Little Fork River Watershed Planning Group
Minutes of the Policy Committee
Date: Thursday, June 25, 2026 at 11:00 am
Location: Littlefork Community Center
220 Main Street, Littlefork, MN 56653

Policy Committee Members Present:
Chuck Bainter, Chair / North St. Louis SWCD Supervisor (online)
Destry Hell, Vice Chair / Koochiching County Commissioner
Loren Lehman, City of Littlefork Deputy Mayor/Councilor
Cal Saari, Itasca SWCD Supervisor
George Aitchison, Koochiching SWCD Supervisor
Liza Root, City of Cook

Steering Committee Members Present:
Pam Tomevi, Koochiching SWCD
Matt Gouin, Koochiching County ESD
Whitney Sims, Koochiching Environmental Services
Jolen Simon, Koochiching SWCD
Anita Provinzino, North St. Louis County
Andy Arens, Itasca SWCD

Advisory Committee Members Present:
Melanie Bomier (BWSR)

Others Present:
Madelyn Swanson (Koochiching SWCD CCMI Apprentice)
Rachel Olm (HEI)

Bainter called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

The group each introduced themselves. Tomevi gave an overview of today's meeting and the budget.

Review/Approve

2026/6-1 **Motion by Lehman, seconded by Hell to approve the agenda as presented. Voting yes: Lehman, Saari, Hell, Aitchison, Bainter, Root. Motion carried.**

2026/6-2 **Motion by Aitchison, seconded by Lehman to approve the minutes dated 03/26/2026 as presented. Voting yes: Lehman, Saari, Hell, Aitchison, Bainter, Root. Motion carried.**

1W1P Timeline & Budget Review

Tomevi reviewed the process and where it is at via presentation, clarifying that the Public Hearing date is September 24, rather than the 25th as was on the agenda.
The meeting on September 24 also serves as the Policy Committee Meeting.
There will be a new MOA for implementation at that time.
Budget reviewed, full details available upon request.
Remaining planning funds will be used for project planning, TBD. A landscape stewardship plan came in under budget and accounted for part of those funds.
*Tomevi will make this presentation available to all.
The figure breaking down the implementation budget will be available in the plan as well.

Plan Overview & Internal Comments

Tomevi and Olm reviewed plan layout and how it differs from that of the Big Fork River 1W1P, where the Little Fork plan is laid out by type of information rather than by topic.
Plan goals were reviewed and can be found in Section 4 and the Executive Summary.
Appendixes were also reviewed
*Saari asked that all Policy Committee members receive a printed copy of the Appendixes. Tomevi will ensure that this is completed.
*A larger printout of the comments can be provided.

2026/6-3 Motion by Saari, seconded by Aitchison accepting the draft Little Fork River 1W1P draft as presented.
Voting yes: Lehman, Saari, Hell, Aitchison, Bainter, Root. Motion carried.

Initiate Formal Review Process

The group reviewed the formal review process.

2026/6-4 Motion by Bainter, seconded by Root to proceed with the 60-day formal review process for state agencies using current draft comprehensive watershed management plan: June 25-August 25, as well as the public formal review between July 1-August 14.
Voting yes: Lehman, Saari, Hell, Aitchison, Bainter, Root. Motion carried.

Public Hearing / Policy Committee Meeting

Reviewed future meeting dates scheduled for Public Hearing and Policy Committee.
The public hearing will be September 24th at the Cook Community Center.

Next Policy Committee Meeting

Reminder: Next Policy Committee Meeting is Thursday, September 24 at the Cook Community Center.

Wrap Up/Adjourn

Adjourn

2025/6-5 Motion by Hell, seconded by Lehman to adjourn the meeting at 11:53 p.m.
Voting yes: Lehman, Saari, Hell, Aitchison, Bainter, Root. Motion carried.