

Missouri River Watershed
One Watershed, One Plan
September 13, 2017
Rock County Law Enforcement Center
Advisory Committee Meeting

Present: Amanda Strommer, Aaron Meyer, Loren Clarke, Jason Overby, John Busman, Nicole Schwebach, Laura DeBeer, Arlyn Gherke, Brent Hoffman, George Shurr, Adam Henning, Doug Goodrich, Ed Lenz, Mark Hiles, Andy Geiger, Chris Bauer, John Shea, Sara Soderholm, Doug Bos, Bryan Nyborg, Mark Hanson, Rachel Olm

Updates:

The AC discussed the Missouri River Watershed logo made by HEI. The AC was ok with the PWG's addition of a riparian corridor. The Missouri River will also be changed to the Missouri River Watershed.

HEI gave a summary of the public kickoff meeting and results. Worthington had roughly 46 attendees with 18-20 being members of the public. Pipestone had roughly 30 attendees with 12 being members of the public. The top responses at Worthington were fertilizer and pesticides applied on urban landscapes, consistent local funding for water management projects and increased levels of nitrates in groundwater. The top responses at Pipestone were decreased soil health, application & disposal of manure, and increased levels of nitrates in groundwater.

Land & Water Resources Inventory:

Primary purpose is to be a "simple account of water resources and physical factors affecting water resources within the watershed". Language was taken mostly from the Missouri River Basin Monitoring & Assessment report, Missouri River Basin TMDL, and WRAPS documents because they are specific to the area.

The geology section will be changing. Feedback was given to HEI that there were better references than the MPCA document for geology. The AC agreed with the PWG's change to use the US Geologic Survey in addition to the MPCA document.

On page 7, the 3.4 inches of average precipitation was for July not annually. HEI will try to find annual rainfall data to replace Figure 4 instead of looking at just the month of July. Figures created by HEI will be formatted to look more like Figure 33 (pg. 50) with white space instead of excess map and legends will move up onto the white space. Hopefully, this will allow them to make the maps bigger. The AC agreed with the PWG's decision to not spend the time and money remaking figures created by other agencies. Any comments on the Land & Water Inventory need to be sent to Dan Livdahl by September 20. Changes will be made and it will be presented to the AC again before sending it on to the PC.

Introduction:

HEI will work on a style manual and add logo to the plan. The AC agreed with PWG's changes of listing watersheds in a consistent order throughout, deemphasizing the WDs, highlighting the HUC-8 watersheds, putting slightly more emphasis on cities and a few major roads, and formatting Figure 1-1 to be similar to those in the Land & Water Resources Inventory. The introduction draft was recommended for approval by the PC.

Resource Concern Maps:

Maps are used to articulate priority issues and concerns and were partially done as part of the public meeting. They tie concerns to a mapping layer and confirm issues are real. They also identify where issues are on the landscape. PWG will receive maps in a high-resolution PDF and MDX format when done for future use. These maps differ from the resource category map because the resource categories are broken down further into resource concerns.

A handout was distributed with the data layers for each map. The yellow highlighted sections will be provided by PWG and/or state agency members. Feedback on the handout must be sent to Dan by September 27. If your feedback is about adding a specific data layer, please include the shapefile. Maps will be further revised during Section 2 of the plan.

Planning regions within the watershed were discussed as they allow for regionalized prioritization and make it easier for PTMApp to select BMPs. The AC discussed that the plan states priorities as a whole and that PTMApp prioritizes by planning region.

Surface Water Protection & Restoration Mapping:

There is no state-wide consensus but mapping places protection and restoration in subcategories. Protection is divided into above average quality, potential impairment risk, and threatened impairment risk. Restoration is divided into low and high restoration effort. The protection and restoration categories reflect BWSR's non-point priority funding plan and identify areas to focus protection & restoration efforts by a given parameter.

The AC discussed that these maps do not include groundwater. The AC agreed to PWG's change to add impaired streams in background. Maps will be further reviewed in Section 3.

Emerging Concerns:

Scientific/Technical

- Climate change & infrastructure resilience
- Chemicals of emerging concern
- Invasive species
- Wind erosion
- Chlorpyrifos (Insecticides)

Chemicals of emerging concern will be changed to contaminants of emerging concern. The AC agreed with PWG's changes to make the climate change wording less political, remove wind erosion, add herbicides to insecticides and to make sure that those two are not included with contaminants of emerging concern by MDH. There will be a write up for each category in Section 2 of the plan.

Policy & Funding

- Funding for plan implementation (implementation block grants)
- Conservation practice delivery mechanism
- MN rules: compliance and inconsistent application across jurisdictional lines
- Farm law legislation (national & international)
- Renewable energy legislation

The AC agreed with PWG's plans to change the block grants wording to include competitive and non-competitive grants and to make sure to include 1030e and septic systems regulations in the MN rules section. There will be a write up for each category in Section 2 of the plan.

Discussion was had on the strategies and actions that the AC will be seeing next. Each issue from the issues table will be broken down into strategies and furthermore into multiple action items. The strategy and actions make up a measurable goal of the plan.

Additional discussion was had on changing the time of the meeting. An online query will be sent out to all AC members to determine the best meeting time.

Prioritization of Issues:

The AC agreed to send out absentee ballots to all absent members with the emphasis that it is a one-time thing. AC members that were present voted for their top issues. The PC will prioritize issues October 11, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah A. Soderholm