LITTLE FORK RIVER WATERSHED

PUBLIC HEARING & POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

LITTLE FORK RIVER 1W1P

POLICY COMMITTEE

FORMAL COMMENTS TABLE

Little Fork River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Formal Review: Comment Response Table

Little Fork River WATERSHED

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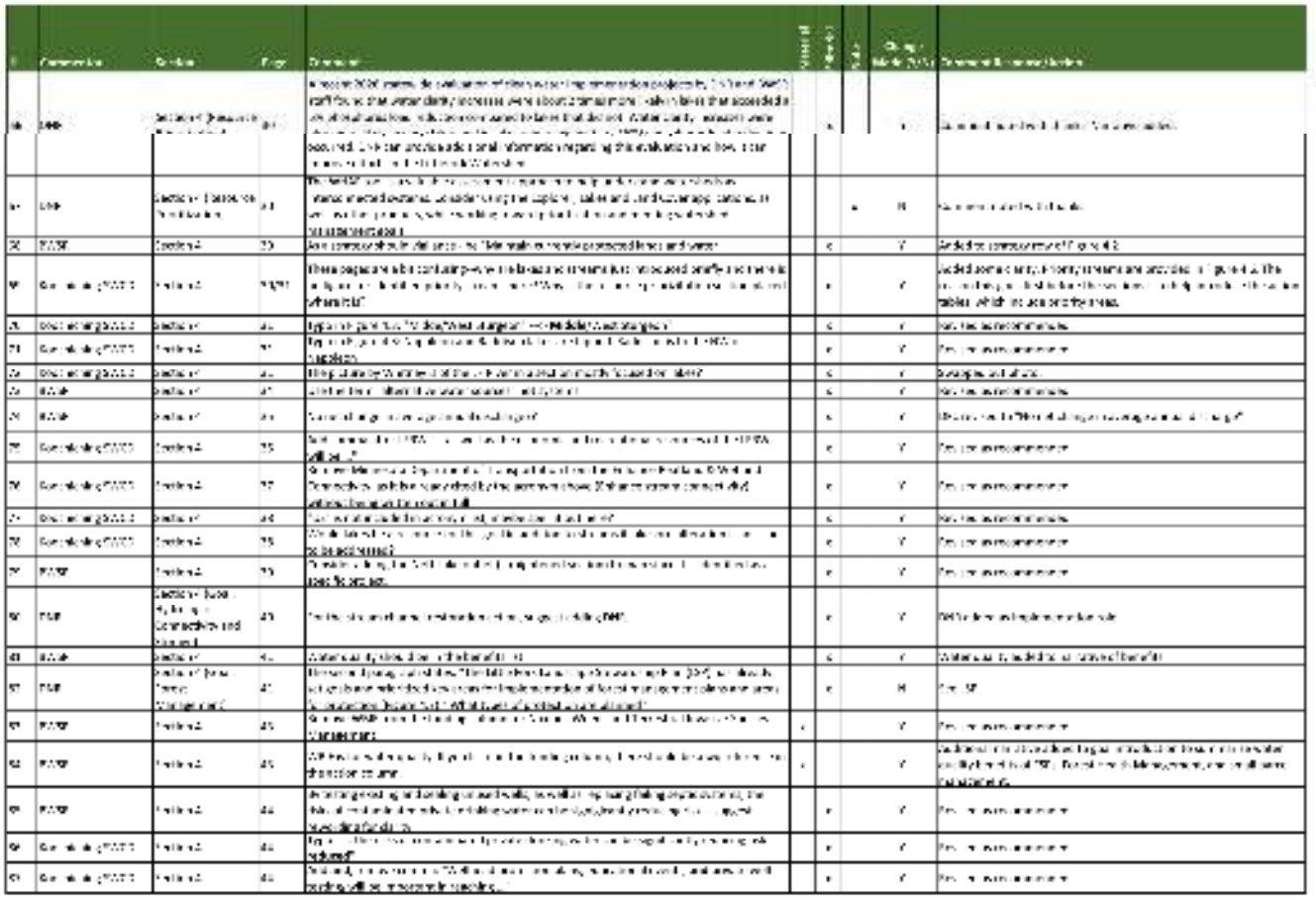

LITTLE FORK RIVER 1W1P

POLICY COMMITTEE

FORMAL COMMENTS TABLE

#	Commenter	Section	Page	Comment	Comment Type	Comment Resolved	Date	Change Made (Y/N)	Comment Response/Notes
1	[illegible]	Section 1 Introduction	1	The Plan is comprehensive. The Policy Committee appreciates the work that has gone into developing the Plan. Overall, the Plan is well written and easy to understand. The Policy Committee recommends approval of the Plan.		C		Y	Thank you for your comment.
2	[illegible]	Section 1 Introduction	1-1	Is there a need for a Policy Committee?		C		Y	Yes, the Policy Committee is required by the Board of Water and Soil Resources.
3	[illegible]	Section 1 Introduction	1-1	Please add a figure showing the location of the Little Fork River watershed within the Rainy River Basin.		C		Y	Figure added to Section 1.
4	[illegible]	Section 1 Introduction	1-1	Add a figure showing the location of the Little Fork River watershed within the Rainy River Basin.		C		Y	Figure added to Section 1.
5	[illegible]	Section 1 Introduction	1-2	Please add a figure showing the location of the Little Fork River watershed within the Rainy River Basin.		C		Y	Figure added to Section 1.
6	[illegible]	Section 1 Introduction	1-2	Please add a figure showing the location of the Little Fork River watershed within the Rainy River Basin.		C		Y	Figure added to Section 1.
7	[illegible]	Section 1 Introduction	1-2	Please add a figure showing the location of the Little Fork River watershed within the Rainy River Basin.		C		Y	Figure added to Section 1.
8	[illegible]	Section 1 Introduction	1-3	Please add a figure showing the location of the Little Fork River watershed within the Rainy River Basin.		C		Y	Figure added to Section 1.
9	[illegible]	Section 1 Introduction	1-3	Please add a figure showing the location of the Little Fork River watershed within the Rainy River Basin.		C		Y	Figure added to Section 1.
10	[illegible]	Section 1 Introduction	1-4	Please add a figure showing the location of the Little Fork River watershed within the Rainy River Basin.		C		Y	Figure added to Section 1.
11	[illegible]	Section 1 Introduction	1-4	Please add a figure showing the location of the Little Fork River watershed within the Rainy River Basin.		C		Y	Figure added to Section 1.
12	[illegible]	Section 1 Introduction	1-4	Please add a figure showing the location of the Little Fork River watershed within the Rainy River Basin.		C		Y	Figure added to Section 1.
13	[illegible]	Section 1 Introduction	1-4	Please add a figure showing the location of the Little Fork River watershed within the Rainy River Basin.		C		Y	Figure added to Section 1.
14	[illegible]	Section 1 Introduction	1-4	Please add a figure showing the location of the Little Fork River watershed within the Rainy River Basin.		C		Y	Figure added to Section 1.
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19	[illegible]	Section 1 Introduction	1-4	Please add a figure showing the location of the Little Fork River watershed within the Rainy River Basin.		C		Y	Figure added to Section 1.
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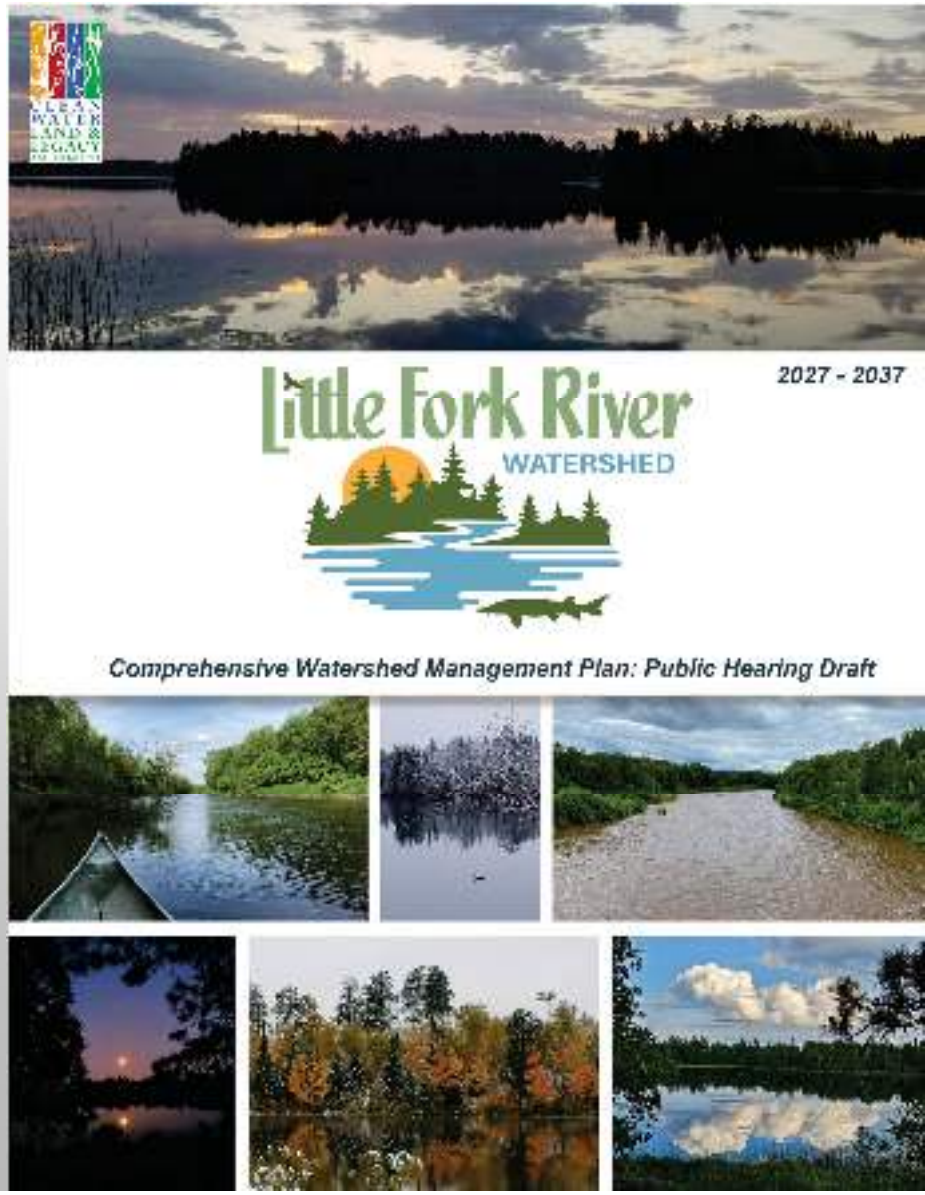
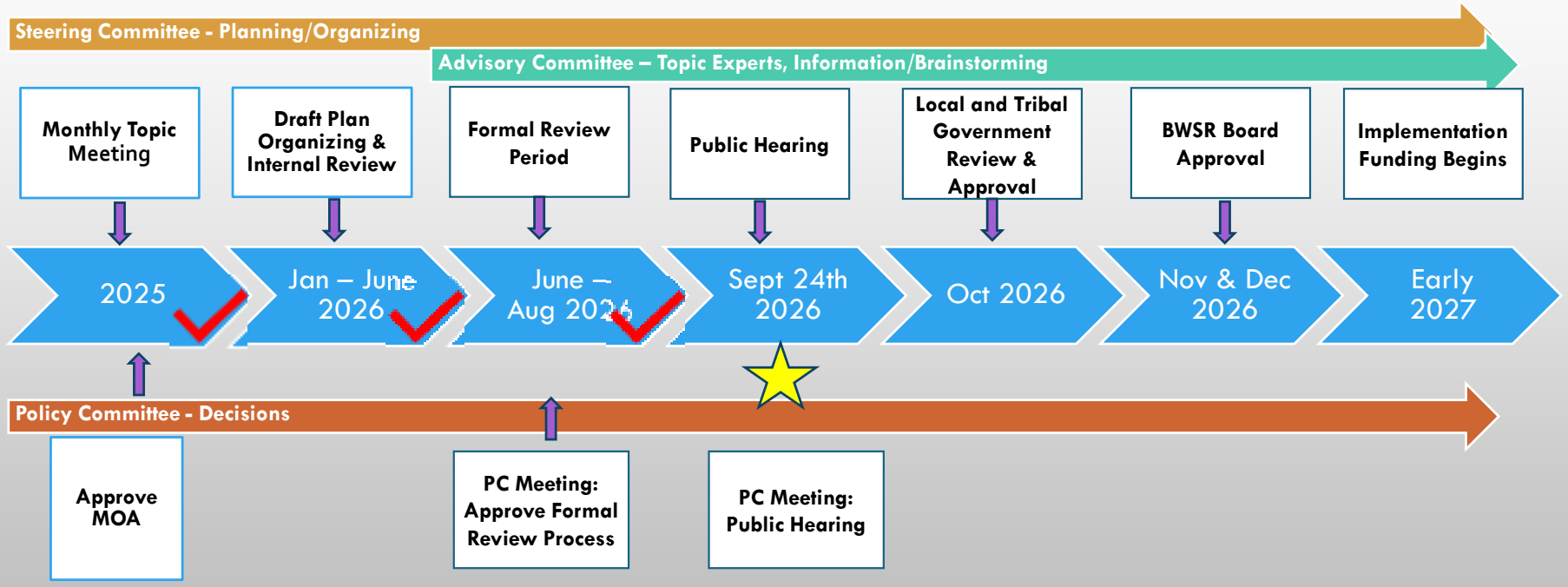
POLICY COMMITTEE

FINAL PLAN APPROVAL

- Consider responses to formal comments and any additional comments offered at the Public Hearing;
- Motion by Policy Committee to approve the final draft plan and request it be submitted to plan review agencies and local plan authorities for final approval



Draft Little Fork River 1W1P Planning Schedule



Final Approval and Adoption of Plan - 2026

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

YOUR Clean Water Fund AT WORK

LITTLE FORK RIVER WATERSHED 1W1P BUDGET UPDATE

Category	Allocation	Spent to Date	Remaining	Estimated Use	Projected Available
Plan	$ 205,000.00	$ 121,382.85	$ 83,617.15	$ 20,417.15	$ 63,200.00
Admin	$ 23,000.00	$ 20,731.90	$ 2,268.10	$ 3,268.10	$ (1,000.00)
Contingency	$ 22,800.00	$ -	$ 22,800.00	$ -	$ 22,800.00
	$ 250,800.00	$ 142,114.75	$ 108,685.25	$ 23,685.25	$ 85,000.00

- Planning is projected to wrap up **under budget**
- Remaining planning funds **may be used** to help inform or assist with implementing the plan including **data collection/information gathering**
- Funds **ARE NOT eligible** to be used for implementation projects (**"shovel ready" / on the ground projects**)
- Funds must be used by **6-30-2027**

Little Fork River WATERSHED

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POLICY COMMITTEE

PLANNING FUNDS

UTILIZING REMAINING PLANNING FUNDS (~85,000)

The following options are being explored with estimated costs still being discussed:

1. **CITY STORMWATER RETROFIT ANALYSIS**
   - Contracted analysis and report via hired consultant for the City of Cook and the City of Littlefork
   - Identifies potential areas in a city/area where projects can be installed to reduce pollutants
   - Ideally, municipality agrees to consider implementing these projects sometime in the future
     - These projects are eligible for WBIF funding
   - Estimate for 2 reports: $44,000
   - Estimate for 2 reports plus Hydrological Modeling: $59,000

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POLICY COMMITTEE

PLANNING FUNDS

UTILIZING REMAINING PLANNING FUNDS (~85,000)

2. LITTLEFORK RAVINE RESTORATION FEASIBILITY

- Contracted engineering to assess priority areas and feasibility of ravine restoration in the Little Fork River Watershed
- Estimate: TBD

3. LFR CWMP Well and Potable Water Study

- Request received yesterday from Koochiching ESD - not previously discussed with the Steering Committee
- Survey developed and mailed to landowners and businesses and final report compiled (area TBD)
- Similar project completed with Rainy River-Rainy Lake planning funds in 2025 utilizing HEI, SWCD, and ESD services – cost: $9,697.14 (2636 surveys mailed with 836 responses received)
- Estimate: TBD

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POLICY COMMITTEE

PLANNING FUNDS

UTILIZING REMAINING PLANNING FUNDS (~85,000)

Revised Budget for remaining Planning Dollars	Options 1	Option 2
Planning	$ 141,800.00	$ 141,800.00
Admin	$ 24,000.00	$ 24,000.00
Storm Water Retro Fit Plans (Littlefork and Cook)	$ 44,000.00	$ 59,000.00
Littlefork Ravine Restoration Feasibility Project	*	*
LFR CWMP Well and Potable Water Study	*	*
	$ 209,800.00	**$ 224,800.00**
Available	**$ 41,000.00**	**$ 26,000.00**

- Number of projects we can fund will depend on actual final costs for planning and final project estimates, ranked by priority
- As the fiscal agent, the Koochiching SWCD Board will approve the final workplan and budget revisions once recommendations are finalized through and supported by the Steering Committee/BWSR
- Motion by the Policy Committee supporting draft revisions

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POLICY COMMITTEE

NEXT STEPS

WRAP-UP & NEXT STEPS

- **OCTOBER**: Local board approvals of watershed plan
- **NOVEMBER 4TH**: Northern BWSR Committee approval
- **DECEMBER 17TH**: State BWSR Board approval of plan
- **Planning MOA will sunset upon adoption of the plan**
- A **NEW MOA** Will be required for implementation of the plan; draft implementation MOA will be sent to local boards for review by the end of November with anticipated partner approvals in January/February 2027
  - Will be similar to the planning MOA; often the same partners

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POLICY COMMITTEE

NEXT STEPS

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- **JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2027**: New MOA signed and new policy committee members identified
- **FEBRUARY 25TH 2027**: Policy committee meeting to review draft watershed-based implementation funding (WBIF) application – *confirm with BWSR if this is the former PC or needs to be the new PC*
- **ON OR BEFORE APRIL 30,2027:** Implementation funding application due
- After funding approval, sub-contract agreements will be signed between grant fiscal agent and the governments carrying out implementation

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POLICY COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

THANK YOU!