

## **Rainy River-Rainy Lake Watershed Planning Group**

### **Minutes of Meeting 4 of the Policy Committee**

**Date:** Monday, June 12, 2023 at 9:00 am

**Location:** County Courthouse Board Room  
715 4<sup>th</sup> Street, International Falls, MN 56649

#### **Policy Committee Members Present:**

Destry Hell, Koochiching County  
Eldon Voigt, Koochiching SWCD  
Jenn Lahmayer, City of Ranier  
Pete Kalar, City of International Falls

#### **Steering Committee Members Present:**

Matthew Gouin, Koochiching County  
Pam Tomevi, Koochiching SWCD  
Chad Severts, BWSR (Teleconference)

#### **Others Present:**

Donna Baron, Mike Baron (Landowners),

Chair Kalar called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

**2023/6-1 Motion by Kalar, seconded by Lahmayer to approve the agenda with addition.  
Voting yes: Hell, Voigt, Lahmayer, Kalar. Motion carried.**

The Barons described the erosion happening on their property and explained they have been losing shoreline which is now threatening their buildings as well. They passed around photos of the erosion, existing rip rap, and culverts. These photos will be scanned by the SWCD and filed for project planning. Tomevi will gather any other documentation that may be available from other agencies the Barons have reached out to.

Chad Severts of BWSR discussed the funding possibilities for this property. Projects would need to be focused on the shoreland health rather than structure.

**2023/6-2 Motion by Lahmayer, seconded by Voigt to approve the minutes dated 5/8/2023 as presented.**

**Voting yes: Hell, Aitchison, Lahmayer, Kalar. Motion carried.**

#### **Consultant:**

Tomevi discussed the details of the contract with Houston Engineering which came in \$400 under what was originally proposed.

#### **Work Plan and Timeline:**

Tomevi reported the SWCD has received 50% of the 1W1P planning grant funding and will provide regular reports of all expenses and supporting documentation.

Tomevi reviewed planning accomplishments to date and an overview of upcoming activities:

### **Accomplishments:**

- **1.1 (1, 2, 3, 5)** Steering Committee; MOA; Policy Committee By-laws; meeting coordination/recording/distribution (ongoing)
- **1.2 (Completed)** Work Plan; Timeline; Budget; Submit/Upload to BWSR
- **1.4 (1, 2)** Formal notification of intent to prepare 1W1P/establish 60-day comment period (sent 5/15/2023 / comments due 7/14/2023): One comment to date from Voyageurs National Park regarding AIS
- **1.5 (Completed)** Consultant hired
- **Other:** A folder has been created and will be uploaded to the share point which will include all relevant documents for the Rainy River-Rainy Lake 1W1P process

### **Upcoming:**

- **1.1 (4)** Establish advisory committee
- **1.3 (1-3)** Aggregate watershed data, issues, goals, strategies, actions, data gaps, plan outline
- **1.4 (3-5)** Determine public input methods; Plan a public Kick-off Meeting; Record and publish meeting minutes; compile input for use in plan development. The consultant will assist with public meeting and members of the Committee should assist with any community scheduling conflicts.
- **2.1 (1-3)** Land and Water Resources Narrative: The consultant will develop a draft for committee review; Outreach materials may include story maps, posters, brochures, etc. to better communicate watershed story/overview

### **Advisory Committee**

Tomevi reviewed the updated Committee Lists and Roles including the suggestion to add a representative from the Rainy-Rapid River Board.

### **General Business:**

Tomevi will need be absent on July 10<sup>th</sup>. Discussed rescheduling meeting to Monday July 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Confirm Next Meeting Location/date and adjourn**

Reschedule next meeting from July 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. to July 17<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

2023/6-3      Motion by Hell, seconded by Lahmayer to adjourn the meeting at 9:52 am.

Voting yes:    Hell, Aitchison, Lahmayer, Kalar. Motion carried.

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Jenn Lahmayer, Secretary