | 4                    | Stearns Co has a new logo - on sheet 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Y                   | Y                         | Replaced logo                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 19 | Emily F   | 1                | 2                    | Steering Committee should be (SC) - labeled as (PC)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Y                   | Y                         | Fixed typo                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 20 | Emily F   | 5                | Implementation table | What is the difference between local cost and partner cost on all the pa                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Y                   | Y                         | Add as footnote to action tables                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 21 | BWSR      |                  |                      | We recommend adding a table of contents to the Appendix.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Y                   | Y                         | Appendix TOC added as a cover sheet to Appendix file                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 22 | BWSR      |                  |                      | It is critical to note the shortcomings of HSPF-SAM as to what areas on the landscape (i.e. shoreland) and practice types it does not cover.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Y                   | Y                         | Added text on shortcomings to existing text on what HSPF supports on Page 5-6.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 23 | BWSR      |                  | 4.2                  | Goal N3 indicates the load reductions are for priority lakes. To be consistent and make sense to readers, please indicate within Goal N1 which priority resources this goal applies to. Otherwise it could be perceived as duplicative.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Y                   | Y                         | Rephrased goal. Load reductions in goal N3 do count towards watershed wide load reductions in N1. N1 is not only counting load reductions to priority resources, it is any load reduction estimated in the watershed.<br><br>Recommendation to merge and clarify goal N3, and make goal N1: Reduce total phosphorus loading by 2,700 lbs per year across the 10 year timeframe, with benefits to priority lakes summarized in Table 4-3.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 24 | BWSR      |                  | 4.2                  | We do not feel Goal N1 should include the 500 lbs that are in Goal N3. This seems duplicative and unnecessary.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Y                   | Y                         | See response to Comment #23                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 25 | BWSR      |                  | 4.3                  | How will you monitor this to ensure it has a measurable component? We are concerned there may not be another round of monitoring within the lifespan of the plan. What if monitoring doesn't occur within the lifespan of the plan?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Y                   | Y                         | Goal is 'Maintain no impairments for sediment and protect against future sediment impairments by reducing sediment by 570 tons per year.'<br><br>Metrics to be assessed in 10 years: 1) are there any sediment impairments, and 2) estimated sediment load reduction<br><br>If the MRSW is not reassessed for impairments by the end of the plan then 1) would be no, goal met, with the asterisk no change throughout the plan since MPCA has not completed the next assessment. And 2) would quantitatively assess goal progress via X% of 570 tons/yr<br><br>Narrative added in sediment goal about new information and nearly / barely assessments will help inform and target efforts in the future. |
| 26 | BWSR      |                  | 4.4                  | For Goal C1, how and when will priority areas be determined? The plan needs to describe targeting methodologies and BMPs as well. If not now, then as part of a future plan amendment. As the goal states, this goal is merely to establish a program, not for implementing salt reduction practices. Also, this goal could use more specificity to be measurable. How many LGUs do you intend to adopt chloride management plans will be completed and adopted for the 10 year goal? What are the priority resources or how will they be determined? | Y                   | Y                         | Goal revised: Develop a chloride reduction program for salt management for 3 communities.<br><br>Also revised action item accordingly.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 27 | BWSR      |                  | 4.8                  | Table 4-3. Reductions less than 10 or even 20 lbs/year will have a negligible impact on water quality and put into question why those lakes are even a priority. We recommend that partners reconsider the proposed pollution reduction targets.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Y                   | Y                         | Lake goals summarized as loading by subwatershed for lakes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

| #  | Commenter | Plan Section | Page # | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Change Needed (Y/N) | Discussed/Resolved by TAC | Resolution                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----|-----------|--------------|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 28 | BWSR      |              | 4.9    | Table 4-4. We are aware that the partnership is still discussing lake priorities. However, this table will warrant discussion amongst the partners and with BWSR. BWSR generally does not support priority resources without goals. There is no way to determine progress. We understand that the PC and TAC have already approved the priority resources. However, that was long before we had modeling and a full draft plan to give a complete picture. BWSR does not support priority resources without 10-year goals. Particularly with the lakes that do not have adequate data (showing N/A), there is not enough known about these lakes to be determined priority. We strongly recommend that these lakes become data gaps, and could later be amended to the plan as priorities once there is adequate background water quality data. If the other lakes on Table 4-4 are priority for reasons other than TP reduction, then they belong under that respective goal with the appropriate metric and 10 year goal. Given the HSPF-SAM modeling, there doesn't appear to be enough load reductions available to include many if not all of these lakes as priority resources for this 10 year plan. One solution could be to add to the proposed 500 lbs/year TP reduction for priority lakes. We also want to encourage you to utilize water quality trends to help determine where to prioritize implementation efforts - we believe this is an important consideration. | Y                   | Y                         | See response to Comment #27                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 29 | BWSR      |              | 4.11   | We understand that the PC and TAC have already approved the priority resources. However, that was long before we had modeling and a full draft plan to give a complete picture. Given the number of projects and pollutant reductions that can be done based on the HSPF SAM modeling, there are too many priority streams to make a significant difference in protecting water quality. Since the discussion did not occur from the last comment period, we strongly recommend reconsidering narrowing the stream segments and prioritize headwater and/or St Cloud source water protection areas to provide downstream protections/benefits.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Y                   | Y                         | Added text: Streams within the high priority MBA areas will likely be addressed first                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 30 | BWSR      |              | 4.14   | It remains unclear why N1 is included in a groundwater quality goal when the primary pollutants are sediment and nitrogen for groundwater/drinking water. Consider removing Goal N1 or add language describing the direct tie. We again recommend consulting with MDH and St Cloud about the primary drivers of drinking water quality. Again, TP reductions are at a premium based on SAM modeling and don't seem to be a priority opportunity for the groundwater issue.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | N                   | Y                         | Keep N1 for now; will react to MDH feedback as provided                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 31 | BWSR      |              | 4.15   | Goal GS-2: We understand the TAC recommended use of "number of projects" for this goal. But it is still unclear why this metric is used when GS1 is in acres. Turf management projects can vary in size and the metric of number of projects does very little to gauge pace of progress and measurability.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Y                   | Y                         | Pertains to: Goal GS2. Establish 40 turf management projects in priority areas<br><br>Keep goal as is. Language added in narrative: emphasizing larger projects when able. List examples of projects (e.g. irrigation, pollinator, converting turf to native, etc.) |

| #  | Commenter | Plan Section     | Page # | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Change Needed (Y/N) | Discussed/Resolved by TAC | Resolution                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----|-----------|------------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 32 | BWSR      |                  | 4.17   | The connection between stabilizing lakeshores and surface water quantity remains unclear. Prioritization and the MBA did not account for lakes that may have fluctuating water levels. Conducting shoreland restorations under this opportunity statement and goal seems to be more of a catch-all. Please provide rationale or consider eliminating. In addition, how were the streams prioritized for this goal and what are the priority streams and ditches used in the MBA?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Y                   | Y                         | Pertains to Goal SQ2. Stabilize or enhance 6,000 linear feet of streambank, ditches, or shoreline around priority lakes and streams<br><br>Added language about multiple benefits and the lack of ability to address AH with lake shoreline                                                       |
| 33 | BWSR      |                  | 4.19   | We believe it would be easier tracking and clearer for all partners if the goal was expressed in new acres/year. This was also a recommendation from the BWSR Soil Health Coordinator.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Y                   | Y                         | Pertains to: Goal SH1. Implement 8,000 acres of new soil health practices<br><br>Revised to "on average 800 new acres per year, for a total of 8,000 over 10 years".                                                                                                                              |
| 34 | BWSR      |                  | 4.20   | LM1/LM2: Protection priority areas differ from MBA priority areas, please clarify the priority areas for easements based off Figure 4-6, Priority PFM Protection Areas. Example: Increase protected lands through 1,515 acres of easements in priority areas as shown in Figure 4-6, Priority PFM Protection Areas                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Y                   | Y                         | Added to goal statement as recommended.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 35 | BWSR      |                  | many   | We strongly encourage you to delete implementation action items with an output of "0". We understand this helps create consistent numbering throughout management zones, but feel that keeping "0" in the table would cause more confusion.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Y                   | Y                         | Delete actions w 0s to avoid confusion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 36 | BWSR      |                  | 5.7    | How will the partnership ensure that projects funded with WBIF are targeted? Targeting by definition is the process of identifying the best projects in the best location for the best cost in priority areas. It states this table is for demonstrative purposes only. It will be important for all partners to get on the same page about how projects will be targeted in the plan. Identify the potential targeting methodologies to be used for most common project types or resources. How will projects be targeted for lakes vs streams vs groundwater vs source water protection, phosphorus vs sediment vs chloride vs bacteria, etc? Often subwatershed assessments are used in other plans for lakes and stream resources. | Y                   | Y                         | Remove "for demonstrative purposes only". Subwatershed assessments included in the plan (DSM-24).<br><br>Added narrative: This is for readily available data at the time the plan was written, but additional data will be generated when data gaps get closed, such as subwatershed assessments. |
| 37 | BWSR      |                  | 7.2    | Per the Plan Content Requirements: "Identification and Coordination of Shared Services (staffing): Describe specialized and shared service areas that may be used in the watershed to implement the actions identified in the schedule and achieve greater efficiencies in service delivery. This may include shared services for program management or for project management." There doesn't appear to be any discussion on shared services/staff. If none are planned, please state so. This may fit well within the "Collaboration Between Planning Partners" section.                                                                                                                                                             | Y                   | Y                         | Additional language added                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 38 | Stephanie | Exec. Sum        | 1-2    | Change title to "Community Advisory Committee"                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Y                   | Y                         | Changed Citizen to Community                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 39 | Stephanie | Measurable Goals | 4-15   | Need to update goal number in narrative in left column. Replace "500 acres" with "7,000 acres."                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Y                   | Y                         | Updated number in text to match goal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

| #  | Commenter       | Plan Section     | Page # | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Change Needed (Y/N) | Discussed/Resolved by TAC                                   | Resolution                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----|-----------------|------------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 40 | Stephanie & CAC | Measurable Goals | 4-20   | clarity on the 1515 acres ... is to protect land through easements that are already forested or wetland... not to convert land ag land into something else - correct?!<br>This was brought up by a CAC member.                                                                                                                                                              | Y                   | Y                                                           | Easements are intended for priority protection areas and will likely focus on forest land. But if ag landowners want to enroll part of their land (usually marginal) in easements, they are able to and this would count towards the goal<br><br>Text added to goal narrative, in addition to language below (which is also in Section 6- Implementation Programs):<br><br>Land in riparian areas, highly erodible land, habitat complexes, and flood-prone areas are examples of land areas that may be priorities for protection.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 41 | Stephanie & CAC | Measurable Goals | 4-17   | Water storage goal. 60 acre -feet is not much progress - 25,000 acre-feet<br>This was brought up by a CAC member.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | N                   | Y                                                           | Storage goal developed based on acres of wetlands that are anticipated to be created or restored. This represents what can be realistically implemented and tracked by local efforts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 42 | Stephanie & CAC | Implementation   | 5-9    | Estimated cost per event is high. More accurate average is \$5,000 per event. Consider reducing overall local cost accordingly.<br>FYI - this was brought up by a CAC member.                                                                                                                                                                                               | Y                   | Y                                                           | PPE-5 cost dropped from 300k to 200k. Extra money moved to PPE-3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 43 | Stephanie & CAC | Implementation   | 5-9    | Estimated cost for youth education seems high. How was this estimated? In Stearns, these events are fairly low cost - activity supplies and staff time.<br>This was brought up by a CAC member.                                                                                                                                                                             | Y                   | Y                                                           | Correct this cost is high. The total cost for Public Participation and Engagement of \$910,000 was estimated by surveying counties on existing annual funds that would be spent in this program. Thus, we assigned costs to actions PPE1, 2, 4, and 5 and placed the rest of the funding in the general ongoing action of PPE3. This can be rephrased to (e.g. youth education) to describe ongoing efforts that will continue.<br><br>It is acknowledged that 600k is likely more than is / will be spent on youth outreach. High-level plan costs are included to help understand where implementation funds will be allocated and indicate where partner funds are needed. A higher cost for a plan action does not mean that implementation partners will try to spend that money. |
| 44 | Stephanie & CAC | Implementation   | 5-25   | MR-17 - can we increase the number of acres? The high priority area within Stearns County would have some of these practices happening through other grants sources that we have access to.<br>I recommend 50 acres as the goal at \$500 per acre in partner costs<br>This was brought up by a CAC member.                                                                  | Y                   | Parking Lot: TAC will revisit with edited document as shown | Moved 50 acres from the Northern Forest Region into the Mississippi River Region                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 45 | Stephanie & CAC | Implementation   | 5-29   | HH - 16, 17, 18. can we add numbers to this table for these?<br>The high priority area within Stearns County would have some of these practices happening through other grants sources that we have access to.<br>HH - 16: 3 plans<br>HH - 17: 50 acres<br>HH - 18: 7 acres<br>then copy over informations from MR zone accordingly<br>This was brought up by a CAC member. | Y                   | Parking Lot: TAC will revisit with edited document as shown | Moved 3 plans and 50 acres from Northern Forest to Hardwood Hills.<br>Moved 7 acres from Central Plains to Hardwood Hills                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 46 | MSWCD           | Cover            | 1      | Under "Local Planning Partnership" and "Technical Advisory Committee" please separate counties and SWCDs as they are separate entities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Y                   | Y                                                           | Separated entities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 47 | MSWCD           | Cover            | 1      | Stearns CD is listed as Stearns CD under "Local Planning Partnership" and SWCD "Technical Advisory Committee". Please list as CD under both.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Y                   | Y                                                           | Corrected SWCD to CD                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

| #  | Commenter | Plan Section         | Page #    | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Change Needed (Y/N) | Discussed/Resolved by TAC | Resolution                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----|-----------|----------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 48 | MSWCD     | Executive summary    | 2         | Steering Committee is abbreviated as (PC). Please change to (SC)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Y                   | Y                         | Corrected abbreviation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 49 | MSWCD     | 4                    | 4-20      | Previous comments on this may have been misunderstood. Please rephrase "Protection can include actions such as enrollment in conservation easements, enrollment in the Sustainable Forest Incentives Act, and forest stewardship planning. Management practices could include forest habitat improvement and prescribed burns." to say something like "Protection can include actions such as enrollment in conservation easements, and enrollment in the Sustainable Forest Incentives Act. Management practices could include forest habitat improvement, forest stewardship planning, and prescribed burns." As previously stated, FSPs should not be under the envelope of protection in the narrative. | Y                   | Y                         | Rephrased with provided text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 50 | MSWCD     | 5                    | DSM-8     | SWCDs can assist with this task, but MPCA and other monitoring agents should be the lead.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Y                   | Y                         | Removed SWCDs as lead                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 51 | MSWCD     | 5                    | NF-19     | Most of the wetland restoration projects that have been done among the main 3 counties have been done through a partnership of SWCDs and USFWS. DNR is typically for public waters wetlands, which are not the ones this action refers to.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Y                   | Y                         | Changed lead from DNR to SWCD and USFWS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 52 | MSWCD     | 1 & 6                | 1-5 & 6-1 | Figures 1-2 & 6-1 (Formatting), even spacing so that program bubbles do not overlap. Consistency in spacing among all graphics in document.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Y                   | Y                         | Improved Figure 1-2 spacing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 53 | MSWCD     | 6                    | 6-9,10,11 | Consistency in spacing among & between all graphics in document.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | N                   | Y                         | Spacing between boxes is as equal as word will accommodate                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 54 | MSWCD     | 7                    | 7-2       | Last line should read "Wellhead Protection for Community Water Supply DWSMAs (Minnesota Rural Water Association [MRWA] and MDH), Minnesota Forest Resource Council, and WRAPS (MPCA)." by removing and before MFRC and adding a comma after.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Y                   | Y                         | Rephrased as suggested                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 55 | MSWCD     | A Note for Reviewers | 1         | Why are we reviewing a document that has four sections that have not yet been recommended by the TAC for Policy Committee Approval?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | N                   | Y                         | See response to Comment #59                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 56 | MSWCD     | A Note for Reviewers | 1         | Why are we reviewing a document that the TAC is still in the process of discussing?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | N                   | Y                         | See response to Comment #59                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 57 | MSWCD     | Cover                | 4         | I would like to see the names of the actual TAC members. Other plans have listed the committee member names.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Y                   | Y                         | Committee members added as recommended                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 58 | MSWCD     | ALL                  | ALL       | The comment period for this feels rushed. I do not feel there was enough time in between the last comment period for the four sections and this draft internal review to properly comment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | N                   | Y                         | See response to Comment #59                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 59 | Ag Reps   |                      |           | General Overall: it seems more time should be taken before this is presented to the policy committee. More discussion is needed to come to a agreement on some issues. We, as the technical committee, have not come to a agreement on some important topics in the plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | N                   | Flagged for PC Direction  | During September meeting, TAC completed a Fist to Five for recommending this plan for Policy Committee consideration for Formal, 60-Day Review, subject to revisions recommended during the internal review AND Policy Committee direction on PC flagged comments. One member of the TAC voted "1" and one member voted "2," otherwise votes were 3s, 4s, and 5s. |

| #  | Commenter | Plan Section     | Page # | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Change Needed (Y/N) | Discussed/Resolved by TAC                                                                             | Resolution                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----|-----------|------------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 60 | Ag Reps   | 5                | 31     | Needs an explanation as to the need for 11m for regulation cost in this plan. it is very high compared to others and consists of more than 25% of the budget. This plan is mostly centered around voluntary conservation so a discussion of this seems appropriate.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Y                   | Y                                                                                                     | This is the existing cost reported by local governments, no additional money will be directed to regulation through this plan<br><br>Add additional information about where this is coming from (types of services). Take out out total plan budget table (local controls versus plan costs). Add text: Local regulations existing budget may be reviewed during annual work planning.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 61 | Ag Reps   | 6                | 6.6    | This section is of concern and needs discussion. It is imperative that the tests are conducted by professionals rather than volunteers to ensure quality results that can be verified by an independent 3rd party. Bad data = bad policy = potential regulations<br>An example of bad data and use is the MDA's township nitrate testing program. Additionally, the monitoring of sulfates is inappropriate, or at minimum needs further study as sulfate testing is highly variable and complex.                                                                                                                                                                           | Y                   | Y                                                                                                     | This section included per BWSR requirements to explain what water quality monitoring is ongoing in the watershed. This section is purely for informational purposes, no monitoring is being changed through this section nor is volunteer sampling recommended.<br><br>MPCA citizen monitoring program is discussed as it's an ongoing monitoring program to obtain statewide Secchi disk data. All data collected in Table 6-1 is done by professionals.<br><br>Text added that table is for informative purposes only to summarize what is happening where, and roles.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 62 | Ag Reps   | 4                | 20     | 1,500 acres of new easements is an extreme amount considering the vast amount of habitat already available. We have not addressed the approximately 800 acres of land that will be taken out of production for solar panels. The discussions to date have failed to account for or recognize the impact and economic damage that wildlife has to the local economy resulting from crop loss, vehicle hits, etc. The addition of more easements is not necessarily a localized goal, but rather a goal that is being imposed by state agencies. There is a need to justify using tax payer dollars in this way if there is only a very limited improvement to water quality. | N                   | Flagged for PC Direction<br><br>Two members of the TAC voted "2" on Fist to Five. Other votes 3, 4, 5 | The current draft of the plan continues to spend the same amount of local dollars on land protection over the next ten years as current, estimated efforts. The plan's land protection actions and goals therefore rely heavily on outside funding, such as competitive grants, partnering agencies or organizations, or federal funds. The current draft sets a measurable goal of 1,515 acres of land protection through programs such as RIM, CREP, ACEP, or SFIA. To compare to current efforts, over the last 10 years, 1,018 acres of easements were implemented through RIM and ACUB alone.<br><br>Added language: Land in riparian areas, highly erodible land, habitat complexes, and flood-prone areas are examples of land areas that may be priorities for protection.<br><br>Added language that the map focuses on Private Forest Management. Added detail about ACUB- only place available in MN for this use. County boards could explore county-wide ag preservation programs; acknowledge the prominence of protected land and challenge with land protection (loss of ag land, wildlife issues) |
| 63 | Ag Reps   | 5                |        | The HSPF Sam Modeling results show a reduction of the following over 10 years: sediment 5.2%, phosphorus 2.6%, nitrogen 2.8%. These are insignificant reductions and we are spending \$6,835,600 to try to accomplish it. Since we are committing a significant amount of tax funds toward this effort, we want to be certain that the model has validity.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | N                   | Flagged for PC attention                                                                              | HSPF is used to estimate landscape benefits of large scale conservation action. Literature supports benefits of conservation practices (that HSPF models) on water quality.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 64 | Ag Reps   |                  |        | As a general comment, further review of all sections are necessary at the meetings.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | N                   | Y                                                                                                     | See response to Comment #59                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 65 | MDH       | L&W              | 14     | last paragraph "Groundwater contaminants of concerns include nitrate and arsenic..." change to include top 5 contaminants "nitrate, arsenic, lead, manganese, and coliform bacteria."                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Y                   | Y                                                                                                     | Added contaminants                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 66 | MDH       | Watershed Opp    | 3-4    | Need space between 1st paragraph & chart at top                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Y                   | Y                                                                                                     | Deleted photo to make space                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 67 | MDH       | Measurable Goals | 4-14   | Under Desired Future Condition "are tested for contaminants" change to "are tested for the top five contaminants"                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Y                   | Y                                                                                                     | Changed DFC as requested                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

| #  | Commenter | Plan Section | Page # | Comment                                                                                | Change Needed (Y/N) | Discussed/ Resolved by TAC | Resolution                                                                                                                                                               |
|----|-----------|--------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 68 | MDH       | Plan Admin   | 7-2    | Last sentence change "[MRWA] to (MRWA)"                                                | N                   | Y                          | Grammatical norm to use brackets for a parentheses within parentheses                                                                                                    |
| 69 | MDH       | Plan Admin   | 7-9    | "Information from the MPCA WRAPS update..." add "and GRAPS program will be used to..." | Y                   | Y                          | Added GRAPS                                                                                                                                                              |
| 70 | Ag Reps   |              |        | See Purpose Statement letter                                                           | Y                   | Y                          | Add Paul's letter to Appendix and language to Section 7: We acknowledge this is what we know now, and that adaptive management is critical for effective implementation. |
| 71 | TAC       |              |        | Add solar farms as emerging concern                                                    | Y                   | Y                          | Added same language as in Redwood CWMP                                                                                                                                   |

## **Purpose Statement: Submitted by Ag Reps as an Informational Internal Review Comment**

### **Local Authority, Flexibility, and the Advisory Nature of the Watershed Plan**

As this comprehensive watershed plan is developed, it is important to recognize and preserve the authority and responsibility of local governments, county commissions, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and the landowners and citizens they serve.

A watershed plan can be a valuable tool for identifying concerns, establishing priorities, sharing information, and suggesting potential solutions. However, the plan should remain advisory and suggestive in nature and should not become a source of regulatory authority or be used to supersede the authority of locally elected boards and officials. Decisions affecting individual communities, landowners, agricultural operations, and local resources are often best made by those who understand the local conditions, history, economics, and practical realities of the area.

There is also a need to recognize that watershed planning is, in many respects, an ongoing experiment in resource management. The recommendations contained in this plan should not be presented as established fact or as the only appropriate solutions. They represent our best current understanding and our best attempt to address complex natural-resource issues using the information and technology available today.

Experience from other areas demonstrates that well-intentioned watershed practices can sometimes produce unintended consequences. An action designed to correct one problem may create another problem, shift the problem somewhere else, or, in some cases, actually worsen the condition the action was intended to improve. Natural systems are complex, and conditions that work well in one watershed, soil type, or community may not produce the same results elsewhere.

For that reason, the plan should encourage adaptive management, local discretion, monitoring, and a willingness to change course when evidence demonstrates that a recommendation is not producing the intended result. Local boards should retain the ability to evaluate recommendations in light of local circumstances and to determine whether, how, and when a particular practice should be implemented.

The plan should also clearly distinguish between recommendations and requirements. A watershed plan should provide information, identify opportunities, encourage cooperation, and offer potential solutions—not establish mandates that effectively remove decision-making authority from locally elected boards.

Local control does not mean rejecting watershed-wide goals. In fact, local decision-making can strengthen those goals by allowing communities to adapt broader objectives to the realities of

their own watershed. Those closest to the resource are often in the best position to recognize when a proposed solution makes sense, when it needs modification, or when it may have unintended consequences.

Ultimately, this plan should be viewed as a living document and a guide for informed decision-making—not a regulatory document or a final declaration of what is fact. It should encourage innovation while allowing room to learn from both successes and failures. Most importantly, it should preserve the authority of local elected officials and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts to make decisions based on sound science, local knowledge, practical experience, and the best interests of their communities.

The goal should be to provide a framework that helps local decision-makers make better decisions—not to make those decisions for them.

**Mississippi River Sartell Watershed  
Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan  
Land Protection Measurable Goal**



The TAC did not reach a consensus on the following comment, and thus flagged it for Policy Committee direction:

- Comment #62 (Comment from Ag Reps):
  - Comment: 1,500 acres of new easements is an extreme amount considering the vast amount of habitat already available. We have not addressed the approximately 800 acres of land that will be taken out of production for solar panels. The discussions to date have failed to account for or recognize the impact and economic damage that wildlife has to the local economy resulting from crop loss, vehicle hits, etc. The addition of more easements is not necessarily a localized goal, but rather a goal that is being imposed by state agencies. There is a need to justify using tax payer dollars in this way if there is only a very limited improvement to water quality.
  - Response: The current draft of the plan continues to spend the same amount of local dollars on land protection over the next ten years as current, estimated efforts. The plan's land protection actions and goals therefore rely heavily on outside funding, such as competitive grants, partnering agencies or organizations, or federal funds. The current draft sets a measurable goal of 1,515 acres of land protection through programs such as RIM, CREP, ACEP, or SFIA. To compare to current efforts, over the last 10 years, 1,018 acres of easements were implemented through RIM and ACUB alone.
  - Add language: Land in riparian areas, highly erodible land, habitat complexes, and flood-prone areas are examples of land areas that may be priorities for protection. Map too is on Private Forest Management. Add detail about ACUB- only place available in MN for this use. County boards could explore county-wide ag preservation programs; acknowledge the prominence of protected land and challenge with land protection (loss of ag land, wildlife issues)
- TAC Vote on Proposed Resolution (using Fist to Five): Two 2s, Otherwise 3, 4, 5s

**Steering Committee Recommendation:**

- Policy Committee please consider a motion to direct the plan writer to include final measurable goal amount of acres desired for the land protection goal and make edits needed throughout the CWMP for consistency with the goal amount that's been selected by the Policy Committee.

**Mississippi River Sartell Watershed  
Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan  
JPO Intentions Placeholder Language**



**Summary of Issue:**

As the planning MOA parties are still in the process of determining a Formal Agreement structure, the following language was added to the Formal Review draft of the plan:

“The planning MOA parties are exploring the formation of either a Joint Powers Collaborative or a Joint Powers Entity through a Joint Powers Agreement for the purpose of implementing the CWMP and receiving grant funds to implement the CWMP.”

Language about committee roles is explained as follows:

“Expectations are that the roles will shift and change based on established bylaws and during implementation to best meet the needs of the MRSW partners and the plan.”

As the decision between JPE and JPC has not been decided, the decision making body for plan implementation is referred to in the plan as “Decision-Making Parties.”

**Steering Committee Recommendation:**

- Policy Committee please consider a motion to support the inclusion of this language of the draft MRSW CWMP for formal review.

**Mississippi River Sartell Watershed  
Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan  
Draft for Formal Review Consideration**



Please utilize these links to view the draft Mississippi River Sartell Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for formal review consideration.

 [Mississippi River Sartell Watershed CWMP\\_Formal Review Draft\\_Oct 2026.pdf](#)

 [Mississippi River Sartell Watershed CWMP\\_Appendix\\_Formal Review Draft\\_Oct 2026.pdf](#)

Next Steps According to One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures v3

1. **Submit the draft plan.** The draft plan may be submitted to the plan review authorities electronically via email attachment, website link, or digital storage device. BWSR must receive a paper copy, email attachment or digital storage device of all submitted documents (website link not acceptable) in order to maintain a record of the submittal. If paper copies are requested, they must be provided. Partnerships are encouraged to make a copy of the draft plan available online with a clear process for stakeholder comments.
2. **60 day review.** Plan review authorities have 60 days to provide comment on the plan. Comments must be submitted to both the policy committee (can be via a staff or consultant contact - does not mean submitting to each member of the policy committee) and BWSR (board conservationist).
3. **Public hearing(s).** The policy committee will schedule and hold a public hearing(s) on the draft plan no sooner than 14 days after the 60-day review period of the draft plan. Responses to comments received during the review period must be provided to BWSR, the state review agencies, and anyone who provided comments 10 days before the public hearing.

Planning MOA for MRSW

**Submittal of the Plan.** The Policy Committee will recommend the plan to the Parties of this Agreement. The Parties will be responsible for initiating a formal review process for the watershed-based plan conforming to Minnesota Statutes Chapters 103B and 103D, including public hearings if required.

It was recommended by the Stearns County Attorney to formally initiate the formal review process by having each of the Parties consider a resolution at their next respective meetings. A draft resolution is provided for PC consideration.

**RESOLUTION #[NUMBER/CODE]**

**THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER SARTELL WATERSHED COLLABORATIVE DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE  
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN (CWMP) RELEASE FOR FORMAL REVIEW**

**WHEREAS,** [Planning Collaborative Member] entered into a memorandum of agreement (MOA) to collectively develop and adopt, as local government units, a coordinated watershed management plan, and under the MOA a Policy Committee was established to, amongst other duties, review and recommend the CWMP for formal review.

**WHEREAS,** [Planning Collaborative Member] has received notice from said Policy Committee that:

- 1) The draft CWMP is ready for formal review;
- 2) The Policy Committee recommends initiating the formal review process for the watershed-based plan in accordance with Minnesota Statutes Chapters 103B and 103D, including public hearings if required; and
- 3) The Policy Committee recommends hosting a joint public hearing following the required 60-day public comment period.

**WHEREAS,** the CWMP development and formal review is to be conducted in accordance with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures (Version 3.0, effective August 24, 2023).

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** [Planning Collaborative Member] hereby approves the draft CWMP for formal review and formally initiates the review process pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapters 103B and 103D, consistent with BWSR One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures (Version 3.0).

**ALSO, BE IT RESOLVED,** [Planning Collaborative Member] approves and adopts the recommendation to conduct a joint public hearing hosted by the Policy Committee following the required 60-day public comment period, in accordance with said Operating Procedures.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that if any clause, sentence, paragraph, or provision of this Resolution is determined to be invalid, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

[Collaborative Member Letterhead]

Passed [Planning Collaborative Member Board or Council] on this \_\_\_\_ day of October 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Collaborative Member] Chair

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
[Collaborative Member] Secretary