

# Redwood River 1W1P

## 60-Day Formal Review: Comment Response Table

#	Commenter	Section	Page	Paragraph	Comment	Editorial	Material	Note	Change Needed	Revision
1	DNR	3	Page 3-7	Invasive Species	The last two paragraphs on this page address aquatic invasive species, specifically noting that zebra mussels have not been observed in the in RRW. Please note that, as of 2024, zebra mussels have been observed in East Twin Lake. We suggest amending this section of the plan to denote that zebra mussels are present in the RRW.		X		Y	Added new AIS to plan narrative as recommended, with thanks
2	DNR	4	Pages 4-13	Bank Erosion	<p>Landscape and climate changes in the RRW have resulted in significant alterations to runoff duration and peak discharge to local rivers and streams. The plan identifies development of storage areas to reduce impacts from high intensity peak flows, however, while large floods can create significant damage and erosion, changes in flow duration for frequent lower intensity events also represents high erosion potential for destabilization of channel bed and banks. Along these lines, we suggest mentioning changes in flow duration as well as peak flows as a part of conditions impacting channel erosion potential in these sections. The water storage goal described on page 4-11 will have a host of benefits for all events in the watershed hydrologic regime, including reducing peak flow reduction and moderating changes in duration for the moderate more frequently occurring flows, reducing erosion potential across the board.</p> <p>Bank erosion is a factor of flow, bank height, vegetative protection, and floodplain connectivity. Channels that are connected to their adjacent floodplains exhibit less bank erosion than those that contain flows within the channel. The bank erosion-specific goal of 2,000 linear feet of streambank can make sites more resilient to erosion, if properly implemented. While hard armoring (i.e. rip-rap) is a reasonable strategy to protect infrastructure, more natural approaches like toe wood can improve floodplain connectivity and instream habitat - woody debris plays a significant role in providing habitat for aquatic organisms.</p>		X		Y	Added text about change in flow duration as recommended.
3	DNR	5	Page 5-6	Land Protection	Solar farms are listed as a consideration for Land Protection. While solar farms are a valuable source of renewable energy, the inclusion at this point in the tables appears to suggest that solar farms that are being placed on the land with temporary or permanent habitat easements, which may not be ideal sites for consideration of these facilities due to habitat considerations for native species and communities. We suggest adding a clarifying statement to ensure clarity that solar farms are not suggested for lands in permanent easement programs.		X		Y	Removed solar farm language in action. Added as an "Emerging Issue" using the Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota as the starting point. Statement added about potential for increased runoff coming from solar farms (cite MPCA) - native grasses are best to manage underneath. Also included language about waste / disposal.
4	DNR	5	Page 5-6	Stormwater Management	If these projects are to be partnered with potential stream projects, please include DNR as a partner in the planning process		X		Y	DNR added as a partner for WW-10
5	DNR	5	Page 5-7	Watershed Education and Outreach	Please add DNR as a partner in the development of educational and outreach programs within the RRW. DNR staff can assist with these efforts.		X		Y	DNR added as a partner for EO-1
6	MDA	6	Page 6-5,	Table 6-1	Summary of ongoing water quality and quantity monitoring programs. • Under MDA, please add: GW (Groundwater) for Chlorides.		X		Y	Added GW for MDA
7	MDA	7	Page 7-6,	Table 7-3	Example funding sources for the RRW. • For MDA: Nutrient Management Initiative (NMI). Please include an indicator dot under the Education and Outreach column		X		Y	Indicator added

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8	MDA	General			The MDA maintains a variety of water quality and financial assistance programs including research, demonstration, as well as ground and surface water monitoring. Our goal is to provide you with information from each program to help address resource concerns and further engage the agricultural community during implementation efforts. Please refer to the MDA's priority concerns letter for more information on programs that may be of assistance in the future.			X	N	Comment noted, with thanks.
9	MDH	General			The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Source Water Protection Unit appreciates the opportunity to review the draft Redwood Watershed One Watershed One Plan (1W1P). MDH appreciates the plan partners for including groundwater and drinking water in the plan. Thank you for allowing MDH the opportunity to be part of the steering and advisory committees and for incorporating our ideas and suggestions into the draft plan. The comments and suggestions MDH provided during plan development have been addressed and there are no further comments.			X	N	Comment noted, with thanks.
10	MPCA	General			The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) appreciates the opportunity to participate and provide input throughout the Redwood Middle Minnesota (RWMM) Final Comprehensive Watershed Management (RWMP) Plan (Plan) development process for the RWMM Planning Area. Overall, the Plan is very well written, concise, and thorough. We have no comments as part of the official 30-Day (90-day) Review and Comment Period and recommend it for approval.			X	N	Comment noted, with thanks.
11	BWSR				We appreciate the group's efforts to include BWSR comments and make changes when suggested. Also, the list of appendices in the table of content makes them easy to find.			X	N	Comment noted, with thanks.
12	BWSR	1			Covers all BWSR requirements outlining the process on how the group has gotten to this point of the planning process along with issues, goals, targeted actions, and implementation. Mission statement isn't present but purpose is covered within the executive summary			X	N	Comment noted, with thanks.
13	BWSR	2			Covers BWSR requirements and is clear and concise. Easy to read and follow.			X	N	Comment noted, with thanks.
14	BWSR	3			Covers BWSR requirements, Table 3-1 & 3-2 make this user friendly.			X	N	Comment noted, with thanks.
15	BWSR	4			Covers BWSR requirements, including stacked benefits and focus maps makes this section easy to measure, show, and report successful achievements within the implementation of the plan.			X	N	Comment noted, with thanks.
16	BWSR	5			Covers BWSR requirements, the use of targeted practices both watershed wide and per region, along with the action tables on pages 5-6 through 5-8 make this a working section of the plan that includes targeting and funding sources.			X	N	Comment noted, with thanks.
17	BWSR	6	6-9		Public Drainage Sysyems: Remove LGU and county and add Drainage Authority, also it is the benefited landowners of the system not the entire county.		X		Y	Replaced LGU and County with drainage authority
18	BWSR	7	7-7		climate resiliency, MPCA has climate-planning grants for communities to improve stormwater or wastewater system resilience, reduce flood risk, and adapt community services, ordinances, or spaces. These grants directly connect to Water Storage and Flooding and Stormwater goal and actions.			X	Y	This grant is included as written with language that grants are available at the time plan was written and are subject to change.

**REDWOOD RIVER**  
**COMPREHENSIVE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES  
LYON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER – COMMISSIONERS' ROOM  
NOVEMBER 10, 2025 – 1:00 PM



Policy Committee (PC) Present: Gary Crowley-Area II, Larry Anderson-RCRCA, Tom Andries-Lyon County, Allen Deutz-Lyon SWCD, Jackie Meier-Murray County, Luke Johnson-Pipestone County, Michael Fruechte-Pipestone SWCD, Ed Carter-Redwood SWCD, Bob Byrnes-City of Marshall, and Larry Arentson-City of Redwood Falls.

Steering Team (ST) Present: Dale Sterzinger-Lincoln County, Courtney Williams-RCRCA, Nick Brozek-Redwood SWCD/County, Kerry Netzke-RCRCA/Area II, and John Shea-BWSR.

Consultant: Rachel Olm, Houston Engineering Inc.

Others: Rae Runck-Brown SWCD.

Kerry Netzke welcomed everyone and extended her appreciation of Rachel Olm and the efforts of the Steering Team, Advisory Committee and Policy Committee for their contributions to the development of the plan.

Netzke provided opening comments. A proposal was submitted on June 15, 2023 to BWSR requesting funding to begin planning for a comprehensive watershed management plan (CWMP) for the Redwood River. That effort would combine data and goals from the existing county water plans based on county boundaries, with more recent water quality data contained in the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies document, to create a comprehensive plan based on the watershed boundary, that will **prioritize** the resources and issues, **target** the implementation to have the most impact on water quality, and reasonably **measure** the results. Planning grant funds were awarded on August 24, 2023 and the Memorandum of Agreement for Planning was fully executed on February 26, 2024. This MOA allowed five counties, four SWCDs, two joint powers organizations, and three city governments to join forces and create the Redwood CWMP. Over the past 18 months, the Steering Team, Advisory Committee and Policy Committee have worked diligently, alongside Rachel Olm, our Project Manager from Houston Engineering Inc., who has facilitated this effort from start to finish. The Policy Committee members were introduced and the meeting turned over to Luke Johnson, Chairman of the Policy Committee.

Johnson asked for a motion to open the public hearing. Motion by Deutz, seconded by Meier, to open the public hearing at 1:05 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

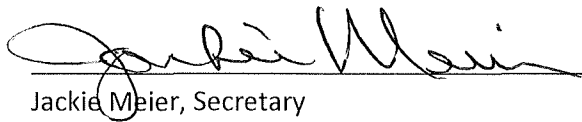
Johnson introduced Rachel Olm, Houston Engineering. Olm presented a PowerPoint overviewing the One Watershed, One Plan program – what it is, and what it isn't. The plan does not create another layer of government, is not a regulatory program, and is not a technical report regurgitating data. It is a public-facing document that summarizes the prioritized resources in the watershed, targets where implementation efforts will be most effective, with results that can be measured for success. Watershed Based Implementation Funds (WBIF) of approximately \$550,000 per year, in addition to other existing local and federal funding, will be available for cost-share of the implemented practices. Highlights of the Redwood River CWMP were reviewed including the priority resources, priority areas, and the measurable goals. Public input was important throughout the development of the Plan beginning with three informational meetings held in Lake Benton, Marshall and Redwood Falls on June 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of

2024 to gather the concerns and issues regarding the watershed. The 60-Day Formal Review ran from August 1 through September with comments received from MPCA, MDH, MDA, BWSR and DNR which were supportive in nature with some editorial comments. A Comment Response Table was provided to the audience detailing the comments made and the response. Olm concluded by stating that the Plan and the WBIF grants will be implemented through the existing joint powers agreement of the Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area.

Chairman Johnson asked for any questions or comments from the floor. No comments were received. Olm added that the Comment Response table will be considered final and will now become an appendix to the Plan.

Motion by Meier, seconded by Arentson, to close the public hearing at 1:23 PM.

The Chairman declared this meeting adjourned at 1:23 PM.



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Jackie Meier, Secretary