



Long Prairie River One Watershed One Plan Advisory Committee Meeting Report July 9, 2021

Attendees

In-Person: Tad Erickson (Region 5), Danielle Anderson (Douglas SWCD), Jerry Haggemiller (Douglas SWCD), Ted Gray (City of Long Prairie), Ken Hovet (Hartford Township), Shannon Wettstein (Morrison SWCD), Adam Ossefoort (Todd County), Mark Anderson (DNR), Calib Ophoven (DNR), Ben Underhill (East Otter Tail SWCD), Chris Pence (BWSR), Todd Holman (TNC), Moriya Rufer (Houston Engineering)

Online: Bonnie Finnerty (MPCA)

Meeting Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss Resource Prioritization and what criteria and data would be useful for prioritizing resources (rivers, lakes, habitat) in the Long Prairie River Watershed.

Timeline

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



Definitions

There are three management strategies that can be used as overall categories for resources in the watershed.

PROTECT

Waterbody is in good condition (well above the state standard)

ENHANCE

Waterbody is not impaired but near the standard or has a declining water quality trend “NEARLY”

RESTORE

Waterbody is impaired

These management strategies were introduced to the group. Then, as a large group, the following criteria were discussed as to their relevance for prioritizing where to work in the watershed. Discussion notes are provided per category below.

Groundwater

<p><u>Some criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater Recharge • Appropriation Permits • Nitrogen Infiltration Risk • Township Testing Nitrate Results • Surficial Sand Aquifer 	<p><u>Discussion Notes:</u></p> <p>The group decided that the Nitrogen Infiltration Risk Analysis would be useful for prioritize where to implement nutrient management strategies. This analysis will be run in between meetings and brought to the next Technical Advisory Committee meeting.</p> <p>Other data the group was interested in seeing were pesticides, chlorides, where there are wells, an area by Long Prairie where you can't drill a well right now due to plumes.</p>
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Agricultural Land – Soil Health and Erosion

<p><u>Some criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nitrogen infiltration risk • Sediment delivery (overland erosion) • Phosphorus delivery (overland erosion) • Existing BMPs per watershed (MPCA Healthier Watersheds) • Prime Farmland 	<p><u>Discussion Notes:</u></p> <p>The group decided that Prime Farmland would not be useful for prioritizing because it varies so much by specific location.</p> <p>Other useful criteria would be feedlots, animal units, and basic soils.</p> <p>A new idea was to use gross seeds/acre. It is not known if this data is available from the FSA for use.</p>
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Habitat

<p><u>Some criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological Wildlife Benefit (BWSR Tool) • Wildlife Action Network • Sites of Biodiversity Significance (MCBS) • Biological Impairments • Aquatic Connectivity 	<p><u>Discussion Notes:</u></p> <p>The group thought that Conservation Focus Areas (DNR) would be useful.</p> <p>Other criteria that could be used are restorable wetlands and areas of wild rice in the Long Prairie River.</p>
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Forests

<p><u>Some criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape Stewardship Plan PFM Focus Areas • Groundwater Recharge • Risk of Conversion to Agriculture (we can also look at past conversions and what it was converted to) • % Disturbed Land (><25%) • Animal Units (WHAF) • Aquatic Connectivity 	<p><u>Discussion Notes:</u></p> <p>The group suggested that looking at county zoning would show where development is possible and where zoning is somewhat protective.</p> <p>A question that arose was to see if Poplar Plantations are counted as farmland (CRP?) or forestland. This can be looked into.</p> <p>Some other ideas include looking at the risk of oak wilt and emerald ash borer on forest diversity and forest health, looking at heritage databases for significant species to manage for, and possibly implementing private forest management (PFM) on tracts of land smaller than 20 acres.</p>
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Streams

<p><u>Some criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impaired vs Not Impaired • Trout • WRAPS Stream Protection Priorities • % Disturbed Land (><25%) • Animal Units (WHAF) • Altered Streams 	<p><u>Discussion Notes:</u></p> <p>Make a map of ditches and prioritize those as well as streams (look for recent county petitions for ditch cleaning).</p> <p>Emerging issue: sulfate impairments.</p>
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Lakes

<p><u>Some criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impaired vs Not Impaired• Biological Significance (includes wild rice and cisco)• Property Value (importance to the local economy)• Lakes Benefit:Cost Assessment• Shoreland Classification (GD, RD, NE)• Nearly/Barely assessment• Phosphorus Sensitivity• Phosphorus delivery from HSPF model• % Disturbed Land (25%)• Impervious cover (WHAF)	<p><u>Discussion Notes:</u></p> <p>Impaired lakes feed high quality lakes: Agnes, Henry, and Winona flow into the Alexandria lakes, and Fish and Twin Lakes flow into Lake Miltona.</p> <p>Look at property value – tax base for major lakes.</p> <p>Lake Charlotte is in the Long Prairie DWSMA.</p> <p>Bonnie will gather existing Nearly/Barely assessment information.</p>
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Next Steps

Technical Advisory Committee meeting, August 6:

The Technical Advisory Committee will prioritize resources and draft goals for surface water and groundwater resource categories.

Steering Committee meeting: August 12:

The Steering Committee will review draft goals so far and approve any analyses needed for determining goal numbers.

Technical Advisory Committee meeting, September 10:

The Technical Advisory Committee will prioritize resources and draft goals for land and habitat resource categories.

Policy Committee meeting, September 16:

The Policy Committee will meet to approve the Land and Water Resource Narrative, Vision Statement and Guiding Principles, and review draft Goals.