

Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point

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Eden Prairie, MN 55436
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Region III

North Fork Crow River

1030 Front Street
Brooten, MN 56316
Phone: 320-346-2869
Administrator: Tara Ostendorf
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Region II

Okabena Ocheda

960 Diagonal Road PO Box 114
Worthington, MN 56187
Phone: 507-372-8228
Administrator: Dan Livdahl
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Region II

Pelican River

211 Holmes St W, Suite 201
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
P) 218-846-0436
Administrator: Tera Guetter
Tera.Guetter@arvig.net
Region I

Prior Lake Spring Lake

4646 Dakota Street SE
Prior Lake, MN 55372
Phone: 952-447-4166
Administrator: Diane Lynch
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Region III

Ramsey Washington Metro

2665 Noel Drive
Little Canada, MN 55117
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Administrator: Tina Carstens
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Region III

Red Lake

1000 Pennington Avenue South
Thief River Falls, MN 56701
Phone: 218-681-5800
Administrator: Myron Jesme
rlwaters@wiktel.com
Region I

Rice Creek

4325 Pheasant Ridge Drive, Suite 611
Blaine, MN 55449-4541
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Administrator: Phil Belfiori
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Region III

Riley-Purgatory Bluff Creek

14500 Martin Drive #1500
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
Phone: 952-607-6512
Administrator: Claire Bleser
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Region III

Roseau River

108 3rd Avenue SW
Roseau, MN 56751
Phone: 218-463-0313
Administrator: Tracy Halstensgard
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Region I

Sand Hill River

P. O. Box 584
Fertile, MN 56540
Phone: 218-945-3204
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Region I

Sauk River

524 South 4th Street
Sauk Centre, MN 56378
Phone: 320-352-2231
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Region II

Shell Rock River

Box 1147 Freeborn County Courthouse
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Administrator: Brett Behnke
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Region II

South Washington

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Woodbury, MN 55125
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Region III

Stockton- Rollingstone-MN City

PO Box 129
Stockton, MN 55988
Phone: 507-689-2546
Region II

Thirty Lakes

322 Laurel Street #13
Brainerd, MN 56401
Phone: 218-824-1125
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Region III

Turtle Creek

1408 21st Avenue NW #2
Austin, MN 55912
Phone: 507-434-2603
Administrator: Steve Lawler
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Region II

Two Rivers

410 South 5th Street, Suite 112
Hallock, MN 56728
Phone: 218-843-3333
Administrator: Dan Money
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Region I

Upper Minnesota River

211 2nd Street SE
Ortonville, MN 56278
Phone: 320-839-3411
Administrator: Dianne Radermacher
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Region II

Valley Branch

P.O. Box 838
Lake Elmo, MN 55042
Phone: 952-832-2622
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Region III

Warroad River

307 Lake Street NE
Warroad, MN 56763
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Region I

Wild Rice

11 East 5th Avenue
Ada, MN 56510
Phone: 218-784-5501
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Region I

Yellow Medicine River

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Region II



2014 Legislative Session Report

by Ray Bohn, MAWD Coordinator

The 2015 Legislative Session was certainly a historical ride by anyone's measure. The Clean Water Funding started out well, but turned into a bit of a disaster for WD's, and the Governor's surprise buffer initiative that we all had great hopes for was passed but included some bad public policy and even a worse funding source, the Clean Water Fund, all this calumniated by the postponement of our sales tax exemption from Jan 1, 2016 to Jan. 1, 2017 via the Education Bill. This was all done with little or no input from local governments.

Now all they ask is that we do the work to try and make sense of it all and make it work. I will explain in greater detail a bit later in this update.

We did however, have some bright spots. A bonding bill was passed that include funding for our Flood Hazard Mitigation projects in the Red River Valley and funding for additional disaster relief for Prior Lake WD and others in that area.

There were a number of bills that we worked on or monitored during the session but essential all were part on one of the three bills noted below during the 2015 1st Special Session. They include:

1. HF2, SF4, Chapter 5, Bonding Legislation;

- * \$10 million for Ottertail County for FHM, \$13.549 million for other projects as prioritized by DNR.
- * \$1.2 million for Prior Lake-Spring Lake WD for the Prior Lake Outland Channel repair.
- * RIM - \$4.7 million
- * Erosion, sediment and water quality control: \$10.6 million
- * BWSR to work with various stakeholders to "foster mutual understanding and provide recs" on water quality and soil conservation protection.
- * Comp Watershed Management Planning Program; 1 Watershed/1Plan program update requiring BWSR to develop policies for coordination and development on comp plans, develop content requirements, and timelines.
- * Modified membership on CW Council to withdraw voting membership from the U of M member and the Met Council, and both now make their own appointment instead of Governor.

2. HF5, SF1, Chapter 2, Legacy/Clean Water Fund appropriations:

- * Appropriates \$56.841 million to BWSR. Follows Clean Water Council recs except where funds were decreased to fund the Govs/BWSR Buffer Program.
 - \$22 million for SWCD's for the Buffer law and other capacity funding
 - \$5.6 million to local governments to help fund the program
 - \$.65 million to DNR for the buffer Maps
- * Program items decreased because of buffer appropriation included: Surface & Drinking water Protection, Watersheds with Multi-year Plans, Community Partners Program, and Riparian Buffer Permanent Conservation Easement, etc.
- * BWSR to work with various stakeholders to "foster mutual understanding and provide recs" on water quality and soil conservation protection.
- * Comp Watershed Management Planning Program; 1 Watershed/1Plan program update requiring BWSR to develop policies for coordination and development on comp plans, develop content requirements, and timelines.
- * Modified membership on CW Council to withdraw voting membership from the U of M member and the Met Council, and both now make their own appointment instead of Governor.

3. HF4, SF5, Chapter 4, Ag, Environment & Natural Resources - Budget & Policy Bill

- After a Governor's veto on the Legislative Session legislation, several provisions were removed or reworked and the following bill emerged:
- *Funding for the various state agencies budgets
 - *AIS .. Modified version of the AIS training that will replace the trailer decal requirement with a requirement for affirmation of the person's knowledge on AIS law when a person purchases a watercraft license and when a non-resident purchases a MN fishing license.
 - *AIS - replaces the word "listed" with "designated" where it refers to species ID'd as prohibited, regulated, unlisted, and unregulated invasive species; allows the DNR to require decontamination, allows DNR to issue decontamination permits under the invasive species law, allows money in the invasive species account to be used for habitat improvement, WCA changes and Buffer legislation.