



Long Prairie River One Watershed One Plan Advisory Committee Meeting Report June 4, 2021

Attendees

In-Person: Tad Erickson (Region 5), Danielle Anderson (Douglas SWCD), Rebecca Sternquist (Douglas County), Shannon Wettstein (Morrison SWCD), Ben Underhill (East Otter Tail SWCD), Chris Pence (BWSR), Moriya Rufer (Houston Engineering)

Online: Adam Ossefoort (Todd County), Mark Anderson (DNR), Brad Wozney (BWSR), Dan Disrud (MDH), Bonnie Finnerty (MPCA), Todd Holman (TNC), Deja Anton (Todd SWCD), Chuck Parrins (Morrison County), Chris LeClair (Otter Tail County), Russel Klienschmidt (NRCS)

Meeting Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was to prioritize issues by planning region to start assigning geographic locations to the priority issues.

Timeline

This graphic is a simplified version of the overall timeline. We are currently transitioning from issues to goals over the next month.



Prioritizing Issues

At the last Policy Committee meeting, the issues were prioritized into three categories: A, B and C based on how much effort and funding would be applied to each. Priority A Issues will be the main focus of effort and funding over the 10 year plan. Priority B Issues will be a secondary focus for effort and funding over the 10 year plan. Priority A and B Issues will be the focus of measurable goals in the next step of the planning process.

To prioritize issues by Planning Region (Figure 1), the participants that attended the meeting in person worked in a small group using a worksheet to assign High, Medium, and Low priority to each Planning Region for each issue. The online participants used a Google survey to prioritize issues by planning region. Once the two groups (online and in-person) were finished, the large group participated in a discussion to reconcile the two lists.

There were many agreements between the two groups. Issues that did not have agreement were discussed. The SWCDs had the final say in the rankings per area.

Three issues warranted more discussion to provide more separation; these three issues were in the Priority B category (see page 4). The large group discussion led to a decision to have the Steering Committee revisit these issues in their next meeting.

The results of the planning region prioritization are on pages 3 - 4 of this report.

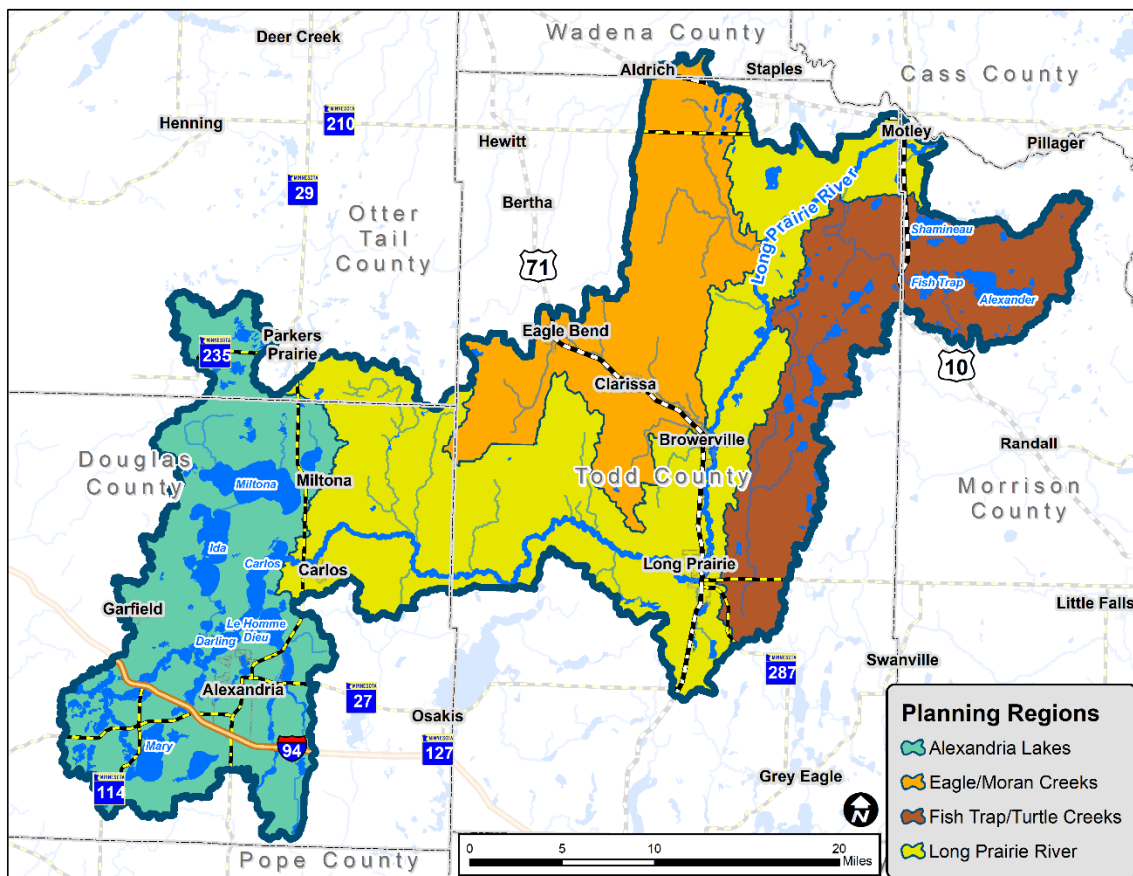

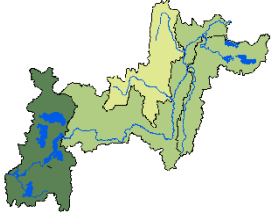

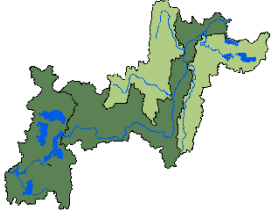

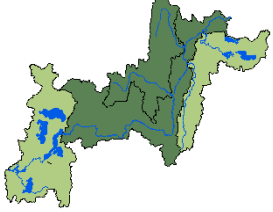

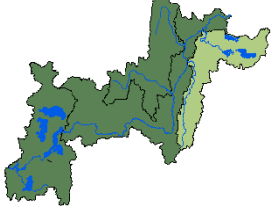

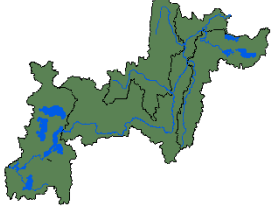

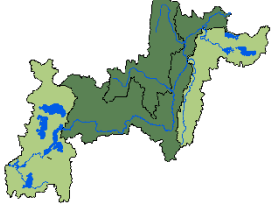

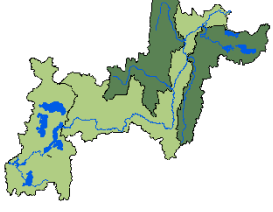




Figure 1. Planning regions in the Long Prairie River Watershed.












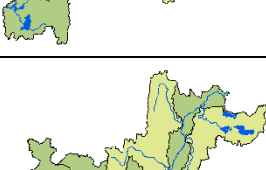

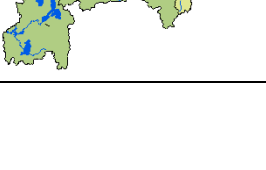
Priority A Issues: where to spend the most effort and funds in the plan

Planning Region Prioritization:  = high priority;  = medium priority;  = low priority.

	Issue Statement	Planning Region Prioritization	Place Holder Notes
	<p>Stormwater runoff from urban areas, developed shoreland property, and roads causes contamination of lakes and streams.</p>		<p>Includes nutrients, sediments, contaminants, chloride, bacteria, fertilizer, pesticides</p>
	<p>Shallow groundwater water paired with sandy soils is vulnerable to contamination.</p>		<p>Includes nitrates, arsenic, PFAs, PFOs, hazardous waste, chloride, pesticides, unsealed wells, Strategy: nutrient management.</p>
	<p>Nutrient and bacteria runoff from feedlots and livestock grazing impacts water quality.</p>		<p>Includes <i>E.coli</i> impairments. Waste pit closures effects on drinking water. Feedlot BMPs, septic system maintenance. Cattle exclusion and watering? Livestock crossing.</p>
	<p>Field erosion and runoff causes nutrient and sediment loading and low dissolved oxygen in lakes and streams.</p>		<p>Agricultural field runoff, Dissolved oxygen impairments. Buffer law status in each county</p>
	<p>Alterations to natural drainage such as tiling, ditching and culvert placement increases the flow of water, streambank erosion, and impacts aquatic life.</p>		<p>Altered hydrology. Once channelized, treatment stops. Connectivity and fish passage included in “aquatic life”.</p>
	<p>Degraded soil health can reduce agricultural productivity and water holding capacity.</p>		<p>Strategies: cover crops, no till</p>
	<p>Fragmentation and conversion of uplands (forest and grassland) by changes in land use (development, agriculture, disturbance) impacts surface water, groundwater, and habitat quality.</p>		<p>Includes pollinators, terrestrial invasive species (Buckthorn, Emerald Ash Borer), parcelization, subdivisions. Focus for protection and forest management actions (Landscape Stewardship Plan).</p>

Priority B Issues – secondary priority for effort and funds in the plan

Planning Region Prioritization:  = medium priority;  = low priority.

	Issue Statement	Planning Region Prioritization	Place Holder Notes
	Development pressure on lakes impacts riparian habitat, fragments upland habitat and affects water quality.		Includes increased impervious surface, destruction of habitat, 2 nd tier development, land use regulations. Redevelopment and new development. Intensification of use.
	Riparian alteration and nutrient and sediment load habitat quality.		High water erosion in lakes and shoreline alterations, vegetation removal. Does this address Ag or Lakeshore?
	High water levels in lakes and streams cause flooding and economic impacts.		High water in Shamineau and Nelson Lakes. Focus on what we can fix and do during implementation.
	Biologically significant lakes, shallow lakes, wild rice lakes, and trout streams need sufficient protections to maintain their water and habitat quality.		Addresses high quality and protection
	Wetlands are abundant in the watershed and some land practices could threaten the extent and quality of wetlands, impacting water storage, water quality, and habitat.		Used wording from the Advisory Committee brainstorm.
	Chloride concentrations are increasing in lakes and streams due to many sources (water softeners, industry, road salts, stormwater infiltration to groundwater).		Douglas (Alexandria), Todd (Long Prairie)
	Irrigation use has the potential to reduce groundwater quantity .		Not sure how much irrigation is impacting. Look for evidence of groundwater lowering. Preventative or existing issue?

Note: These three issue statements will be edited by the Steering Committee

Next Steps

Steering Committee meeting, June 10:

The Steering Committee will review the wording of three issues that need clarification: Development Pressure, Riparian Alteration, and High Water Levels and revise their Planning Region Prioritization.

Steering Committee meeting: July 8:

The Steering Committee will discuss criteria to use to prioritize resources in the watershed such as lakes, streams, forests, and agricultural lands.

Technical Advisory Committee meeting, July 9:

The Technical Advisory Committee will discuss criteria to use to prioritize resources in the watershed such as lakes, streams, forests, and agricultural lands and begin drafting measurable goals.