

Mississippi River Sartell Watershed

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes



Date/Time: Wednesday June 10, 2026 8:30 am – 9:30 am

Location: Rice Lions Building – 101 NW 1st St. Rice MN 56379

Voting members present: Chuck Rau (Benton SWCD), Ed Popp (Benton County), Tom Gregory (Stearns SWCD), Joe Perske (Stearns County), Scott Saehr (Morrison SWCD), Randy Winscher (Morrison County)

Voting members absent: Kelly Applegate (MLBO),

Staff/Public present: Stephanie Hatzenbihler (Stearns CD), John Maile (Stearns CD), Emily Forbord (Stearns County), Mike McMillin (Benton SWCD), Destiny McDonald (Morrison SWCD), Zach Guttormson (BWSR), Rachel Olm (HEI) Duane Kroll (Ag)

Minute taker: Mike McMillin – Benton SWCD

1. Call to order:

- Popp called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. Introductions were made by those in attendance.

2. Approve Policy Committee Meeting minutes from 3/11/26 Policy Committee Meeting

- Minutes from the March meeting were approved.

3. Public Comment Period:

- No Comments

4. Timeline Update

- Hatzenbihler and Olm gave up dates on completing the plan, review periods and final plan approval
- No Policy Committee meetings expected in July and August. Plan for a September PC meeting.
- Comments about possibility of missing funding – if there are delays probably looking at getting funding for projects in Fall of 2027 vs. the Summer of 2027.

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5. Fiscal Agent Report on Planning Grant:

- McDonald stated that \$163,332.84 (63%) of the grant has been spent as of 5/29/26.
- The 10% contingency (\$23,700) has not been touched yet and there are no plans to use it at this point.

6. Community Advisory Committee Update:

- No update at this time.

7. Landscape Stewardship Plan Process Update:

- Consultant is working on draft plan, 3rd meeting tentatively planned for July

8. Overview of Plan Sections and Status

- Hatzenbihler and Olm gave updates on planning process
- Draft plan sections 4 & 5 July timeframe
- Draft plan sections 6 & 7 July/August timeframe
- September - Review sections 4, 5, 6, 7 & executive summary, full draft plan should be completed at this time.
- Discussed internal review vs. formal review
- Reviewed opportunity statements and process
- Reviewed priority resource lakes and priority watershed.

9. Formal Agreement Structure Update

- Hatzenbihler updated the PC on status. Attorney's & LGU's need to get together to start planning. Needs to be completed by the public comment period. Will have a better timeline at the September meeting.

Popp adjourned the meeting at 9:35 am.

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