



Legislative Water Commission

Barb Huberty, Director

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August 17, 2016

Minnesota River Basin Tour – Mapleton to Blakely

Meeting Minutes

Members Present

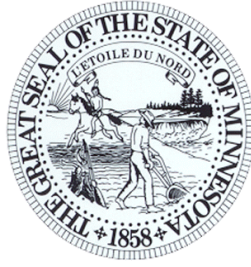
Representative Paul Torkelson, Chair
Senator Bev Scalze, Co-chair
Representative David Bly
Representative Matt Dean
Representative Peter Fischer
Representative Clark Johnson
Senator Matt Schmit

Members Absent

Senator Gary Dahms
Senator Roger Chamberlain
Representative Rod Hamilton
Senator Charles Wiger
Senator Carrie Ruud

The LWC meeting was an all-day field tour that began in Mapleton at 9:30 a.m. and consisted of the following stops, topics and presenters:

1. At Ditch 57 in Mapleton, Pat and Kristen Duncanson and Chuck Brandel explained how a ditch maintenance project evolved to become conveyance upgrade with added water quality treatment features including buffers, a 2 stage ditch and a detention basin. They explained the complexity of adding and paying for water treatment in a ditch system and involving all the affected property owners served by the ditch system.
2. At the Le Sueur River oxbow, attendees saw areas with significant bank loss and learned about Dr Patrick Belmont's research on contributing causes for accelerated hydrology and erosion in the Greater Blue Earth River Basin, as well as potential solutions that are being proposed as part of the Collaborative Sediment Source Reduction project and the Resilience Under Accelerated Change study.
3. At the Mankato Wastewater Treatment Facility, Utility Director Mary Fralish and he staff explained how they added a treatment train to the plant so the wastewater could be used as non-contact cooling water by the neighboring Calpine natural gas plant. With the availability of this water, the City has expanded wastewater reuse to include truck washing, wash water for sweeping operations, a tree nursery, and park irrigation. Additionally, the lowered phosphorus levels enables phosphorus trading with other facilities.
4. In St Peter, Bruce Montgomery from the MN Dept of Agriculture gave an overview of their work to reduce nitrogen inputs within the St Peter's wellhead protection area and Pete Moulton, St Peter's Public Works Director, explained the evaluations that led to their decision to construct a



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nitrate treatment facility. After the lunch panel, the attendees toured St Peter's water treatment facility.

5. At the Peter/Payne farms, Karen Galles of Great River Greening, explained the voluntary and cooperative approach they have taken for watershed management in the 7 Mile Creek Project area. Attendees viewed a multi-benefit drainage project and learned about barriers to implement them.
6. At the Blakely Ravine, Paul Nelson of Scott County Environmental Services, showed attendees the effect of large storm events on unstable ravines and their impact on adjacent infrastructure. He also explained the efforts of local government staff in the county and SWCD to coordinate services in order to scale up conservation projects.

The field tour ended at 5:00 p.m.