



MAWA/SWCD Fall Meeting Summary
Minnesota Association of Watershed Administrators
Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Amber Doschadis – Upper Minnesota River Watershed District
Jamie Beyer – Bois de Sioux Watershed District
Karen Kill – Brown’s Creek Watershed District
April Swenby – Sand Hill River Watershed District
Tera Guetter – Pelican River Watershed District
Tracy Halstensgard – Roseau River Watershed District
Terry Jeffery - RPBCWD
Cristina Carstens - RWMWD
Kristine Altrichter – Buffalo Red River
Patrick Hughes – Rice Creek
Jon Roeschlein – Sauk River Watershed District
Michelle Overholser – Yellow Medicine River
Andy Henschel – Shell Rock River Watershed District
Mark Doneux – Capitol Region Watershed District
Jan Voit – MN Watersheds
Tara Jensen – Wild Rice Watershed District
Colton Henjum – North Fork Crow River Watershed District
Rob Sip – RRWMB

The meeting opened with Jan Voit discussing notifications to members regarding our position against the Drainage Registry Portal. The Drainage Stakeholder Group or subcommittee is meeting to see if they can come up with something that everyone agrees to move forward with. Jamie questioned who is affected by the portal and posting the petition on her website. The environmental groups, noticing, and minutes were discussed. It was suggested that BWSR could post drainage authorities on their website with links instead of a portal. The discussion moved toward the Clean Water Council drainage policy, including drainage projects, training, and money. Jan is working on a joint response.

Future Summer Tours were discussed 2024-Metro, 2025-Region 1, 2026-Region 2. Tina suggested the east side metro or north and will contact watershed districts. Tracy volunteered for Region 1. Jan would like to have locations identified and dates chosen by the Annual Conference. Detroit Lakes was suggested for 2026.

The conversation shifted to fixes being considered for 103D. John Jaschke discussed at the 2023 Summer Tour. An initial meeting was had with BWSR at the end of August, the document was sent to executive committee, and non-controversial items were prioritized. Next steps include meeting with BWSR leadership and see what on the list they are will to tackle on our behalf. Mark questioned plan expiration dates, extensions, and consequences.



Three resolutions were discussed including requiring the DNR to get permits from watershed districts; DNR regulatory authority over public drainage maintenance and repairs; and seeking clarification of levy and budget statutes comparing 103D.911 to 275.056. Andy Henschel discussed a future potential resolution involving a statutory requirement regarding turnaround time for DNR waters permit. Mark brought up the legislative platform and updating that via resolutions instead.

Mark reopened the meeting after a break and discussed MN Watersheds membership, fee structure, and dues. Two potential resolutions could come out of this discussion: affiliate links and memberships. Mark questioned whether there was interest in MAWA bylaw changes to clarifying membership to 103B and D entities. There was support for this clarification. Similarly, a fee structure was supported for attending MAWA events for non-MN Watershed members. Jan will bring this issue to the Finance Committee. Finally, an additional takeaway regarding administrators being a MN Watersheds member was discussed.

Jan introduced the Staff Development Workshop discussion. Jan feels like the MAWA Executive Committee should be responsible for choosing the topics for their own training. Mark agreed because it benefits the Executive Committee the most. The timeline includes a draft program by September 1 and confirm speakers by October 1. The Events and Education Committee was considered for planning or a separate committee just for this event. Jan went on to highlight the Annual Conference one-day training agenda.

Committee Updates

By-Laws - No update

Strategic Plan - No update

Legislative - No Update

Events and Education - Reviewed abstracts for Annual Conference

MAWA Committee Updates

Executive - Mark will send an email regarding moving the next meeting to the 10th. The Annual Conference marks role changes for the Executive Committee. Mark's term is up as President and Tracy will move into that position. Andy will be the Vice-President. Tina may move into the Secretary roll.

State Policy - Jamie will submit a report to save time. She could use help on the committee if anyone wants to join. BWSR, plans, and amendments were discussed.

Watershed Handbook - Take off the list/or meet annually.

Legislative Platform - Meet regularly and have drafted template including overarching categories. The Executive Committee will view at the Annual Conference. Jan noted that this will be important for representatives on the BWSR board, Clean Water Council, and Local Government Roundtable. More education is needed for the people who represent us.

Communication – Committee creation - Andy, Terry, Tina. Refer to June meeting minutes.

Adjournment - Respectfully submitted, Andy Henschel, Secretary