

<b>Two Rivers Plus</b> <b>One Watershed, One Plan</b>	<b>Policy Committee</b> Meeting #15 Minutes	Date: 5/20/2021
		Time: 9:00AM- 11:00AM
		Location: Upstairs Meeting room Kittson County Courthouse/ Webex

Staff Support:

Note taker: Justin Muller, Jeremy Benson

**Present:** Policy Committee Members listed below  
 Local Staff  
 BWSR Staff/Webex  
 Myron Jesme Red Lake Watershed District

**Pre-work:** Review Full Plan Draft Comments

**Policy Committee:** Andrew Muir (KSWCD), Leon Olson (Kittson County) Landon Olson(RSWCD) Alts: Joe Wilebski (KSWCD) Theresia Gillie (Kittson County)

❖ **Call Meeting to order 9:01 AM: Chairman Landon Olson**

❖ **Minutes from Meeting #14 April 19<sup>th</sup> , 2021**

- **Andrew Muir motioned to approve Meeting #14 April 19<sup>th</sup> , 2021 minutes.**
- **Leon Olson Second, none opposed**

❖ **Synopsis:**

- Jeremy Benson gave an update to the Policy Committee on where things are at for submittal of the plan. Two Rivers Plus Comprehensive Local Watershed Management Plan was submitted to the Northern Region Committee for review for approval. The Northern Regional Committee will meet June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00AM. Steering Team members plan to attend via Webex to present the plan and answer any questions.
- Myron Jesme from the Red Lake Watershed District was asked to attend this Policy Committee meeting in hopes to shed some light on discussions about forming a JPC or JPE. Myron was kind enough to share the Red Lake Watershed experience working within collaborations, as they are participating in multiple 1W1P planning processes and implementation.
  - Myron gave a few helpful tips on how they operate the financials within a collaboration.
  - Strongly encouraged to split the duties of Fiscal Agent and Coordinator to difference participating LGU's. This method allows a fresh set of eyes to double check numbers and reporting.
- Janine Lovold shared some more experience within the LOW 1W1P is hopes to spark conversation about forming a JPC or JPE. She stated the timeliness of decisions within entities is quicker. Questions about operations were brought up regarding decision making, buying equipment, and contracting The Joint Powers Board ultimately has the decision-making authority for expenditure of the funds. Each LGU could use funds to buy equipment, but the entity itself cannot. Landowners would enter into contracts with the LGU and not the Joint Powers Entity.
  - Jeremy Benson stated he had been in touch with Mike Hirst from the LOW SWCD to attend but he was unable to make it. Mike did provide some insight as well as to how they came up with the entity. Overall, Mike said its working good. Can work multiple different ways just make sure you lay it all out in the agreement. LOW 1W1P was suggested to form an entity from MCIT and their County Attorneys. Things to keep in mind are whoever is the Fiscal Agent is tasked with handling 2 separate bank accounts, QuickBooks, audits, Tax ID#'s, and insurance coverage.
- Matt Fischer had the group participate in an exercise of writing out the concerns that people have with each of the JPC and JPE options. The group took about 15 minutes to write out some concerns on sticky notes and place them on the whiteboard under JPE or JPC. Staff online chatted in responses. Similar concerns were stuck together. This would help facilitate the discussions to address any concerns the group has with each option.
  - JPC Concerns- Solution:
    - Fear of Collaboration acting as an entity- Bylaws would be written for the PC. Self-mitigating through staff awareness of developing agenda topics and discussion materials as to not influence any type of "decision making".

- Timeliness- Steering Team would need to do a lot of up-front planning and coordination with each LGU in a strict timeline to make sure efficient decisions were made.
- Liability Risk- MCIT Approval of Collaboration agreement. Lay out in the indemnification section of the agreement that no LGU is liable for projects the others do.
- JPE Concerns-Solution:
  - Creating another layer of government-
  - No volunteer for Fiscal Agent/Coordinator under the Entity-
  - Administrative costs take away from projects- The PC can set any amount they see fit for admin costs.
  - Individual LGU Boards not participating or involved- Entity agendas could be sent to all LGU Boards along with Minutes describing the decisions made.
- Next Steps- Roseau SWCD said that they would have discussion at their next board meeting about taking on the Fiscal Agent duties. All boards need to discuss at their meetings as to what safeguards they would like to see with each option.
- The next meeting is tentative for June 17<sup>th</sup>.

❖ **Meeting Adjourned at 12:05 PM.**

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Leon Olson, Secretary

Date