



# Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

March 3, 2022, 10:00am - Noon

Roseau River Watershed District Office & Virtual

**In-person Participants:** Janine Lovold (Roseau SWCD), Tracy Halstengard (RRWD), Torin McCormick (RRWD), Matt Fischer (BWSR), Cary Hernandez (MPCA), Dan Disrud (MDH), Kathy Fillmore (NRCS), James Johnson (landowner), Scott Habstritt (landowner), Moriya Rufer (HEI).

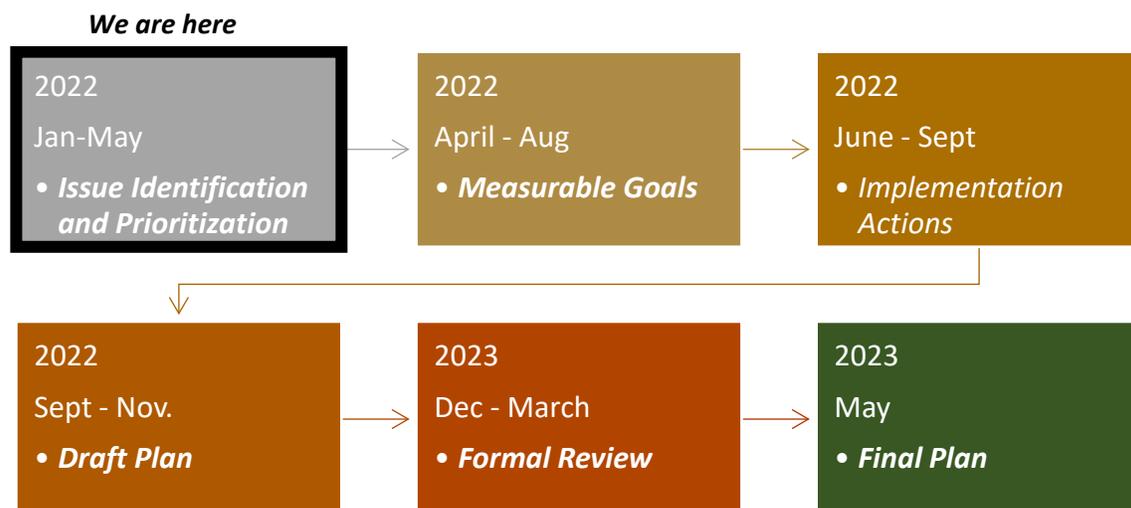
**Virtual Participants:** Brian Grier, Daryle Dahl (Roseau County), Glen Kajewski (MWQCP), Stephanie Klamm (DNR Waters), Rachel Miller (DOT), Randy Prachar (DNR Wildlife), Phil Talmage (DNR Fisheries), Erik Jones (HEI).

## Meeting Purpose

This was the first meeting of the Advisory Committee, and the purpose was to introduce committee participants to each other, build common ground within the partnership, and hear the priorities of the state agencies and local governments in the plan area.

## Project Timeline

This graphic is a simplified version of the overall timeline. We are currently beginning the planning process and are identifying issues in the watershed.





## Introductions

First, the participants introduced themselves and gave an answer to the question – “*In a couple words, what comes to mind about the Roseau River Watershed?*” Responses are summarized below:

- Diversity of the watershed resources
- Sand, peat, agriculture
- Natural areas
- Flat
- Balancing natural with agricultural production
- Proactive watershed district and partners
- Recreational opportunities
- Intact
- Good project potential
- Partners have good and effective working relationships
- High quality fishery

## Presentations

The presentations below outlined state agency priorities (also identified in their 60 Day letter), and local programs and priorities.

- Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Matt Fischer, Board Conservationist)
- Minnesota Department of Health (Dan Disrud, Source Water Protection Planner)
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (Stephanie Klamm, Hydrologist)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (Cary Hernandez, Watershed Project Manager)
- Janine Lovold, Roseau Soil and Water Conservation District
- Tracy Halstensgard, Roseau River Watershed District

## Public Kickoff Summary

The Public Kickoff was held December 16. Feedback will be matched up with issues gathered from other sources (existing plans and reports, AC meeting). Priorities from the public kickoff are highlighted in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Prioritization of issues at the Public Kickoff Meeting held December 16, 2021.



## Brainstorming Watershed Issues

Participants spent approximately 20 minutes brainstorming issues for the watershed in a Google Jamboard. These are summarized on the next few pages of this report by category. These brainstorming results will be matched up with the priorities from the state agency letters, the public kickoff meeting, and existing plans and reports about the watershed to determine watershed priorities.

## Visioning

A vision statement is an inspirational statement of an idealistic emotional future of a company, group, or place. A vision statement for a watershed can help guide future work and inspire partners to work together for the good of the watershed. Participants brainstormed ideas for a vision statement by answering two questions. Responses are in the table below. Common themes from these responses will be used for the Steering Committee to craft a vision statement.

What is special/unique about this watershed?	What is our aspiration for the next 10-50 years?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Diversity of resources</li><li>• Recreational opportunities</li><li>• Desire by partners to protect and improve the resource</li><li>• International</li><li>• A diverse mix of forest, wetland, and productive land</li><li>• A wide array of Agricultural potential</li><li>• Multiple recreational opportunities with relative ease of access</li><li>• Very flat terrain, challenges to balancing adequate drainage, holding capacity with high quality water, with recreational activities and environmental protection, with profitable Ag operations.</li><li>• Multiple soil types, elevation, number of different crops adapted to the soils, recreation.</li><li>• The variety of land uses, landscapes, within the watershed from the lake plain in the middle to forested, sandy areas with some slope in the SE part of the watershed and the peatlands to the NE and NW parts of the watershed.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve flow conditions (stable hydrograph)</li><li>• Keep sediment and nutrients on the land through soil health practices</li><li>• Partners working together on multi-benefit projects</li><li>• Reduce runoff extremes within the Roseau River and its tributaries and ditches.</li><li>• Increase and enhance habitat and recreational areas within the project area.</li><li>• Having cooperation with regards to profitable farming economy across the watershed; keeping a robust balance of good drainage and water quality, and maybe even growing recreational activities without negatively impacting the Ag operations.</li><li>• Keep solving more water issues that are good for most of the people affected. You will never have everybody in favor.</li><li>• Managing, improving, restoring functions of the watershed including fishery and wildlife, healthy productive crops,</li></ul>



<p><b>What is special/unique about this watershed?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The watershed is very international, very diverse, a lot of state land and farmland.</li> <li>• Shared resources with another country.</li> <li>• Diverse, pristine water resources.</li> <li>• Existing good water quality.</li> <li>• Diverse fish communities.</li> <li>• Public lands.</li> <li>• Proactive on projects related to water quality and quantity.</li> <li>• Transitional area from northern wetlands and bogs to prairie lands.</li> <li>• Significant public land base</li> <li>• Lots of recreational opportunities</li> <li>• Unique landscape</li> <li>• Good cooperation/collaboration between local and state agencies</li> <li>• Diverse fish and wildlife communities</li> </ul>	<p><b>What is our aspiration for the next 10-50 years?</b></p> <p>pastureland, forested lands, and reduced peak flows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resource management to be a good neighbor and protect for the next generation of residents and visitors.</li> <li>• A thriving northern community.</li> <li>• Restore impaired waters.</li> <li>• Protect good and high-quality waters.</li> <li>• Maintain/increase diversity (habitat)</li> <li>• Striving to Enhance the Roseau River watershed for water resources, habitat, recreation, and wildlife.</li> <li>• Long-term land and water resources that are productive and sustainable for all users.</li> </ul>
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## Next Steps

Advisory Committee Meetings are First Thursdays every other month, 9:30am – 12:00pm

Location: Roseau River Watershed District or Virtual

Tentative Detailed Project Schedule:

Year	Month	Committee	Format	Descriptions
2022	March 3	Advisory		In person – Gather Issues
	May 5	Advisory		In person – Priority Issues
	July 7	Advisory		In person - Measurable Goals and Targeting
	September 1	Advisory		Virtual - Targeting Implementation
	October 6	Advisory		In person - Draft Plan
	December 1	Advisory		Virtual - Formal Review

# Watershed Issues



## Surface Water: Quality, Quantity

**cattails  
affecting  
water quality,  
habitat, and  
recreation**

**Maintaining  
Drainage  
system  
benefits**

**Changes in  
flows/volume**

**Consideration of  
Climate change  
impacts on potential  
future hydrology.**

**challenge  
in  
restoring  
peatlands**

**Control/reduce  
runoff and wind  
erosion - sediment,  
nitrogen,  
phosphorus loss  
that impacts water  
quality**

**Improve soil health  
of land resulting in  
better infiltration,  
increased organic  
matter, improved  
crop production**

**connectivity  
of surface  
waters to  
floodplains**

# Watershed Issues



## Natural Resources: Wetlands, Terrestrial Habitat, Aquatic Habitat

**cattails  
impact  
ecological  
diversity of  
habitat**

**Invasive  
species  
(terrestrial)**

**get a better  
understanding on  
how increased  
baseflows impact  
aquatic life**

**peatland  
restoration,  
wetland  
restoration**

**River/stream  
restorations to  
improve  
habitat**

**forest  
management  
planning,  
landscape  
stewardship  
plans**

**ensure that  
river/surface water  
channels have  
adequate riparian  
vegetation  
(trees/shrubs) for  
canopy cover to  
keep water temps  
cooler**

# Watershed Issues



## Ag Productivity: Drainage, Soil Health

adequately sized culverts and drainage systems for today's storm events

increase organic matter on ag lands

Providing education to landowners to encourage good land stewardship (conservation tillage/soil health practices/ drainage water management).  
Landowner Pilot project?

shallow top soil due to young land

equitable and sufficient drainage

promote cover crops and perennial crops

10-year flood protection to ag lands where possible/practicable.

# Watershed Issues



## Groundwater: Quality, Quantity

gain  
knowledge  
through well  
inventories,  
geologic atlas

geologically  
atlas for the  
county if one  
has not be  
completed

seal  
abandoned  
wells in the  
watershed

gravel pit  
impacts  
on well  
pressure