

## Minnesota Watersheds Strategic Plan Committee Meeting

December 12, 2022

Via Zoom

Meeting participants: Chair Mary Texer, MAWD Board (Capitol Region WD); Region 1 Manager Dennis Kral, (Pelican River WD) and Linda Vavra (Bois de Sioux WD); April Swenby, Region 1 Administrator (Sand Hill River WD); Region 3 Manager David Ziegler; Region 3 Commissioner Michael Welch, (Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission); Region 3 Administrator Phil Belfiori (Vadnais Lake Area Watershed Management Organization); and Jan Voit, Minnesota Watersheds

Absent: Andy Henschel, Region 2 Administrator (Shell Rock River WD) and Region 3 Manager Jill Crafton (Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek WD). Note: No managers from Region 2 volunteered to serve on this committee.

Chair Texer opened the meeting at 1:02 p.m. Jan Voit provided an overview of the committee priorities and the draft work plan. The top four priorities are the legislative policies, communication, collaboration with the Board of Water and Soil Resources, and growing membership.

Committee comments:

- The top four priorities are expected based upon past committee discussion.
- The hours that were originally included in the work plan were estimated. It is not possible to accurately predict what will be done. Things will change and adapt as we move forward. Actual tracked hours will be placed in the work plan.
- Delegation will be necessary to accomplish these tasks. Work will be done with MAWA and the Resolutions Committee in developing the legislative policy document. Once the work plan is adopted, a meeting will be held with the MAWA Legislative Committee to begin the process to create a work plan for this effort.
- Rather than tactics, some of the priorities that were submitted were actually strategies. Those strategies were not incorporated into the work plan because it wasn't possible to determine which of the tactics listed would be chosen and adding all of the tactics under each strategy would have been too large of a workload.
- The committee recommended the work plan for submission to the Board of Directors.

The committee will meet in three months to see how things are going.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Meeting notes submitted  
by Jan Voit

<b>Goal 4. Ensure strong legislative policies are in place for watershed management</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Completed</b>	<b>Process</b>	<b>2023 Staff Hours</b>	<b>2024 Staff Hours</b>
<b>Tactics</b>					
<i>Develop Comprehensive Platform of Policies</i>					
Work with Minnesota Association of Watershed Administrators and the Resolutions Committee to develop a full legislative policy position document			Staff development Partnership with MW BOD & MAWA		
<i>Identify Legislative Issue Impacting Members</i>					
Support legislation that promotes watershed management			Staff time		
Fend off legislation that limits abilities to protect and restore water resources			Staff time		
Ensure lobbyist(s) have clear direction on legislative priorities			Staff time		
Align workload with the resources set aside for lobbying and manage member expectations			Staff time		
<i>Evaluate Current Resolutions and Legislative Platform Process</i>					
Identify alternative methods, adopt revised process, or reaffirm current process			Staff development Partnership with MW BOD & MAWA		

<b>Goal 1. Fortify the infrastructure to ensure reliable delivery of services</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Completed</b>	<b>Process</b>	<b>2023 Staff Hours</b>	<b>2024 Staff Hours</b>
<b>Tactics</b>					
<i>Communication</i>					
Develop a communication plan			Staff development		

<b>Goal 3. Serve as a liaison to collaborate with statewide agencies and associations</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Completed</b>	<b>Process</b>	<b>2023 Staff Hours</b>	<b>2024 Staff Hours</b>
<b>Tactics</b>					
<i>Increase collaborative efforts between Board of Water and Soil Resources and Minnesota Watersheds</i>					
Identify points of contention and develop opportunities for reducing concerns			Staff development		

Goal 2. Build a watershed community that supports one another	Start Date	Completed	Process	2023 Staff Hours	2024 Staff Hours
<b>Tactics</b>					
<i>Grow membership</i>					
Develop and share membership benefits information			Staff development		
Meet individually with non-members to address concerns and increase membership			Staff development Partnership with MW BOD & MAWA		

Goal 1. Fortify the infrastructure to ensure reliable delivery of services	Start Date	Completed	Process	2023 Staff Hours	2024 Staff Hours
<b>Tactics</b>					
Work with Minnesota Association of Watershed Administrators to launch a platform for data sharing			Board approval Staff development		

Goal 2. Build a watershed community that supports one another	Start Date	Completed	Process	2023 Staff Hours	2024 Staff Hours
<b>Tactics</b>					
<i>Enhance member engagement through inclusivity</i>					
Adopt Minnesota Watersheds as the new name of the organization			Membership approval		

Goal 1. Fortify the infrastructure to ensure reliable delivery of services	Start Date	Completed	Process	2023 Staff Hours	2024 Staff Hours
<b>Tactics</b>					
<i>Governance and Management</i>					
Confirm, each month, that Board of Directors actions reflect the Strategic Plan			Staff review		

Goal 5. Enhance the skills of watershed district and watershed management organization boards	Start Date	Completed	Process	2023 Staff Hours	2024 Staff Hours
<b>Tactics</b>					
<i>Offer comprehensive training for watershed district and watershed management organization boards</i>					
Maintain an up-to-date watershed handbook by reviewing it annually and revising it as warranted			Staff development Partnership with MW BOD & MAWA		

Goal 3. Serve as a liaison to collaborate with statewide agencies and associations	Start Date	Completed	Process	2023 Staff Hours	2024 Staff Hours
<b>Tactics</b>					
<i>Identify Opportunities to Partner to Promote Watershed Management</i>					
Attend Board of Water and Soil Resources, Clean Water Council, and Drainage Work Group meetings and provide updates			Staff attendance		

Goal 5. Enhance the skills of watershed district and watershed management organization boards	Start Date	Completed	Process	2023 Staff Hours	2024 Staff Hours
<b>Tactics</b>					
Maintain an up-to-date watershed handbook by reviewing it annually and revising it as warranted			Staff development Partnership with MW BOD & MAWA		
Utilitze the expertise of staff and Minnesota Association of Watershed Administrators in the development of education and training for watershed officials			Staff development in partnership with MAWA		