

**Thief River One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) Policy Committee**  
**May 9, 2018**  
**11:00 a.m.**

The Policy Committee was convened by Chairman Neil Peterson at 11:00 a.m., after the Planning Work Group and Advisory Committee meeting was called at 9:00 a.m. The following Policy Committee members (or their alternates) and Local Governmental Unit staff was present:

Policy Committee:

Neil Peterson, Pennington County-D	Ray Hendrickson, Beltrami SWCD-D
Wally Byklum, Beltrami County-A	Gary Kiesow, Marshall County-D
Grant Nelson, Penn. SWCD-D	Don Jensen, Pennington County-A
Brad Berg, Marshall SWCD-D	LeRoy Ose, RLWD-D

Local Governmental Unit Staff:

Henry VanOffelen, BWSR	Myron Jesme, RLWD
Matt Fischer, BWSR	Josh Johnston, Marshall County
Peter Nelson, Penn. SWCD	

The Policy Committee reviewed the agenda. Brad Berg requested the addition of revised rankings for the Priority Issues in Section 2 to the agenda. LeRoy Ose requested the addition of the potential development of a Water Management District within the Thief River Watershed. Motion by Gary Kiesow, seconded by Grant Nelson, to approve the agenda with the addition of the revised rankings for the Priority Issues in Section 2 and the Water Management District. Motion carried.

Motion by LeRoy Ose, seconded by Wally Byklum, to approve the April 11, 2018 Policy Committee Meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Myron Jesme shared the Financial Report as of April 30, 2018. Jesme stated that the grant balance as of April 30, 2018 was \$117,196.45, with payables in the amount of \$11,727.17. Jesme noted that we have expended 50% of the total grant, therefore BWSR will disburse an additional 40% of the grant upon completion of the e-Link submission. Jesme stated that the Pennington SWCD and RLWD have exhausted their allocation. Matt Fischer stated that BWSR does not require a match on this grant, but all expenses incurred by the LGU's are submitted to BWSR. Motion by Grant Nelson, seconded by Ray Hendrickson, to approve the Financial Report as of March 31, 2018 as presented. Motion carried.

Brad Berg discussed his concern regarding the revised rankings compared to the public's opinion for the Priority Issues in Section 2. Berg stated that items that were determined to be a top priority for the public should remain top priority issues in the plan. Discussion was held on the process the Planning Work Group (PWG) used to review and provide justification as to why the rankings were revised. As an example, groundwater ranking was revised, as groundwater monitoring data does not show a problem with nitrates and arsenic issues. Members of the PWG stated that the voting was followed very closely and revised with professional judgement. Issues in the top priority will be addressed, and then go on to the next level. Drew Kessler stated that public rankings are included in Section 2 as a separate listing of the priority issues. There is then

a separate section that documents the Priority Issues for Implementation. Matt Fischer noted that the prioritization is meant to focus on what the LGU's will work towards in the watershed. Grant Nelson stated that if we don't have the documentation to back-up a priority, will we be able to move forward with a priority? Peter Nelson responded that we have no implementation as there is no data to indicate a problem. Groundwater protection efforts are currently taking place. It was noted that changes and recommendations can still be made during the 60-day public comment period. Motion by Brad Berg, seconded by Gary Kiesow, to approve Plan Section 2, with the inclusion of the public rankings Priority Issues. Motion carried.

LeRoy Ose requested the addition of potential development of Water Management District's (WMD) within the Thief River watershed to be included into the Plan. Myron Jesme stated that a WMD is a mechanism for additional funding for a potential project. A hearing process would still be held if WMD was initiated. Part of the hearing process would set a maximum amount of funding that could be charged. Jesme stated that funding calculations look at sediment load and runoff volume. Inclusion of a WMD would replace the need for Viewers. Motion by LeRoy Ose, seconded by Wally Byklum, to approve the addition of the potential development of a Water Management District to be included within the Thief River Watershed Plan. Motion carried.

The next Policy Committee meeting will be held on June 13, 2018 at the Red Lake Watershed District office.

Discussion was held on the potential of having MCIT attend a future meeting to discuss various types of Memorandum of Agreements/Joint Powers Agreements.

Motion by LeRoy Ose, seconded by Grant Nelson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

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Brad Berg, Secretary