



MAWA Annual Conference and Tradeshow
Minnesota Association of Watershed Administrators
Tuesday, November 28, 2023
10:00AM

Kristine Altrichter – Buffalo Red River
Randy Anhorn – Nine Mile Creek
Philip Belfiori – Vadnais Lake
Jamie Beyer – Bois de Sioux
Rebecca Carlson – Clearwater River
Tina Carstens – Ramsey Washington Metro
Mark Doneux – Capitol Region
Amber Doschadis – Upper Minnesota River
Anna Eleria – Capitol Region
Joni Giese – Prior Lake Spring Lake
Tera Guetter – Pelican River
Tracy Halstengard – Roseau River
Trudy Hastad – Lac qui Parle – Yellow Bank
Mori Maher – Middle Snake Tamarac River
Mike Kinney- Comfort Lake Forest Lake
Andy Henschel – Shell Rock River
John Loomis – South Washington
Mike Isensee – Carnelian Marine St. Croix
Terry Jeffery – Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek
Tara Jensen – Wild Rice
Laura Jester – Bassett Creek
Daniel Livdahl – Okabena Ocheda
Linda Loomis – Minnesota River
Dan Money – Two Rivers
Matt Moore – South Washington
Michelle Overholser – Yellow Medicine River
Kevin Reich – Mississippi River WMO
James Riggs – Washington Conservation District
Jon Roeschlein – Sauk River Watershed District
Erica Sniegowski – Nine Mile
April Swenby – Sand Hill River
Mary Texer – Capitol Region
Nicholas Tomczik – Rice Creek
Linda Vavra – Bois de Sioux
Jan Voit – MN Watersheds



Kristine Jenson – Clearwater River
Tammy Audette – Red Lake
Karen Kill – Brown’s Creek
Jeff Gertgen – Middle Fork Crow River
Peter Fjestad – Buffalo- Red River
LeRoy Ose - Red Lake
John Hanson – Valley Branch

Terry Jeffery motioned to approve the agenda.

Mike Kinney seconded the motion.

After discussion, a vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Terry Jeffery motioned to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2023 meeting with attendee changes.

Tina Carstens seconded the motion.

After discussion, a vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Terry Jeffery motioned to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2023 meeting with attendee changes.

Mark Doneux seconded the motion.

After discussion, a vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Jan Voit provided an update on the Annual Meeting including sponsorship, participation, partner updates, and requested changes from survey.

Terry Jeffery provided an update on the state-wide watershed survey. Lessons learned included wording of questions, additional questions, and a more specific One Watershed One Plan and Watershed Based Implementation Funding questions. There were no surprising findings in terms of ditch authority, budgets, staffing, benefits, etc. The report will be disseminated by Jan Voit.

Jan Voit, Jamie Beyer and others provided an overview of resolutions.

1. Wild Rice WD - Require watershed district permits for the DNR/all state agencies including MNDOT. Recommends adoption.
2. Middle Fork Crow River WD – Clarify budget adoption deadlines and certification types for watershed district. Other Administrators explained dates and process they follow. Does not recommend adoption.
3. Support new legislation modeled after HF2687 & SF2419 (2018) regarding DNR regulatory authority over public drainage maintenance and repairs. The Drainage Workgroup was discussed. Recommends adoption.
4. Support streamline the DNR Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Process, line-items, and status were discussed. Recommends adoption.



5. Support increased flexibility in Open Meeting law to utilize Interactive Technology. Discussion was had regarding requirements versus options. The League of Minnesota Cities and bigger agencies were mentioned. Recommends adoption.
6. Support Minnesota Watersheds Education and Outreach to encourage formation of Watershed Districts in Unserved Areas. Recommends adoption.

Mark Doneux provided background on the Legislative Platform. It was unanimously agreed upon that a platform was needed to address all topics. A committee was formed to put together platforms that includes specific resolutions and recommendations. Per the Strategic Plan, a vote for adoption will be had at the business meeting on Friday. The living document will be updated annually. A new firm team, Lockridge, Gindal, Nauen, will be working along side our lobbyist, Ray, in the coming year. Their two-year contract will be structured around Ray's retirement including part-time the first year and full-time the next year. A member advocated for Limited Liability for chloride to be made a priority with the lobbyists. A member questioned the update status of ATLAS 15. A member questioned a new insurance program but the platform cannot get amended at this time. It could be an update for next year pending prioritization. Another member questioned the ability to explain their resolution to the committee or "lobbying the lobbyist" before the resolution moves forward.

A drainage discussion followed including the Early Notification Portal. MN Watersheds position is to support the process that is already outlined in statute that public notice happens when the preliminary engineering report is filed or when the notice for the hearing goes out. That was met with opposition. Jan will update the group at a later time. She also mentioned support for the Outlet Adequacy Technical Committee report. This was met with opposition from environmental groups. Jan fears no consensus. She will work with the lobbyist.

Mark continued with a discussion on stormwater including surcharge stormwater pipes and a resolution requesting the Department of Health to include partner representation on task forces or committees on stormwater reuse. Reuse is more difficult and we don't want to lose that tool. Mark mentioned federal level analysis regarding federal dollars. Only 2% went to the type of work we do. Other funding like Section 319 is being considered.

The upcoming Summer Tour locations were discussed. Anna and Tina volunteered the East Metro for 2024. Tracy volunteered the Roseau for 2025. Tara volunteered for Pelican River for 2026.

After lunch, the Jan discussed the memo outlining the proposed updates to the Minnesota Statue Chapter 103D. Changes involved are in Project Initiation and Procedure and General Watershed Management and were disseminated to the group. This housekeeping bill will follow BWSR process and they are in support of the bill. Watershed plans and One Watershed, One Plans were discussed.

Administrative Updates – No minutes taken.



No MN Watershed Committee updates.

MAWA Committee Updates:

State Policy Committee - Tracy questioned if anyone else knew about the DNR resources specifically for LGU governments site/page. It requires a specific link to access and only intended for to LGUs working with landowners. A follow-up was requested.

The Watershed Handbook is complete and is accessible through MN Watershed's website. Updates will be available annually.

By-law updates includes discussion on who can be a member, housekeeping to change MAWD to MN Watersheds, active membership in MN Watersheds to be on the Executive Committee.

Tina Carstens motioned to approve the amended By-Laws.

Dan Money seconded the motion.

After discussion, a vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

MAWA Election of Secretary and At Large Officers. See attachment.

Tera motioned to elect the slate of officers for the 2023-25 cycle.

Rebecca seconded the motion.

After discussion, a vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

MAWA Appointments to MN Watersheds Committees. See attachment

Tracy motioned to adjourn.

Terry seconded the motion.

After discussion, a vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Adjournment - Respectfully submitted, Andy Henschel, Secretary