

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER – GRAND RAPIDS 1W1P

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES JULY 27TH, 2023

Attendance: Voting Members

Tom Fasteland, Aitkin Co. SWCD
Barb Dahl, Carlton SWCD
Dave Peterson, Cass SWCD
Michael Kearney, Aitkin County
Gary Peterson, Carlton County
Cal Saari, Itasca SWCD
Bob Marcum, Salo Township

Non-Voting Members Present

Tom Nelson, Itasca SWCD (Alternate)
Lynn Mizner, Logan Township
Craig LeBlanc, Logan Township (Alternate)
Terry Snyder, Itasca County (Virtual Attendee)
Perry Bunting, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (Alternate/Virtual Attendance)

Other / Technical Advisors

Andy Arens, Itasca SWCD
Melanie Bomier, Carlton SWCD
Matt Gutzmann, Itasca SWCD
Austin Steere, Itasca SWCD
Darren Mayers, BWSR
Sam Seybold, Aitkin SWCD
Jude Humphrey, Aitkin SWCD
Jeff Hrubes, BWSR (Virtual Attendee)

- ❖ A Roll Call of those in attendance was taken to start the meeting. Members were asked to notify the Chair or coordinator if they are unable attend, in an effort to ensure that a quorum is met.
- ❖ The meeting was called to order at 11:37 am.
- ❖ Beth Haasken gave a welcome and introduction of Long Lake Conservation Center.

Policy Committee By-Laws Discussion and Approval:

- ❖ Matt Gutzmann stated Logan Township does not yet have a signed MOA. Cal Saari explained Logan would be unable to vote during this meeting but were welcomed to discuss any matters before the committee.
- ❖ Matt Gutzmann walked the group through the changes in the by-laws.
- ❖ A discussion of the by-laws was opened by Cal Saari. There was no discussion or changes made to the bylaws as proposed.
- ❖ A motion was made by Tom Fasteland and seconded by Gary Peterson to accept the bylaws as proposed. The motion was carried unanimously by all voting members in attendance at the time by roll call.

Minutes of the April 27th Policy Committee meeting:

- ❖ Were reviewed and approved as presented M/S/C Gary Peterson / Dave Peterson. The motion was carried unanimously by all voting members in attendance at the time by roll call.

Presentation of Kickoff meeting report:

- ❖ Melanie Bomier introduced the advisory meeting schedule going forward and a summary of the kickoff meeting including the following:
 - ❖ Good Attendance
 - ❖ Lake and Wetlands scored as the first and second priority topics
 - ❖ Detailed the top 3 issues in each of the topics (in Report)
 - ❖ Tom Nelson explained that the State already gets gives money for AIS efforts.
 - ❖ Melanie Bomier mentioned that there may be educational opportunities there going forward.
 - ❖ Bob Marcum suggested advisors needed to be involved deeply in the details of the plan moving forward.
 - ❖ Andy Arens/ Matt Gutzmann/ Darren Mayers explained how the professional advisors would be involved in the plan through the advisory committee meetings.
 - ❖ Cal Saari mentioned the good attendance at the lakes advisory meeting of professionals

Lake Topic Advisory Meeting:

- ❖ Melanie Bomier introduced the 3 most important issues discovered during the advisory committee meeting:

Sufficient Protection	29 votes
Nutrients	27 votes
Lakeshore Alteration	22 votes

- ❖ Andy Arens stated the attendance at 45 people.
- ❖ Cal Saari asks for comments of suggestions
- ❖ Jeff Hrubes states the plan was looking good and was “off and running”

Budget Update

- ❖ Andy Arens explains the last segment of the meeting was about previous meetings, surveys and states there will be an up and coming forest meeting.
- ❖ Matt Gutzmann went through the budget and invoices received to this point.
- ❖ Cal Saari, Tom Nelson and Andy Arens discuss in more detail how the budget and the tables were arranged for the report.

- ❖ Matt Gutzmann explains this is the planning budget and how some columns left empty that had yet to be invoiced.
- ❖ Cal Saari asks for any questions pertaining to the budget. There are no further questions.

Wrap Up

- ❖ Cal Saari mentions the next Policy meeting will be in February
- ❖ Matt explains there will be topic meetings through December and that input will be gathered for the February meeting
- ❖ Bob Marcum asks to add the townships, towns and lake associations to the mailing list.
- ❖ Sam Seybold agrees to send updates to the towns and townships in Aitkin County.
- ❖ Cal Saari states there is documentation of all the meetings on the website.
- ❖ Darren Mayers states the policy committee can make a citizen advisory committee if they want to.
- ❖ Cal Saari states the next meeting will be Feb 22nd and tentatively 11:30 am, site to be determined.
- ❖ Dave Peterson asks for more details on the exact nature of the policy committee.
- ❖ Matt Gutzmann goes into greater detail on the Forest Topic meeting being held at the Hill City School and that it is a public meeting.
- ❖ Lynn Mizner suggests placing the advisory meetings into the local papers
- ❖ Gary Peterson states the plan is not paying for ads in papers
- ❖ Lynn Mizner suggests it would be free in the papers
- ❖ Cal Saari thanks Long Lake
- ❖ Gary Peterson thanks Bob Marcum for suggesting Long Lake Conservation Center for the meeting
- ❖ Bob Marcum thanks everyone for coming
- ❖ Gary Peterson motions to adjourn/ Tom Fasteland second the motion to adjourn/Cal Saari adjourns the meeting