LEECH LAKE RIVER
ONE WATERSHED ONE PLAN
PROJECT UDPATE

Volume 3 **January 2018**

News of note

- ***Woods, water, wildlife, and people: a healthy watershed and a vibrant economy.***
  - This *vision statement* for the Leech Lake River 1W1P was developed by the Advisory Committee in October and approved by the Policy Committee in December 2017. The vision statement is intended to provide a clear and compelling picture of what the watershed will be into the future.

- The Advisory Committee (AC) met on December 15 to evaluate the current state of knowledge and scale of implementation actions for Natural World Values including lakes, streams, wetlands, groundwater, and forests. This evaluation included determining if there is enough data available to assess the resource, if there are clear next steps for managing the resource, and if resource managers have the time, financial, and staff resources to implement the management activities and what those specific activities are. The next AC meeting will focus on the future management goals for each of the Natural World Values.

- The Policy Committee (PC) also met on December 15 to review progress made to date and approved the vision statement. One of the items reviewed included a word-cloud analysis key words and themes that have been used in all the comment letters, existing plans, surveys, and obtained at the kick-off meeting. Metrics were developed on the use of these key terms and graphics were developed that highlight priorities in a simplified manner.

Word cloud graphic indicating the strength of priority key words and themes.

Calendar

- January 25, 2018, 9:00 AM to Noon: *Advisory Committee* meeting to develop recommendations on plan priorities and begin developing the communication, education and outreach portions of the plan.
- January 25, 2018, 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM: *Policy Committee* meeting which will include reviewing and taking action on Advisory Committee recommendations for plan priorities.

Tidbits

The Leech Lake River watershed is home to the 1,482 acre *Hole in the Bog Peatland Scientific and Natural Area* (SNA). This SNA is the state's best example of a basin-filled raised bog, and is the only peatland of this type protected as an SNA. This SNA provides a valuable setting for research as it is the most southwesterly peatland SNA and also one of the few outside a major glacial lake plain. It is located within the Bowstring State Forest but has no maintained trails or recreational facilities. For more information visit http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/snas.

For more information please visit: www.co.cass.mn.us/LLR1W1P or contact one of the people listed below.

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