

Minnesota Watersheds Events-Education Committee Meeting

January 12, 2024
Via Zoom



Committee members present: Region 1 Managers Linda Vavra, Bois de Sioux WD; Region 1 Administrator Mori Maher, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD; Region 2 Manager Brad Kramer, Shell Rock River WD; Region 2 Administrator Dan Coughlin, Middle Fork Crow River WD; Region 3 Manager Rick Sanders, Capitol Region WD; Region 3 Administrator Tina Carstens, Ramsey Washington Metro WD; and Maddy Bohn and Jan Voit, Minnesota Watersheds

Committee member absent: Region 1 Manager Gene Tiedemann, Red Lake WD

TASK 1. DEVELOP DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING AND DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Tina Carstens opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. Jan Voit and Maddy Bohn provided an overview of the upcoming event. Because there isn't a need for a special meeting of the membership, everything will be moved an hour earlier in the afternoon.

Suggested speakers include the governor or one of his staff, the lead person for the chloride effort, and a representative from the Board of Water and Soil Resources. Education will include an overview of our legislative priorities. It was also suggested to provide education on the legislative process.

An invitation will be sent to members and legislators. Members will be encouraged to invite their legislators. We will work on methods for administrators to encourage and support their board members' attendance. Talking points for our legislative priorities will be developed and distributed.

TASK 2. SUMMER TOUR

The Summer Tour will be hosted by the Capitol Region and Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed Districts. It will be held June 25-27. We are in the process of setting up a meeting schedule with the host watersheds.

TASK 3. ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The committee reviewed correspondence that was sent to and received from the Arrowwood. It is difficult to justify continuing to hold our event at a venue that is not investing in its facilities. It was suggested that Maddy gather information from other venues in the Walker and Brainerd Lakes area, as well as Detroit Lakes. Even if we cannot locate a new venue for 2024, it will be good to have this information.

The committee discussed member/non-member rates at the annual conference. The member/non-member rates have created confusion. In 2023, 45 individuals registered as non-members. Of those, only 16 should have. This topic will be discussed more thoroughly at a future meeting.

It was determined that the member/non-member rates will remain in effect for the upcoming legislative event. Rather than having a separate fee for the MAWA meeting and the Legislative Briefing, there will be one fee to cover the entire event.

The meeting concluded at 2:42 p.m.

Meeting notes by Jan Voit