

Draft NPS Pollution Task Force November 18, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Karl Rockeman at 8:43 a.m.

Task Force member introductions were made. See attached list of members in attendance.

Karl asked for any corrections or additions to the March 4, 2015 Conference Call minutes. Julie Ellingson made a motion to approve them, as written. Tom Scherer seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Greg Sandness provided an overview of the project pre-proposal review process and the purpose of today's meeting and sponsor presentations. He stated that although the FY2016 Section 319 budget had not yet been finalized, the Department was expecting the FY2016 allocation for projects to be approximately \$2.8 million, which is similar to the amount awarded in 2015.

The sponsors for the FY2016 project pre-proposals provided a 15 minute presentation on their projects. A short question and answer period was also included in the presentations. Following the presentations, the Task Force members discussed the strengths and weakness of each project. Projects presented and associated Task Force comments/questions are as follows:

ND Stockmen's Association Environmental Services Program – Phase II

- How many more concentrated feeding areas need to be addressed
- Numerous feed areas still need to be addressed
- Are the cost shared facilities being monitored to show improvement
- The Animal Feedlot Runoff Risk Index Worksheet is used to estimate nitrogen and phosphorus load reductions.
- Other monitoring options should be evaluated
- The length of the project could be cut to reduce funding request

Rancher Mentoring and Outreach Program

- Describe the Aldo Leopold award and the selection criteria
- Is there a central office for the project
- Options for measuring water quality benefits associated with the project should be evaluated
- Track adoption of practices resulting from the project's educational programs
- Document success through follow-up contacts with people assisted by the mentoring process
- Increase coordination with local NPS project sponsors and staff
- Limit or omit costs associated with the mentor training

Spiritwood Lake Watershed

- Start-up efforts should focus on the outlet development, septic systems and hypolimnetic drawdown system.
- Clarify if the refuge will be impacted by development of the natural outlet for the lake
- Omit the non-contributing portion of the watershed from the project area
- Cost for watershed practices could be postponed and included in the next phase

ND Livestock Pollution Prevention Program

- Clarify what the Department of Agriculture contributes to the project
- Duplication with the ND Stockmen's Association project needs to be avoided

Middle Sheyenne River Watershed

- Good project with emphasis on riparian area management
- Land use information needs to be updated

North Dakota Riparian Ecological Site Description Development

- Could reduce the number of site evaluations to pare back the budget
- Describe how the ecological site descriptions will be used in water quality management

NPS BMP Team

- Costs for project administration seem low
- Important project for the development and installation of manure management systems
- Is Barnes SCD being adequately compensated for project management
- May be more appropriate to manage this project at the state level

Prairie Water Education and Research Center

- Include more discussion on the connection between the educational message and land use/management
- Strengthen/expand educational offerings targeting resource managers (e.g., SCD and Extension Service staff)
- Include more agriculture related sessions
- Avoid duplication with Project WET

Wild Rice River Restoration and Riparian Project – Phase II

- Expand the description of the partial manure management systems
- CCSP farm costs are high
- The CCSP farm should be a stand-alone project and not be included in the watershed project plan
- Limit the CCSP budget to 2 – 3 years
- Consider submitting the CCSP Farm as a separate proposal in a couple years

The Regional Environmental Education Series (TREES)

- Good longstanding project
- Coordinate with teachers to determine if there are feasible options to conduct pre/post lyceum tests

English Coulee Watershed

- Focus the BMPs on priority areas
- Good project involving an urban partner

Powers Lake Watershed – Phase III

- Appreciate the project provided data and information to describe previous progress
- Unique and interesting project for the NPS Program

- Include results of sediment analysis in final project plan, if available
- Potential for ground water contamination at the disposal site must be evaluated
- Strong local support and enthusiasm

Greg Sandness asked the Task Force to set a deadline for submittal of the Project Review Worksheets. The Task Force set December 1st as the due date. Greg stated that once the Worksheets were returned, the Task Force comments would be forwarded to the project sponsors to assist them in completing the final project plans.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Attendees

Name	Agency/Organization	Email
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