

2016 MAWD AWARDS PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

Program of the Year/Project of the Year

Purpose: The Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts will recognize outstanding work in both projects and programs led by Watershed Districts around the state of Minnesota.

Program Objectives:

- Project of the Year - Select and recognize an outstanding project related to water resource enhancement and protection, including restoration or preservation, projects that have been substantially completed by the submittal date.
- Program of the Year - Select and recognize an outstanding program related to water resource enhancement and protection, including watershed planning efforts, monitoring programs, or education and outreach strategies that are ongoing, with both short and long-term outcomes.

Process:

1. **Preliminary Ranking (due August 26, 2016):** submitted projects and programs are ranked based on criteria to identify the top three candidates. The top three candidates will then be invited to submit a full proposal for final consideration.
2. **Finalist Scorecard (due October 7, 2016):** Finalists in both projects and programs are scored based on the weighted criteria to determine recipients of the Program of the Year and Project of the Year award.

Judging Criteria and Application Requirements:

- **Clearly defined need (5%):** A clearly defined Statement of Need is provided along with supporting information that indicates the project or program is fulfilling some type of water resource monitoring, protection, enhancement, or community engagement need within the watershed.
- **Creative partnerships (15%):** Information is provided indicating the role and benefits of both public-public or public-private partnerships in developing and implementing the stated project or program, with emphasis on new and/or unique partners who wouldn't normally be involved.
- **Innovative financing (20%):** A description of how project or program financial stability was achieved.
- **Use of creative solutions (20%):** Information is provided on the use of innovative or cutting edge solutions in the areas of planning, design, and implementation of project and programs to reach watershed management and protection goals.
- **Success at meeting project or program goal (30%):** A description of both short and long-term outputs and outcomes is provided that address the original goal of the project or program.
- **Public value (10%):** Information is provided indicating how the project or program benefits society and the common good.

Qualifying project/programs:

Eligible nominations can be any project or program where the watershed has involvement through funding, management, or as a partner. There is no project start or completion date requirement. Past projects are acceptable. Projects that do not receive an award this year may be resubmitted in following years. Only two total nominations are allowed per District. When determining the Finalists, the Awards Committee will consider: well defined problem, partnerships, public benefit, creative solutions, innovative financing/management and project success at meeting goals.

Who can nominate:

We encourage watershed districts to nominate their own programs and projects. However, any other agency, local unit of government, or organization may also nominate. No priority is assigned to the source of the nomination.

Instructions:

1. Use the “fillable” PDF form for submitting your nominations. Use a separate form for each program or project nomination. Do not send additional reports or information.
4. Include a project or program summary of no more than 250 words. Up to four photos may be included with your preliminary nomination form.
5. Completed forms must be received by August 26, 2016.
6. Send nominations via email to:
Mark Doneux, Administrator
Capitol Region Watershed District
Email: mark@capitolregionwd.org
7. Questions can be directed to Mark Doneux at (651) 644-8888 or mark@capitolregionwd.org

Key Dates

2016 MAWD Awards Program Announced	July 19, 2016
Preliminary Nominations Due	August 26, 2016
Awards Committee Review of Preliminary Nominations due	September 15, 2016
Finalists Announced	September 16, 2016
Finalists Nomination forms due	October 14, 2016
Awards Committee Review of Finalists Nominations due	October 27, 2016
Award Winners notified	October 28, 2016
MAWD Awards Presentation	December 2, 2016