

# Metro Chapter

## Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts

### Meeting Notes

**Tuesday, January 17, 7:00 PM**

Metro Watersheds Board Member Attendees:	Staff and Guest Attendees:
Mary Texer, Capitol Region WD	Tina Carstens, Ramsey Washington Metro WD
Ann Warner, Carnelian Marine St. Croix WD	Laura Jester, Bassett Creek WMO
Jackie Anderson, Comfort Lake–Forest Lake WD	Nick Tomczik, Rice Creek WD
Rick Sanders, Capitol Region WD	Jan Voit, MN Watersheds (MAWD)
Grace Butler, Nine Mile Creek WD	Linda Vavra, Minnesota Watersheds President
Mike Bradley, Rice Creek WD	Terry Jeffery, Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek WD
Sherry White, Minnehaha Creek WD	Heather Johnson, MPCA
David Ziegler, Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek WD	Kevin Reich, Mississippi WMO
Larry Swope, Ramsey Washington Metro WD	Anna Eleria, Capitol Region WD
Jill Crafton, Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek WD	Matt Moore, South Washington WD
Joan Hauer, Bassett Creek WMO	Joni Giese, Prior Lake-Spring Lake WD
Michael Welch, Bassett Creek WMO	Theresa Kuplic, Lower MN River WD
Joe Collins, Capitol Region WD	Frank Boyles, Prior Lake-Spring Lake WD
Shawn Mazanec, Capitol Region WD	
Arun Hejmadi, Minnehaha Creek WD	
Peggy Kvam, Nine Mile Creek WD	
Larry Olson, Nine Mile Creek WD	
Steve Sando, Minnehaha Creek WD	
Celia Wirth, Browns Creek WD	
Marcie Weinandt, Rice Creek WD	
Tom Duevel, Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek WD	
Eugene Maxwell, Minnehaha Creek WD	

#### **I. Call to Order**

##### **A. Attendance, Introductions & Approval of the Agenda**

The meeting opened with an introduction of new staff coordinators: Tina Carstens, Administrator for Ramsey Washington Metro WD and Laura Jester, Administrator for Bassett Creek WMWO. They will be assuming responsibilities for the 2023 Metro MAWD meetings.

Attendance was called by outgoing Chair, Mary Texer. She also reminded the group that the next meeting would be held in person at the Capitol Region WD office.

MOTION: Arun Hejmadi moved to approve the agenda. Rick Sanders seconded the motion. The motion

passed unanimously.

## **II. Action Items**

### **A. Appoint Metro MAWD Chair and Vice Chair**

MOTION: Michael Welch moved to elect Sherry White (MCWD) as Chair and Jackie Anderson (CLFLWD) as Vice Chair. David Ziegler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **B. Appoint Meeting Secretary**

Sherry White assumed meeting facilitation and asked for a volunteer to act as meeting secretary to take notes. Grace Butler (NMCWD) volunteered to take minutes for this meeting.

## **III. Agency and Association Updates**

**A. MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Updates:** No BWSR staff were present. Jill Crafton and Joe Collins provided updates as members of the BWSR Board.

Joe reported that the Lower Mississippi River WMO 10-year plan was recently received for approval by the BWSR Board. He also noted that BWSR staff and Board members are determining how Federal grant money might be available and how to start a process of writing Federal grants and acquiring matching funds. Jill spoke on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) work with a consultant and the drainage committee.

### **B. MPCA Updates:** Heather Johnson, MPCA

Heather was excited to report on the Nutrient Reduction Strategy work. 2014 was the first draft, 2020 was a 5-year report and 2025 will be a revision. She noted that, in general, there has not been significant progress in nitrogen and phosphorus reductions. The 2025 report has a new steering committee and a technical team, both will start work soon. The EPA provided \$4.2 million in funding over the next 5 years which will involve 3 years of study and 2 years of pilot programs

**C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Updates:** No staff in attendance

**D. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Updates:** No staff in attendance

**E. MN Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Updates:** No staff in attendance

**F. Met Council Updates:** No staff in attendance

### **G. Clean Water Council Update, Marcie Weinandt**

Marcie will be sending updates to the Manager's emails and she provided a link with Clean Water Council updates. She noted consensus that Clean Water Funds should remain in implementation. Carp reduction actions are developed with multiple partners. The council is meeting monthly.

### **H. Local Government Water Roundtable Update, Sherry White**

Sherry had nothing new to report as there have not been meetings.

### **I. Minnesota Stormwater Research Council: John Bilotta (via email message)**

John was ill but he looked forward to reporting at our April on the new and completed research. Urban stormwater pond research is the focus of this year's round of funding.

### **J. MAWA (Minnesota Association of Watershed Administrators) Update: Tina Carstens**

MAWA met in Alexandria and will meet again during the legislative event. MAWA Executive Committee

members are planning a meeting with BWSR staff. A MAWA subcommittee is looking at revisions to the MAWD handbook.

#### **IV. Special Reports**

##### **A. MAWD Update: Jan Voit**

Jan spoke about the annual conference in Alexandria and December. She noted that all committees met in December. The conference had 400 attendees and the financials are not final. A new format for the conference is being considered and will start Tuesday and end Friday. The MAWD website is under construction with new colors, logo and name. The Summer Meeting will be held in Albert Lea in partnership with the Shell Rock River, Cedar River, and Turtle Creek watershed districts. The Summer Tour and Meeting will be held June 20 – 22.

#### **V. Unfinished Business and General Information**

##### **A. Metro MAWD Meeting Format and Locations**

After some discussion, Chair White confirmed that the Metro MAWD meetings will be virtually in January and July. In-person meetings will be held in April and October at Capitol Region's office in St Paul. Option to all the in-person meetings to allow virtual attendance are being considered.

##### **B. Consider Changing "Metro MAWD" Name**

Chair White led a brief discussion of a new name since MAWD will be officially changing its name to "Minnesota Watersheds."

MOTION: Mike Bradley moved to change the name of this group to "Metro Watersheds." Celia Wirth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Grace Butler raised the question on whether a discussion of pertinent Metro topics could be held at the end of these meetings. She wanted managers to be aware of the quick start to the legislative session and that the Limited Salt Liability legislation had already started to move forward in the House. Michael Welch mentioned that the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy had sent him correspondence regarding their continued commitment to advocate for the Chloride Limited Liability legislation

There was a brief discussion of the 2011 flooding in Roseville (11 inches of rain) and the resulting NOAA awards for a Climate Action Plan that should be shared. Joe Collins noted it would be nice to how watersheds are working toward climate resiliency.

Joe Collins thanked Mary Texer and Mark Doneux for their leadership of past Metro MAWD meetings.

Grace Butler congratulated David Ziegler on becoming the new Minnesota Watersheds Treasurer.

#### **VI. Future meetings**

##### **A. Next Metro Watersheds Meeting – April 18, 2023**

#### **VII. Adjournment** - Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm