

December 15, 2021 Task Force Meeting Minutes:

Meeting called to order – 8:30 a.m. CT

Members in Attendance:

Name	Agency	Email
Karl Rockeman	NDDEQ	krockema@nd.gov
Greg Sandness	NDDEQ	gsandnes@nd.gov
Aaron Larsen	NDDEQ	allarsen@nd.gov
Aaron Field	NDSU Extension	aaron.field@ndsu.edu
Fred Anderson	NDGS	fjanderson@nd.gov
Julie Ellingson	NDSA	jellingson@ndstockmen.org
Sam Swanberg	NDDWR	snswanberg@nd.gov
Scott Elstad	NDG&F	selstad@nd.gov
Kathy Duttenhefner	NDPRD	kgduttenehner@nd.gov
Ted Preister	RRBC	ted@redriverbasincommission.org
Ted Alme	NRCS	ted.alme@usda.gov
Scott Ressler	NDSA	sressler@ndstockmen.org
Chuck Fritz	IWI	charles@iwinst.org

Introductions:

- Karl Rockeman – Minutes from December 8, 2020 Task Force meeting approved
- Greg Sandness – House keeping
 - Section 319 budget for FY22 has not been finalized and is estimated to be completed by February/March
 - 2.8 million available last year for projects

Presentations:

- ND Stockman's Association Environmental Services Program – Scott Ressler
 - Phase VII
 - Highlighted different livestock management practices that funding is allocated for.
- The Regional Environmental Education Series (TREES) – Jill Vigesaa
 - Request to fund 350 projects serving 20,000 students.
 - Tom Gibson presents as an independent contractor (6 different programs), Jill Vigesaa coordinates the program.
- Upper Sheyenne River Watershed Pilot Project – Mandar Nangare
 - Funding requested for a 2 site, pilot project (narrowed from the original 18 sites identified in project scope).
 - Sites selected were estimated to have the greatest impact on the river's water quality.
- Menoken Farm Planting Green Project – Phase II – Darrell Oswald
 - Menoken farm is used to provide education, demonstrations and information to farmers, ranchers, and the general public – focus on soil health and carbon sequestration.

- Funding requested for continued implementation of soil health and “planting green” concepts
- Jamestown Reservoir Project – Dustin Krueger
 - Project goals - Reduction of harmful algal blooms (HABs) impacting recreational activities. Focus on phosphorus and sediment loading and identifying and tracking BMPs through PTMApp. Reduce E. coli in the 303D listed segment (below Jim Lake).
 - Has not determined monitoring site locations at this time.
- Pay-for-Progress (Water Quality Outcomes Program) – Chuck Fritz
 - Determine potential methods that utilize PTMApp to estimate nutrient reductions due to the implementation of BMPs and assign a monetary value to that reduction to serve as a basis for compensating producers for applied BMPs.
 - The main deliverables are recommendations on feasible options for a pay-for-progress program for the NPS Program to consider.
 - Stewardship program, a farmer led program, will provide the opportunity to gain direct producer feedback on the feasibility of the pay-for-progress options

----- 15 Minute Break -----

- Red River Basin River Watch and River of Dreams Program – Asher Kingery
 - Funding for education programs within the Red River Basin
 - River of Dreams – understanding of a watershed, make a canoe and track it as it goes downstream (4th, 5th and 6th grade)
 - River Watch – Hands on water quality monitoring (7th – 12th grade)
- Antelope Creek Watershed & Wild Rice Riparian Corridor Project – Jennifer Klostreich
 - Assisting landowners in prescribing and implementing BMPs within the Antelope Creek Watershed
 - Phase VI
- Turtle River Watershed Project – Larimore Dam – Justin Parks
 - Major watershed issues – nutrients and HABs
 - Project goals – 25% Phosphorous reduction, reduce sediment loading, education/outreach/demonstrations
- Envirothon – Andrea Peterson
 - Team competition centered around natural resources and solving environmental issues
 - 360 teams and 1,800 students
 - Seeking funding to support staff and put on the regional events in the Fall and state event in May
 - Want to expand to include an indigenous team(s) to increase diversity
- Upper Spring Creek Watershed – Mikayla Schlegel
 - Phase II
 - Success story – 17 producers have been assisted through the program. 3 more have been added to the list of contracts in 2021.

----- 15 Minute Break -----

Task Force Project Proposals Discussion

- Recommendations for Future Application Materials
 - Streamline requirements/Create guidelines for the application – define how they should be presenting the data in the proposals and what the expectations are – Consistency to assist task force in identifying information in the proposals
 - Proposal should include a summary of past phases if the project is a continuation

- ND Stockman's Association Environmental Services Program – Scott Ressler
 - Question: Selection criteria for sites that get addressed. Why Froelich Dam? Is there a prioritization scheme or do they just pick projects as people call in?
- The Regional Environmental Education Series (TREES) – Jill Vigessaa
 - Comment: Concerned with Tom suggesting retirement... maybe they should consider regional help to fill in some of the gaps.
 - Comment: Not completely NPS related
- Upper Sheyenne River Watershed Pilot Project – Mandar Nangare
 - Question: How did the sites break down? How many are they requesting be funded for monitoring?
 - Comment: Dependent on funding from other sources to achieve the monetary value needed. Questionable whether there will be phase continuations.
 - Comment: Greater expectations as far as planning goes if the project were to be approved for continued funding.
 - Comment: Budget tables need to be presented in the standard format
- Menoken Farm Planting Green Project – Phase II – Darrell Oswald
 - Question: Where is the data going. It is education based but is the information and data collected available anywhere? – e.g., Annual Reports and Newsletters
- Jamestown Reservoir Project – Dustin Krueger
 - Question: Three sub-watersheds shown... what year(s) was the water quality data from? – Actually, used a model number for nutrients and sediments generated by PTMApp. For the reach below Jim Lake, the major parameter of concern is E. coli bacteria. That reach is on the 303(d) list due to recreational use impairments. Will continue bacteria source tracking monitoring in 2022 on the Jim Lake reach.
 - Comment: Sampling options may be limited on the other tributaries due to intermittent flows.
 - Comment: Project did not define sites as part of the proposal
 - Question: How do they go about verifying what is being modelled?
- Pay-for-Progress (Water Quality Outcomes Program) – Chuck Fritz
 - Comment: Please explain why this is necessary. – Intended to provide alternatives to replace the current cost sharing process and a process based on an environmental outcome rather than the quantity of the applied BMP.
 - Comment: The process of determining the values of BMP improvements seems arbitrary.
 - Question: Would this program reduce uncertainty for producers?
 - Comment: This opportunity is a learning process... hard to tell how it will play out.
 - Question: What is going to be behind the number? Are we going to come ahead on this?

- A lot of clarifying requested and hesitation from some task force members...
Presentation wasn't clear on project goals and the funding basis
- Red River Basin River Watch and River of Dreams Program – Asher Kingery
 - Comment: Concern with money being used in MN – All money from ND NPS will be used in ND
- Antelope Creek Watershed & Wild Rice Riparian Corridor Project – Jennifer Klostreich
 - Question: Why one mile? – Check on the basis for this number
 - Question: Can anybody get money for a well decommissioning? How do they identify them?
 - Comment: Proposal is broad, but they seem to be doing a good job.
- Turtle River Watershed Project – Larimore Dam – Justin Parks
 - Comment: Education trailer for \$50,000 seems excessive. Would that be better spent funding something else? – There are opportunities for them to utilize already existing equipment for outreach.
- Envirothon – Andrea Peterson
 - Comment: Not completely NPS related
 - Comment: Incorporation with other agencies onto the board. e.g., Ag Dept., DEQ.
 - Comment: Funding from NPS may be crucial for continuation of event if their alternative funding sources discontinue support.
- Upper Spring Creek Watershed – Mikayla Schlegel
 - No comments

Task Force evaluation worksheets and any additional comments must be submitted by the 31st of December.

Adjourned – 1:22 p.m. CT