

Policy Committee Meeting North Fork Crow River One Watershed One Plan March 4, 2026 9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. Central Facilitator: T. Ostendorf	Location: <i>Members may participate remotely by interactive technology</i> In-person: 114 N Holcombe Ave Litchfield, Minnesota 55355 Suite 200 Virtual: Teams
Attendees: Doug Krueger, Steve Schmitt, John Haffley, Jeff Gerten, Bob Brauchler, Steve Notch, Kris Olson, Margaret Johnson, Emily Forbord, Greg Berg, Tara Ostendorf, Stephanie Hatzenbihler, Alicia O’Hare, Randy Peterson, Lauren Weller	
Meeting Materials: 1. Previous PC Meeting Minutes • 20250903 - PC Meeting Minutes.docx 2. Presentation Handouts • March PC Howard Lake.pptx • Draft NFCR Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP) Renewal Services Request for Proposals (RFP).docx • March PC CWMP Plan Renewal Presentation.pptx • Plan Renewal Report Clean Draft with Appendix.pdf	

AGENDA & NOTES
Review Agenda and Meeting Notes • No changes were requested for the previous meeting notes or today’s agenda.
Officer Updates • No quorum, the group will need to delay this item until the June meeting.
Partner Contact Updates • Group discussed partner contact updates. • Updates were noted for Stearns SWCD and Kandiyohi SWCD.
Staloch – Lake Koronis Project Update • Greg Berg provided an update on the Staloch Project at Lake Koronis, where a bluff failure linked to poorly implemented and outdated stormwater plans is being evaluated by WSB. • The previously approved \$93,750 covers engineering and design work through final review, with additional funds planned for FY 2026 and an emphasis on cost-effective, natural solutions. Questions were raised about holding the original developer or contractor liable, and Greg will ask WSB to review potential cost responsibility. A

March meeting will finalize soil analysis and design recommendations, with the goal of preparing the project for bidding this season. - Any costs exceeding the \$240,000 allocation will require further approval from the PC. - Action: Greg Berg to check the contract with WSB to confirm that the \$93,750 allocation covers all costs through final design and ensure that cost estimates are provided at the 60% design review for policy committee consideration.
Howard Lake Update - Alicia O'Hare provided an update on the Howard Lake project, describing the 10-year plan for curly leaf pondweed treatment and carp removal, along with funding sources and the current bidding process. The Soil and Water District is serving as guarantor because no single landowner can do so. The project includes two years of whole-lake fluoridone treatment followed by targeted spot treatments, plus carp removal and monitoring to support native plant recovery. - Funding totals \$514,000 from watershed, federal, and local sources. - Carp removal will begin this spring, with chemical treatments after ice-out, and bids have been received for both components. Additional grants are being pursued to reduce local costs and further enhance habitat restoration.
Presentation on Plan Renewal - Tara Ostendorf updated the group on renewing the comprehensive water management plan, including lessons from reviewing five newer statewide plans, recommendations to streamline priorities, and enhanced public engagement strategies. - The team proposes reducing priorities to 5–7, improving measurability, and creating more accessible public-facing materials. - A draft RFP for consultant support is set for release in May, with selection expected by late June and Wright County SWCD serving as the contracting entity. - The group also discussed seeking additional BWSR planning funds, with final approval planned for the June policy committee meeting. - Action: PC members to submit any comments or suggestions on the draft RFP for the plan renewal to Alicia O'Hare and Lauren Weller on the planning subcommittee as soon as possible for RFP finalization.
Mid-Point Grant Additional Funds Action: Tara Ostendorf will review applying for the additional BWSR grant to support pre-planning for the plan renewal, and bring the final decision to the June policy committee meeting if necessary.
Calendar of Events 2026 No changes were requested to the current PC meeting calendar
Additional Items & Next Meeting Officer updates will be brought forward for a vote at the June meeting.

- A vote on moving forward with Wright SWCD as the fiscal coordinator will also be scheduled for June.
- A portion of the June meeting will cover project success stories from 2025.

Current Officers

Tina Diedrick, Wright County - Chair
Bob Brauchler, NFCRWD – Vice-Chair

FUTURE MEETINGS

POLICY COMMITTEE	TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Policy committee meetings will be held quarterly or as directed, typically the first Wednesday of the Month.	Standing meetings will be scheduled for the 3 rd Thursday of the month, from 9 am-12 pm.
Meetings will be canceled if no discussion/decisions are needed.	Meetings will be cancelled if no discussion/decisions are needed.
• March 4, 2026 • June 3, 2026 • September 2, 2026 • November 4, 2026	• March 19, 2026 • April 16, 2026 • May 21, 2026 • June 18, 2026 • July 16, 2026 • August 20, 2026 • September 17, 2026 • October 15, 2026 • November 19, 2026 • December 17, 2026