

Mississippi River Sartell Watershed Policy Committee Meeting Agenda



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

Location: Watab Town Hall
660 75th St NW, Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

Invitees:

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

In Person PC: Randy Winscher (M CO.), Scott Saehr (MSWCD.), Chuck Rau (BSWCD), Ed Popp (B. Co), Joe Perske (S. Co)

In Person Staff/Public: Rachel Olm (HEI), Stephanie Hatzenbihler (SCD), Emily Forbord (S Co.), Becky Schlorf (S Co.), Kyle Weimann (SCD), Mike McMillin (BSWCD), Zach Guttormson (BWSR), Shannon Wettstein (MSWCD), Destiny McDonald (MSWCD), Duane Kroll (Ag), Paul Anez (Ag), Randy Klaphake (Ag), Annie Felix (MDH)

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Agenda Topic	Action	Time	Notes/Minutes
Call to order			
1. Introductions: Name, Title, Organization	Discussion	8:30 - 8:35am 5 minutes	- Called to order at 8:32
2. Approve Meeting Minutes from 9.10.2025	Decision	8:35 - 8:37am 2 minutes	- Minutes approved 1st by Randy and 2nd by Scott, motion carried.
3. Meeting Expectations: Open Meeting Law, Robert's Rules, Public Comment Period	Information	8:37 - 8:40am 3 minutes	- Expectations were covered.
4. Public Comment Period (limit 3 minutes per person, up to 5 persons)	As Needed	8:40 - 8:55am 15 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Duane spoke about land and resource narrative and had concerns about some information and that it wasn't true. - Where is data coming from that is in the land and resources narrative (Randy)? MPCA WRAPS document (Rachel).
5. Fiscal Agent Report on Planning Grant and Landscape Stewardship Plan	Information	8:55 - 9:00am 5 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shannon from MSWCD gave the fiscal update. Invoices have been primarily to HEI. - \$29, 581 has been spent so far. - MWSCD has engaged in the LSP with the MN DNR. LSP is within the overall budget but is now a separate contract. - There looks to be an extra amount remaining as of right now. - DNR LSP contract is \$23,000, original bid was \$13,000. \$267,000 was the total grant amount. - When the plan is done and approved the planning grant is no longer used. Future grants for 1w1p will be determined by BWSR. - 10% contingency was built in the planning grant.
6. Recent Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Summary	Information	9:00 - 9:05am 5 minutes	- Rachel gave the TAC meeting summary.
7. Technical Advisory Committee - consider new members	Decision	9:05 - 9:10am 5 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Up to three members can be considered. - Motion by Chuck and 2nd by Randy to appoint Duane, Randy K, and Paul Anez to the TAC. Motion carried.

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8. Technical Advisory Committee - Ex Officio Member	Discussion, Decision	9:10 - 9:15am 5 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MOA states that the PC can elect or select someone to advise our TAC meetings. - Joe would like to have a rotating basis if no one wants to step up. A schedule will be put together for this.
9. Community Advisory Committee Update	Information	9:15 - 9:20am 5 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each board from MOA should select 3 members to be a part of the CAC, for a total of 21. - There have been two dates set in November for your members to attend one of those meetings. - Up to five meetings for the CAC. Goals are outlined in the plan you were given. - Joe: Are these appointments made by the general board? Yes, the general board (Stephanie). - The goal is to have all the CAC members selected by the end of October.
10. Timeline for Plan Development	Information	9:20 - 9:25am 5 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stephanie put together an outline to make sure we are mindful of the process and the timeline. - HEI's intention was to have the plan done and apply for the 2027 grant funds. - The RFP - we weren't sure if we can make the timeline to have the plan done and apply for the FY2027 grant funds, we are going to try. - April 30th of 2027 is when the funding request for FY2027 is due. - Funds would be distributed 7/1/2027, but we would need the grant executed by 6/30/2027.
11. Land and Water Resources Narrative - consider approval	Decision	9:25 - 9:35am 10 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rachel reviewed the land and water resources narrative with the PC. - Chuck: when does this document need to be approved by? The ag community in this watershed are very leery of what is going on in this document. Chuck proposed a no decision today. - The deadline for this is having a full draft (cover to cover) by May/June of 2026.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Scott: pg 6 numbers of acres and so on are these accurate? Is there truly a decline in ag? How does irrigation reflect what's shown? Urban and higher density areas also need to be looked at. The majority of references are from MPCA and DNR, please look for others.
12. Opportunity Statements Concept	Information	9:35 - 9:50am 15 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Rachel provided an overview of what the TAC is currently working on.
Adjourn		10:00am	Meeting adjourned at 9:53

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