

Minutes of the Cedar River 1W1P Policy Committee
Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2019
Austin Public Library

Policy Committee present: Susan Olson; *Cedar River Watershed District*; Paul Heers Jr., *Freeborn SWCD*; Jeff Baldus, *Mower County*; Randy Smith, *Mower SWCD*; Steve King, *City of Austin*

Staff present: Adam King (*Dodge SWCD*); Justin Hanson, *Mower SWCD*; Tim Ruzek, *Mower SWCD*; Rachel Wehner, *Freeborn County*

Public present: Tim Sorgine; Steve Kraushaar

Susan Olson (*CRWD*) opened a public hearing to take public comment on the draft final plan for Cedar River One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P). This hearing followed a one-hour, public open house in the same room at the library on the final draft plan for Cedar River 1W1P. Tim Sorgine, an Austin citizen, addressed the committee with a concern that rip-rap rock likely is needed to prevent further erosion near the East Side Lake dam on Dobbins Creek in Austin. He had video from recent flooding at the site showing erosion. Policy members and staff said they would into his concerns at the site.

With no further public comment, Olson closed the public hearing at 5:05 p.m.

Policy Committee meeting

Olson called to order at 5:05 PM the meeting of the Cedar River 1W1P Policy Committee.

Draft plan approval

Policy members were presented with the option of approving the Cedar River 1W1P draft plan – “Cedar-Wapsipinicon Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan” – for a 90-day review by the Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR). **ACTION:** Randy Smith (*Mower SWCD*) made a motion to approve the final draft for BWSR review. Jeff Baldus (*Mower County*) seconded. **Motion approved.**

Adam King (*Dodge SWCD staff*) told Policy members that the draft plan likely would be submitted to BWSR the following day to start the 90-day review after speaking with Barr Engineering, the consulting firm hired to help write the plan. In the coming months, King said, Cedar River 1W1P staff will present the draft plan to BWSR’s southern region committee. King and Justin Hanson (*Mower SWCD staff*) likely then will present the plan Dec. 18 to the BWSR state board in the Twin Cities. If approved at that time, the plan then would come back to the local government units in the Cedar River 1W1P planning area for up to 120 days to vote on whether to approve and adopt the plan as their new water-management plan.

Cedar River 1W1P partners also will need to renew a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for implementation of the final, approved plan. A formula for 1W1P state funding is not yet finalized but, as of now, Cedar River 1W1P potentially could receive \$560,000 to \$630,000 overall for a two-year budget.

Next meeting

Policy Committee members will plan to meet after the 90-day BWSR review. They scheduled a meeting for 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 8, at the Austin Public Library.

Adjournment

Baldus made a motion to adjourn. Smith seconded. **Motion approved.** Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Submitted by Tim Ruzek (Mower SWCD)