

Long Prairie River One Watershed One Plan Advisory Committee Meeting Report May 10, 2021

Attendees

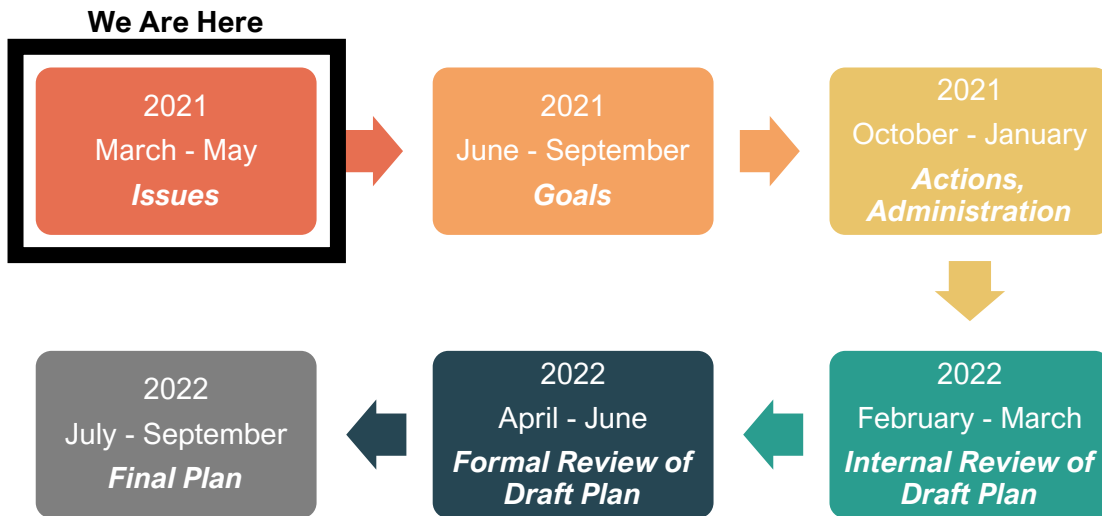
Tad Erickson (Region 5), Adam Ossefoort (Todd County), Lewis Noska (Todd SWCD), Danielle Anderson (Douglas SWCD), Jerry Haggemiller (Douglas SWCD), Ted Gray (City of Long Prairie), Ben Underhill (East Otter Tail SWCD), Deja Anton (Todd SWCD), Todd Holman (TNC), Rebecca Sternquist (Douglas County), Chris Pence (BWSR), Brad Wozney (BWSR), Dan Disrud (MDH), Mark Anderson (DNR), Lance Chisholm (Morrison SWCD), Brad Mergens (West Otter Tail SWCD), Al Yoder (City of Motley), Ken Hovet (Hartford Township), Moriya Rufer (Houston Engineering)

Meeting Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was to review the draft issues list and then prioritize issues in the watershed.

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.



Revising Issues

Issues in the watershed have been gathered over the past two months from numerous sources shown below and crafted into issue statements. The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Plan Content Requirements (2.1) require a “*brief issue statement that describes the relevance of the issue for the planning area*”.



Participants were asked to keep the following items in mind when reviewing the issue statements:

- Is it within the authority/purpose of the partnership to address?
- Do we understand the current issue (data exist for goal)?
- Do clear strategies exist to address the issue?
- *Wording is still draft – today we want to make sure the main point of the issue statement is captured in **bold***

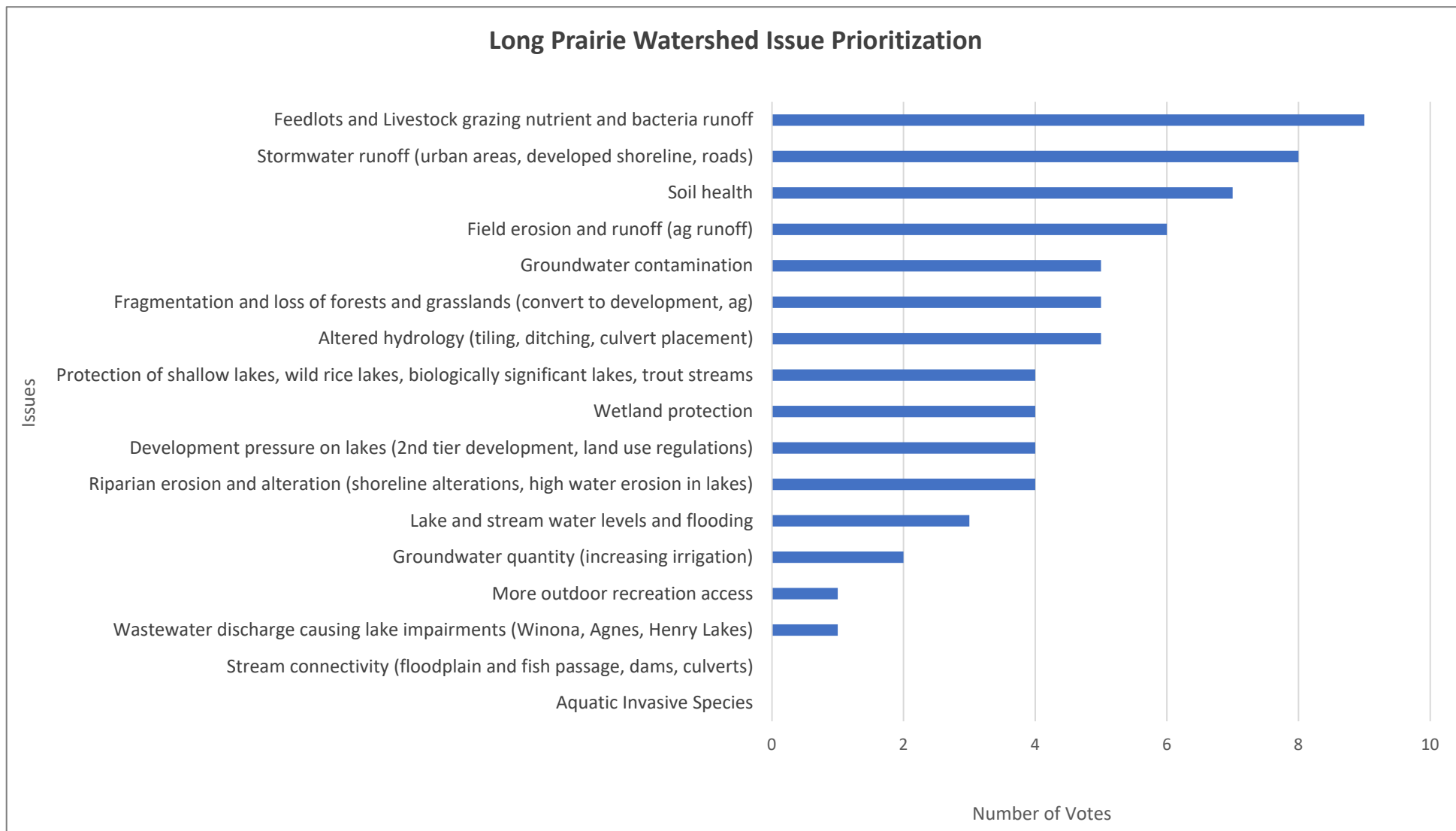
The issue statements were reviewed during the meeting and the following recommendations were made by the group:

- Address groundwater contamination and high water levels in two separate issues
- Move septic system compliance to an implementation strategy (action)
- Change the *E.coli* issue statement to be more inclusive of other feedlot and livestock impacts
- Add an issue statement about chlorides (concerns from water softeners, industry, road salts, stormwater infiltration to groundwater)
- Re-word the soil health issue statement to be more specific as to its benefits
- Include Aquatic Invasive Species as an issue statement, but also note it has its own plan and funding source
- Move public outreach to an implementation strategy for all issues

These changes were incorporated and the revised issues list is attached to the end of this report.

Prioritizing Issues

Once the group came to consensus on the issue statements, they were given 15 minutes to fill in a Google survey and choose the top five issues that they would like to spend the most effort and funding on in the next 10 years. The results of the prioritization are below.



Next Steps

Steering Committee meeting, May 13:

The Steering Committee will review the wording of the issue statements and the prioritization from this meeting. They will decide on priority A, B and C issue categories based on the prioritization.

Policy Committee meeting, May 20:

The draft issue statement prioritization will be presented to the Policy Committee for comments and approval.

Technical Advisory Committee meeting, June 4:









The Technical Advisory Committee will prioritize issue statements by planning region to begin assigning location information on where to work in the watershed. Then they will discuss criteria to use to prioritize resources in the watershed such as lakes, streams, forests, and agricultural lands.











Long Prairie River Watershed DRAFT Issues List

Over the past month, the Long Prairie 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, a public kick-off event, an Advisory Committee meeting, and a Citizen Advisory Committee meeting (Figure 1). These issues have been synthesized into the following draft issue statements below. Next steps are described on page 3.



Figure 1. Process for gathering issue statements.

Category	Resource	Issue Statement	Place Holder Notes
Definitions	Resource affected	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 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	Shallow groundwater water paired with sandy soils is vulnerable to contamination .	Includes nitrates, arsenic, PFAs, PFOs, hazardous waste, chloride, pesticides, unsealed wells, Strategy: nutrient management .
	Aquifer	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?
	Lakes, Streams	High water levels in lakes and streams cause flooding and economic impacts.	High water in Shamineau and Nelson Lakes.
	Lakes	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.
	Lakes, Streams	Riparian alteration and erosion causes nutrient and sediment loading and reduced habitat quality.	High water erosion in lakes and shoreline alterations, vegetation removal.
	Lakes, Streams	Field erosion and runoff causes nutrient and sediment loading and low dissolved oxygen in lakes and streams.	DO impairments, agricultural runoff
	Lakes, Streams, Groundwater	Nutrient and bacteria runoff from feedlots and livestock grazing impact water quality.	Includes <i>E.coli</i> impairments. Waste pit closures effects on drinking water. Feedlot BMPs, septic system maintenance.
	Lakes, Streams	Alterations to natural drainage such as tiling, ditching and culvert placement increases the flow of water, streambank erosion, and impacts aquatic life.	Altered hydrology (tried to make it more understandable to the public). Once channelized, treatment stops (work that in) .

Category	Resource	Issue Statement	Place Holder Notes
	Wetlands	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.
	Lakes, Streams	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
	Lakes, Streams	Stormwater runoff from urban areas, developed shoreland property, and roads causes contamination of lakes and streams.	Includes nutrients, sediments, contaminants, chloride, bacteria, fertilizer, pesticides
	Lakes	Nutrient loading from wastewater discharge is causing lake impairments.	Winona, Agnes, Henry Lakes
	Lakes and streams	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)
	Forest and Grassland	Fragmentation and conversion of uplands (forest and grassland) by changes in land use (development, agriculture, disturbance) impacts surface water, groundwater, and habitat quality.	Includes pollinators, terrestrial invasive species (Buckthorn, Emerald Ash Borer), parcelization, subdivisions
	Soil	Degraded soil health can reduce agricultural productivity and water holding capacity.	
	Lakes	Aquatic Invasive Species impact the aquatic ecosystem, water quality, recreation, and economic development.	Discuss how to address in the plan. Keep it as issue but not address directly in the plan.
	Streams	Reduced connectivity of streams and the floodplain impacts fish and other aquatic species.	Dams, culverts, floodplain, bio impairments, aquatic vegetation removal
	All Resources	More outdoor recreation access is needed for the public to enjoy the natural resources of the watershed.	Adding boat access points to the Long Prairie River, more access to public lands. Counties have the ability?
All Categories	All Resources	More public outreach and cooperation is needed for adoption of best management practices.	Applies to all issues. Move to implementation strategy for all issues.
		Non-compliant septic systems are a risk to surface and groundwater quality.	Will address as an implementation strategy/action

Issues Next Steps:

