

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) Bylaws Committee Meeting

October 18, 2022

Via Zoom



Meeting participants: Chair Mary Texer, MAWD Board (Capitol Region WD); Region 1 Manager Linda Vavra (Bois de Sioux WD); Region 1 Administrator Jamie Beyer (Bois de Sioux WD); Region 3 Manager Mike Bradley (Rice Creek WD); and Jan Voit, MAWD

Absent: Region 2 Manager Ruth Schaefer (Middle Fork Crow River WD) and Region 3 Administrator John Hanson (Valley Branch WD). The Region 2 Administrator position is vacant.

Chair Texer opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. Chair Texer provided an overview of the agenda. Jan Voit provided background information regarding the proposed Bylaws changes.

Discussion regarding the proposed change to fill vacancies:

- The need for diversity in representation each region on the MAWD Board.
- Whether it was necessary to wait six months to appoint a person to a vacant position.
- The organization is stronger when there is representation from multiple organizations.

The following language will be sent to the MAWD Board.

Directors to be Elected by Regions. For the purpose of election of the BOD, members are grouped into three regions; three Directors shall be elected from each region, with staggered three-year terms. Members from each region shall elect one director for a three-year term at the annual meeting of the Association. No WD or WMO shall have more than one board member elected to be a Director on the BOD of the Corporation. In the event of a vacancy on the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors may appoint a member for the remaining term from a watershed district or watershed management organization with an existing representative on the Board of Directors if there are no other candidates from the region requesting appointment to the position. In the event a vacancy is filled by the Board of Directors, such appointment shall be submitted to the regional caucus for approval at the next regional caucus meeting. Regional caucuses shall elect a Chairman and Recording Secretary from its delegates for the purpose of its election procedure and report the election results to the Convention at a designated time.

Discussion regarding the proposed change to the dues payable date:

- There will likely be push back from the membership.
- There isn't an understanding of how this change would help MAWD.
- MAWD should be receiving a big portion of its revenue in December for the annual conference.
- MAWD has a lot to provide now. We are struggling with continuing membership, have changed the dues' structure, and have new staff. The organization should do a great job and show how the organization functions on behalf of its members.
- Questions about this concept could be developed and sent to administrators for feedback.
- This cannot be enacted for the coming fiscal year.
- Members would be paying dues twice in one year.
- The membership would likely not support this concept. It won't bring more money into the organization and may do more harm than good.

This concept will be presented to the MAWD Board at their October meeting, but it is not recommended as a change to the Bylaws.

Discussion regarding the proposed change to pro-rate dues payable:

- The MAWD Board can set independent rates for dues.
- Non-members could potentially have six months of member services and pay half the dues.
- There are some non-members that have been members in the past. There is no mechanism suggested for how those entities would pay.
- This change may cause more harm than good.

The concept of considering non-member dues on a case-by-case basis will be presented to the MAWD Board at their October meeting, but it is not recommended as a change to the Bylaws.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

Meeting notes submitted

by Jan Voit