Third Crop Phosphorus Reduction Effort
Steering Committee Meeting
July 28, 2015

1. Supper
Supper was served at 5:30 p.m. In attendance were Aaron Leinen, Jim Buschena, Dorothy Ulbricht, Kevin Roth, Vern Uit de Flesch, Randy Vancura, Catherine Sereg, and Jan Voit. Scotty Wells attended via telephone.

2. Opening
Introductions were given. The reasons given for interest in participating varied: how to better explain the need for cover crops, wanting to learn more about them, the importance of being part of the group dynamic, how crop insurance affects cover crop implementation, and applying the ideas identified in a grant application.

3. Purpose
Jan Voit provided an explanation of the Third Crop Phosphorus Reduction Effort. Cooperators are Jerry and Nancy Ackermann, Jerry and Terry Perkins, Dave Christoffer, and Tim Hansberger. Each landowner will establish 50 acres of cover crops per year during the three-year grant period. It is preferable that the cover crops are sown in the same location each year. The grant provides funds for seed for 40 acres. The landowners will provide inkind funds for establishment of 10 acres of cover crops.

In addition, a steering committee is being developed. The committee consists of farmers, an insurance agent, cooperative representative, soil and water conservation district and Natural Resources Conservation Service staff, a county commissioner, banker, crop consultant, conservation group member, University of Minnesota agronomist, and farmers.

The steering committee is charged with developing recommendations for staff on how to better promote cover crops and for HLWD program(s) or policy on cover crop implementation.

4. Snow Card Activity
The snow card technique was used by participants in answering the question, “what does water quality mean to you?” The main themes were clean, healthy, not losing fertility from the land, reliable, realistic expectations, and installing practices to reduce runoff.

Discussion was also held regarding possible meeting topics. Those included identifying barriers for cover crop implementation, renting versus owning property, chemical program, crop insurance and Farm Service Agency requirements, soil health, seed application and timing, and cost.

5. Next Steps
Committee members would like to meet in conjunction with the Cover Crop Learning Tour (CCLT) on September 15, 2015. Jan Voit will check with Katherine Pekarek-Scott,
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, regarding this. Information regarding the CCLT will be distributed to committee members.

Meetings will also be held in December and January or February. A contact list will be developed and circulated.

6. **Adjourn**
   The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

   Jan Voit
   District Administrator