

Minnesota Watersheds Strategic Plan Committee Meeting

March 8, 2023

Via Zoom



Meeting participants: Region 1 Manager Dennis Kral, Pelican River WD and Linda Vavra, Bois de Sioux WD; April Swenby, Region 1 Administrator, Sand Hill River WD; Andy Henschel, Region 2 Administrator, Shell Rock River WD; Region 3 Manager David Ziegler, Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek WD; Region 3 Commissioner Michael Welch, Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission; Region 3 Administrator Phil Belfiori, Vadnais Lake Area Watershed Management Organization; and Jan Voit, Minnesota Watersheds

Absent: Region 2 Manager Wanda Holker, Upper Minnesota River WD

Co-Chair Henschel opened the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

Work Plan Review

Jan Voit provided an overview of the work plan and tasks undertaken.

Committee comments:

- The hours allocated in the Tactics Timetable were estimated. The committee wants to ensure that the Executive Director is not over extended.
- The time spent should be flexible, and not held to a performance review standard.
- The committee acknowledged that the Executive Director would undertake tasks that were not identified in the plan.
- There are many changes being implemented and it will be necessary to adjust over time.
- It will be easier in a year to understand where time is spent and if changes are necessary to improve efficiency.
- These documents help the committee and administrators to provide a better support system for goals, objectives, strategies, and tactics.
- The value of the work plan is to give the Executive Director direction on priorities. Almost everything is new. This reporting will allow for comparing what was proposed and what was done. It will help to know how much is too much and what it will take to implement this ambitious Strategic Plan.
- The work plan is a guide. The committee can see that things have been started and do not need to micromanage tasks.
- The Executive Director would like to make finishing the handbook a priority.
- The Legislative Platform Committee is going to meet. This will likely take a year to complete.
- Members need to see the accountability of the organization and what is being accomplished. That will help them to understand the value of their investment.
- We need to do a better job teaching our members that value they get from attending Minnesota Watersheds events.

Communication Plan

A draft Communication Plan was distributed on March 8.

Committee comments:

- The document looks good overall.
- It would be helpful to add, and to distribute to members, a timeline of key events and deadlines.
- Training on how to communicate with legislators should be added.

The committee will provide comments on the Communication Plan by March 20.

The meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Meeting notes submitted by Jan Voit