Little Fork River Watershed Planning Group
Minutes of the Policy Committee
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 at 1:00 pm
Location: Cook Community Center
510 Gopher Drive
Cook, MN 55723

Policy Committee Members Present:
Chuck Bainter, Chair, North St. Louis SWCD Supervisor
Cal Saari, Itasca SWCD Supervisor
Loren Lehman, City of Littlefork Deputy Mayor/Councilor
George Aitchison, Koochiching SWCD Supervisor (teleconference)

Others Present:
Peggy Pearson, North St. Louis SWCD Supervisor (alternate)
Liza Root, City of Cook
Pam Tomevi, Koochiching SWCD
Jeff Hrubes, BWSR
Chad Severts, BWSR (teleconference)
Phil Norvitch, North St. Louis (teleconference)

Chair Bainter called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions
Attendees introduced themselves.

2025/9-1 **Motion by Aitchison, seconded by Saari to approve the agenda.**
Voting yes: Lehman, Saari, Aitchison, Bainter. Motion carried.

2025/9-2 **Motion by Saari, seconded by Lehman to approve minutes dated 6-12-2025.**
Voting yes: Lehman, Saari, Aitchison, Bainter. Motion carried.

Policy Committee Membership
The members reviewed a resolution from the City of Cook to join the Memorandum of Agreement for the Planning of the Little Fork River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. Saari requested the City of Cook add the certification information to their resolution.

2025/9-2 **Motion by Lehman, seconded by Saari approving the City of Cook's request to join the Little Fork River 1W1P MOA and naming Liza Root as the lead member for the City of Cook, pending the submission of a revised resolution including the certification.**
Voting yes: Lehman, Saari, Aitchison, Bainter. Motion carried.

Land and Water Resources Narrative
Tomevi reviewed the Land and Water Resources Narrative with the members and invited comments and edits. Consensus was that it was well done.

Public Kickoff Meeting Summary
Tomevi reviewed reports from Houston Engineering summarizing attendance and survey results from the July 22nd Public Kickoff meeting in Cook and the July 24th Public Kickoff meeting in Littlefork.

Advisory Committee Topic Summaries
Tomevi reviewed reports from Houston Engineering summarizing the first two topic meetings covering *Lakes & Streams* and *Forests & Wetlands* and invited the members to reach out with any additional resource concerns not included in the current reports. Additional discussion included flooding concerns in the City of Cook.

Wrap Up/Actions and Next Steps
Tomevi proposed January 28 or 29 for the next Policy Committee meet date and will send the meeting invitation out in December. Tomevi will work with the City of Cook to distribute the revised resolution and updated Memorandum of Agreement to all partner boards for approval and signatures prior to the January 2026 Policy Committee meeting. Additional discussion included continued outreach to Bois Forte to ensure their priorities are identified for inclusion in the plan.

Adjourn

2025/9-3 Motion by Saari, seconded by Aitchison to adjourn at 2:24 p.m.
Voting yes: Lehman, Saari, Aitchison, Bainter. Motion carried.

Submitted:

Pam Tomevi, Steering Committee
Koochiching SWCD