



Land and Water Shall be Preserved

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts Board of Directors Meeting, Thursday, December 3, 2015 Alexandria, MN

Board members present: Lee Coe, Larry Kuseske, Jerome Deal, Linda Vavra, Craig Leiser, Barbara Haake, Ruth Schaefer, Darrel Ellefson, Brian Johnson.

Others: Ray Bohn, John Jaschke, Doug Thomas, Gene Tiedemann

MAWD President Lee Coe called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM at Arrowwood Conference Center in Alexandria

The agenda was amended to allow the president to assign changes to the order of the agenda items. Motion by Craig Leiser. Second by Barbara Haake. Approved.

Minutes of the September 22, 2015 meeting were approved.

Motion to approve the minutes by Darrel Ellefson. Second by Jerome Deal. Approved.

Treasurer's Report – Craig Leiser

A written treasurer's report was submitted. Motion to approve by Brian Johnson. Second by Larry Kuseske. Approved.

The 2016 proposed budget was submitted. The proposal raises dues to \$110,000. Projected income would increase by \$9,000 and expenses would increase by \$25,000.

Leadership and development proposed dollars total \$15,000.

Social media would be allocated \$10,000.

The cap would increase by 1 ½% on the largest eighteen districts. This would generate \$9,000 in income. Barbara Haake moved to increase the dues cap to \$4,000. Second by Jerome Deal. Approved. Craig Leiser moved to accept the budget as submitted. Second by Jerome Deal. Approved.

President's Report – Lee Coe

Coe noted his involvement in buffer discussions which will be discussed later in the agenda.

Coordinator – Ray Bohn

Bohn reported on conference attendance numbers. The attendance is a record number of registrations and trade show booths equal to last year.

The buffer law is of great concern to watershed districts and needs further discussion at the legislative level.

He attended the Local Government Roundtable meetings and Drainage Workgroup meetings.

A Water Quality Summit will be sponsored by the governor in February. Details will be forthcoming.

A legislative summary is included in the MAWD Annual Report.

Page 2

BWSR – John Jaschke

BWSR plans to hire an HR person to help with accounting and administrative work. That will allow expansion of help to watershed district administrators and watershed districts.

Doug Thomas reported that the LGR has authorized a workgroup to develop policy on state funding. Three members are seated with one more being added in the future. The first meeting will be held in January 2016.

Pam Blixt chairs the policy committee of the Clean Water Council. The next meeting will be held on December 14.

The Minnesota River group has developed a non-profit to discuss the sediment that washes down the river.

ADA – Kevin Bigalke

The Basic Manager Workshop has 29 attendees. It is a good session for new and experienced managers. There was a record attendance at the ADA meeting yesterday. Two members of WMO's also attended. ADA would like to see an associate membership category for WMO's and similar groups.

ADA is pleased to see the development of the Leadership and Development group. They hope to take advantage of tapping into resources like BWSR through the proposal.

ADA is planning the MAWD Summer Tour for 2016. They will arrange housing and a tour in the Winona area. Barbara Haake moved that Winona would be the first choice for a tour with Rochester being the second choice. Second by Linda Vavra.

Kevin Bigalke will ask administrators to volunteer to call facilities and make arrangements

MAWD Manager Handbook

\$5,000 has been included in the budget to update the manager's handbook. Committee members are Diane Lynch, Doug Thomas and Mark Doneux.

Resolutions Committee

Resolutions were discussed as submitted by the Resolution Committee and recommended that the resolutions be passed on to the membership.

Three Board resolutions were proposed.

1: Review Commitment to Clean Water Council Process for Recommendations to the Governor & Legislature on Spending Priorities of the Clean Water Fund

After discussion Barbara Haake moved to submit the resolution to the Resolutions Committee and the membership. Second by Brian Johnson. Approved.

2: Protect the Integrity of the Clean Water Council Appointments

After discussion Barbara Haake moved to submit the resolution to the Resolutions Committee and the membership. Second by Brian Johnson. Approved.

3: Proposed Changes to the 2015 Buffers Law

After discussion Barbara Haake moved to submit the resolution to the Resolutions Committee and the membership subject to the removal of the punitive provision. Second by Jerome Deal. Approved.

MAWD Committee Reports:

Transition Committee: The committee would like to survey managers to determine the vision of MAWD in the future.

Present coordinator Bohn would like his legacy to leave a stronger organization.

Annual Meeting:

Programs were reviewed and speaker introductions were assigned.

Awards Committee:

Award winners were announced. The committee also discussed with the board how to treat WRAPS as it relates to the MAWD awards program.

MAWD Audit:

Red Path performed the audit for MAWD. There were minor glitches, easily corrected. Brian Johnson moved to accept the audit. Second by Larry Kuseske. Approved.

Local Government Round Table:

Jerome Deal commented on how much more knowledgeable county commissioners are because of the Round Table group.

BWSR has an employee who has traveled to sites to facilitate the meetings.

Drainage Work Group:

DNR want to redo more than is necessary. Several watershed districts already have maps finished.

Old Business:

Drainage redetermination of benefits project and the buffer law were discussed. Both will be discussed further in legislative planning.

MAWD Legislative Reception & Day at the Capitol

Wednesday and Thursday, March 30-31, 2016 - Embassy Suites, St. Paul (same place as last year).

MAWD Memberships

Fresh Water Society - \$250

Environmental initiative - \$350

Craig Leiser moved to renew the membership to the Freshwater Society only. Second by Brian Johnson. Approved.

BWSR Board appointment

The Board approved the nomination of manager Joe Collins to continue his position as a BWSR Board member. Darrel Ellefson moved to nominate Collins. Second by Jerome Deal. Approved.

404 Assumption Feasibility Study

Ron Harnack will represent watershed districts in the study group.

MAWD should be part of the review of the 404 Federal approval process and the potential of the state of Minnesota taking over that responsibility.

Page 4

MAWD Board/Staff Training Program

Ray Bohn reviewed the proposed contract submitted by Cliff Aichinger to begin development of a Managers & staff training program for MAWD. After reviewing the proposal and discussion, Barb Haake moved to accept the proposal, seconded by Larry Kuseske, and passed.

A Strategic Plan request was added as item 5. F. to the agenda.

Craig Leiser requests that MAWD develop a strategic Plan. This committee, in conjunction with the Transition Committee, could include ADA and regional representatives.

Brian Johnson moved to appoint Craig Leiser as chairman of the committee. Second by Barbara Haake.

Craig will submit a list of potential members and send the list to Lee Coe.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50PM. Motion by Barbara Haake. Second by Ruth Schaefer. Approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Vavra
Secretary