

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

JUNE 23, 2021

Attendees

In-Person (Clearwater County Courthouse): Chester Powell (Clearwater SWCD), Brielle Prokosch (Clearwater SWCD), Chad Severts (BWSR), Peter Nelson (Pennington SWCD), Brianna Grefthen (Pennington SWCD), Corey Hanson (RLWD), Rod Skoe (Wild Rice Producer), Joan Lee (Polk County), Annette Drewes (DNR), Brent Mason (DNR), Lori Buell (Clearwater SWCD), Mark Larson (Clearwater County), Joel Stolaas (Landowner), Larry Peterson (Pine Lake Township Board), Tom Anderson (RLWD)

Virtual (Microsoft Teams): Rachel Klein (East Polk SWCD), Mark LaCrosse (Red Lake County), Dan Disrud (MDH), Zach Gutknecht (Beltrami SWCD), Kayla Bowe (Red Lake Band), Darryl Tveitbakk (Pennington County), Kelly Lundeen (Landowner), Christina Slowinski (RLWD), Denise Oaks (MPCA), Kylie Beard (HEI), Gregg Knutsen (USFWS), Loren Abel (Maple LID), Tanya Hanson (Red Lake SWCD), Myron Jesme (RLWD), Bruce Bjerke (Clearwater Lake Area Association)

Meeting Purpose

The main purpose of this meeting was to review draft issue statements. The Policy Committee then met immediately after the Advisory Committee to approve the issue statements.

Timeline

This graphic is a simplified version of the overall timeline. We are currently in the generating and prioritizing issues step of the planning process.



Public Input

The meeting began with a summary of the state agency, local, and public input through the following pathways:

- 60 Day Notice
- Public Kick-off meetings
- Public Survey

The feedback on watershed priorities from these items was incorporated into the draft issues list. The reports from these items can be obtained from the Clearwater SWCD.

MDH Presentation

Dan Disrud from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) presented information about drinking water priorities for the planning area. These priorities are also outlined in the 60 Day Letter from the MDH.

Draft Issue Statements

The main focus of this meeting was to review the draft issue statements. The draft issue statements were shared on the screen and as printouts so both the in-person and virtual attendees could see them. Edits were made in the document during the discussion. None of the issue statements were changed during the discussion, but additional items were added in the "Notes" column. The "Notes" column is a place to record what all is included in that issue statement. These notes will be carried through to the goals and actions of the plan so that nothing is missed later.

The final copy of the revised issue statements can be found on the next page.

Next Steps

- **July 21:** Steering Committee will prioritize the Issue Statements by Planning Region
- **August 25:** Advisory and Policy Committee will review priorities per Planning Region
- **September 15:** Steering Committee will draft measurable goals
- **October 27:** Advisory and Policy Committee will review measurable goals

CLEARWATER RIVER WATERSHED APPROVED ISSUES

Over the past two months, the Clearwater River Watershed Planning Group has been working on gathering issues for the watershed. Issues have been gathered from numerous sources including existing county water plans, the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS), 60 Day Letters from state agencies and organizations, an online public survey, two public kick-off events, a Planning Work Group Meeting and an Advisory Committee meeting (Figure 1). These issues have been synthesized into the following draft issue statements on the next few pages. The sources are indicated for each issue based on the acronyms key below. Issues from public sources are highlighted in blue to distinguish them from the others.

Important questions to ask when developing issue statements include:

- Is it within the authority/purpose of the partnership to address?
- Do we understand the current issue (data exist)?
- Do clear strategies exist to address the issue?

These issue statements were approved by the Policy Committee on June 23, 2021. The issues as listed in this document are in no particular order at this time and have not been prioritized. The next step in the planning process is to prioritize these issues based on what the planning partnership would like to spend the most effort and funding on during implementation the next 10 years.



Figure 1. Process for gathering issue statements.

Sources Acronyms Key:

Public = Top 5 ranked issues in the public survey

PL = Public letters

CLAA = Clearwater Lake Area Association letter

BWSR = 60 Day letter

MPCA = 60 Day letter

DNR = 60 Day letter

MDA = 60 Day letter

MDH = 60 Day letter

PWG = Planning Work Group Brainstorm

AC = Advisory Committee Brainstorm

WRAPS = Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy

Draft Issue Statements

| Resource Category | Impacted Resource | Issue Statement | Sources | Notes |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| | Resources impacted by this issue. | BWSR requires a "brief issue statement that describes the relevance of the issue for the planning area". Below are draft issue statements with their main themes in bold . These have been crafted using the sources listed in the column to the right. | This column lists each source that names this issue. When an agency or organization is listed (i.e. BWSR, DNR) that means it was noted in their 60 day letter. | This column lists notes about what is covered by this issue statement. In the goals and actions these specific items will get reviewed again to make sure they're covered in the plan. |
|  | Drinking Water | Groundwater is vulnerable to contamination from numerous sources. | CLAA, BWSR, MDH, MDA, PWG, AC, WRAPS | Includes nitrates, arsenic, PFAs, PFOs, hazardous waste, manure, chloride, pesticides, unsealed wells, DWSMA protection, downstream drinking water (EGF, GF), ag depressions connected to groundwater |
|  | Aquifer | Groundwater sustainability is vulnerable to overuse and loss of recharge. | Public, PL, BWSR, DNR, MDH, PWG, AC, WRAPS | Groundwater quantity, Well interference, groundwater appropriation, increasing irrigation, stream water levels where connected, DNR groundwater layer map |
|  | Streams | Unstable stream channels and loss of riparian vegetation increases sediment loading and reduces habitat quality. | PL, BWSR, MPCA, DNR, PWG, AC, WRAPS | Streambank erosion, geomorphology, downcutting |
|  | Drainage Systems | Drainage system bank instability and inadequacy affects agricultural productivity and increases erosion and sedimentation. | PWG, AC | Ditch and ditch outlet maintenance, downcutting |
|  | Streams, Drainage Systems | Altered hydrology associated with a change in the water quantity, timing, and variability of flow across the landscape reduces stream and ditch stability, wetland integrity, and aquatic life. | BWSR, MPCA, PWG, AC, WRAPS | Includes Low flows – DO impairments |

| Resource Category | Impacted Resource | Issue Statement | Sources | Notes |
|---|------------------------|---|---|---|
|  | Streams, Lakes | Phosphorus loading contributes to elevated concentrations in lakes and streams, causing eutrophication. | CLAA, PL, BWSR, MPCA, DNR, PWG, AC, WRAPS | Includes Wild Rice paddies impacts |
|  | Lakes, Streams | Sediment loading from wind and water erosion of croplands and uplands impacts water quality. | Public, CLAA, PL, BWSR, MPCA, DNR, PWG, AC, WRAPS | Agricultural runoff, Wild Rice paddies impacts, downstream drinking water (EGF, GF?) |
|  | Streams | Bacteria loading impacts aquatic recreation and human health. | Public, CLAA, PL, BWSR, MPCA, PWG, AC, WRAPS | Includes <i>E.coli</i> impairments. Septic systems, feedlots, livestock waste management, waste pit closures, rotational grazing, includes Wild Rice paddies impacts |
|  | Wetlands | Wetlands are in continued need of protection and restoration which helps with precipitation storage and provides habitat. | BWSR, PWG | WCA, protecting wetland function, MN Prairie Plan, wetland restorations |
|  | Lakes | Intensification of development on lakes impacts riparian habitat, shoreline, and water quality. | CLAA, PWG, AC | Includes increased impervious surface, 2 nd tier development, converting cabins to houses, land use regulations, wake boat impacts, increase perennial cover (lakeshore buffers) |
|  | High Quality Resources | Biologically significant lakes, shallow lakes, wild rice, calcareous fens and trout streams need sufficient protections to maintain their water and habitat quality. | BWSR, DNR, PWG, AC | Addresses quality and protection, mussels, calcareous fens, sulfate impairments?, sturgeon and all fish spawning habitat, high quality lakes and streams |
|  | Lakes, Streams | Stormwater runoff from developed areas and roads causes contamination of lakes and streams. | MPCA, WRAPS | Apply to towns |

| Resource Category | Impacted Resource | Issue Statement | Sources | Notes |
|---|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|
|  | Lakes, Streams | Increasing chloride concentrations from many sources (water softeners, industry, road salts) can impact water quality. | CLAA, MPCA | |
|  | Forests, Grasslands, Prairies | Fragmentation and conversion of uplands by changes in land use impacts land resilience, habitat, surface, and ground water quality. | Public, CLAA, BWSR, DNR, PWG, AC | Includes pollinators, terrestrial invasive species (Buckthorn, Emerald Ash Borer), private forest management, loss of CRP, MN Prairie Plan, design projects for increasing precipitation. DNR forest disturbance layer. |
|  | Agricultural Land | Decreased soil health can reduce agricultural productivity and water holding capacity. | BWSR, MDA, PWG, AC | Actions: cover crops, reduced tillage, nutrient management, general ag BMPs, wind breaks, prescribed grazing |
|  | Land, Water, Habitat | Flooding and associated damages has economic, environmental, social, and health and safety implications. | PWG | Ice jams - related impact too, distributed detention plan, reduce peak flows downstream |
|  | Lakes, Streams | Aquatic Invasive Species impact the aquatic ecosystem, recreation, and economic development. | CLAA, PL, BWSR, PWG, AC | Discuss how to address in the plan. County plans and state funding also exist. Lomond Lake – veligers risk to downstream Clearwater River. |
|  | Streams | Reduced connectivity of streams and the floodplain impacts fish and other aquatic species. | MPCA, DNR, PWG, WRAPS | Dams, culverts, floodplain, bio impairments |
|  | Lakes, Streams | More outdoor recreation access is needed for the public to enjoy the natural resources of the watershed. | PWG | more access to public lands, improving recreational opportunities, outreach about opportunities, do we want more access with AIS? |
| All Resources | All Resources | More public outreach and cooperation is needed for adoption of best management practices. | CLAA, PL | Applies to all issues. Should this just be an action under all issues instead of it's own issue? |