

West Interlake Watershed District (WIWD)

Notes

Date: April 15, 2020
GROW Committee Meeting 4-20
Place: Online / Audio Conference
Time: 4:00 pm

Present: N. Brandstrom, J. Cruise, B. Sigfusson, B. Fleury, H. Rosing, K. Webster, L. Miller, I. Zotter, R. Dyck

Regrets: M. Johnson

1.0 N. Brandstrom call to Order at 4:02 p.m.

The Final Proposal was sent to members for a review via email. Members were asked to review the proposal and to submit comments to the office.

Comments submitted by H. Rosing

“Regarding the application.

I do not have experience with putting grant applications together so some of the comments may not apply or be of concern.

Presumably Rhonda has provided some ideas with what level of detail etc. is required. For me I struggled a bit to read through it. I think making more use if paragraphing indent and spacing would improve this.

For example the detailed proposal description (p8,9,10). It is 1 paragraph containing a lot of information from very general to detailed action. Maybe the context and actions could be separated more. The 5 activities listed on P9 under Project activities could start as a new paragraph and each of the 5 points on a new line with an indent.

Context.

References to ecological farming and farmscaping etc are made throughout. In the context of an overview or creating awareness this is ok but in relation to the things we are trying to deliver I like “promoting sustainable practices” better.

Actions

Seeing land use in our area I agree with Jack that 3m fencing is not much. In the same vein restoring 2500 acres of degraded cropland seems ambitious when there is so little to begin with.

General.

Would it be beneficial to provide our own specific context?

According to the cover and land use data cited in our SWIWMP we have 19.5% wetland, 37.5% grass and rangeland and only 5% cropland.

Only 0.2% of area is classified as #3, the rest is 4 and lower.

The southern part of the WIWD area is home to a provincial park, 9 wildlife management areas, the lake Francis marsh and tall grass prairie area and many drains that are important spawning areas for Lake Manitoba fish species.

The area is recovering from a period of historically high water levels.

This uniqueness guides our programming.

Target spawning drains for protection and sustainable use first.

Land use around wildlife areas and lakes.

Exclusion fencing, offsite watering, locating wintering areas away from drains keeping land in perennials all fits in here.

Could we add something for restoring natural areas that are damaged by flooding?

Things like mowing or burning to remove cattails or willows will help restoration.

Comments from J. Cruise

- Spreading livestock manure out on pasture/ hay land or farmland is definitely better for the environment than leaving it in piles but expensive to do. Perhaps we could provide some type of incentive. Maybe 1/3 of cost if custom applied and a per acre incentive if producer done.
- page 6 and 7 in one part of the proposal you say it's for the whole region and here you say Lundar is closest town and specify 3 RM's without mentioning the rest. This may be misleading
- page 9 I think with the number of livestock grazing riparian areas in our region we could do a lot more than 3 miles of fence to stop 250 animals
- as a lifetime farmer in the area and an original member of WIWCD I still don't have it quite clear in my mind what type of land or projects will be eligible. So I think the sooner we move forward to taking producers project applications the better. That way we can see what gets approved and have a better idea what to tell prospective/future applicants

Members discussed the proposal and comments.

Targeted riparian area to be restored and protected will be increased to 6 miles, targeted area for upland grassland restoration will be reduced to 2000 acres, and targeted number of alternative watering systems will be 7.

Proposal to be finalised and to be submitted on April 17, 2020

Next Meeting:

To be determined

Adjournment at 5:55 p.m.