

MAWD Board of Directors
March 10, 2015
St. Paul Embassy Suites, St. Paul, MN

Board Members Present: Larry Kuseske, Linda Vavra, Lee Coe, Barbara Haake, Jerome Deal, Brian Johnson, Craig Leiser, Darrel Ellefson, Ruth Schaefer. Others: Ray Bohn, Peg Bohn and Kevin Bigalke.

The meeting was called to order by President Lee Coe.

Comments on the Legislative Breakfast:

- Better signage to events (breakfast, reception)
- Hot in reception room
- Do not offer a break between the reception and legislative update
- Suggested that board members greet those attending the reception

Agenda: approved as submitted. Motion by Craig Leiser. Second by Barbara Haake. Approved

Minutes: December and January meetings were approved as amended with a correction to the December 4 minutes (PowerPoint). Motion to accept minutes as submitted by Jerome Deal. Second by Darrel Ellefson. Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Barbara Haake and Craig Leiser

Dues payments are on track.

Leiser reviewed the balances on checking and savings accounts.

Motion to accept the treasurer's report by Barbara Haake. Second by Jerome Deal. Approved.

The motion was amended to include addressing the bylaws in 2015 to re-instate the former treasurer, Craig Leiser, as treasurer.

It was determined to continue with treasurer and assistant treasurer until the bylaws can be changed at the Annual Meeting in December. The bylaw change must be discussed and changes prepared for mailing 30 days before the annual meeting for approval by the delegates.

President's Report – Lee Coe

Coe attended the AIS Summit in St. Cloud and found it informative and well organized.

He questioned the wisdom of the buffer initiative floating through the legislature.

Coordinator's Report – Ray Bohn

- Bohn also found the AIS Summit to be excellent and well organized. He pointed out that MAWD had coordinated registration and made nametags for the event. MAWD earned much good will for helping with the event.

- Legislative Session:

- The buffer bill will probably go nowhere in the 2015 session. There are many problems with a blanket 50 foot buffer proposed by Governor Dayton.
- BWSR is neutral on the proposed 404 study. The proposed SWCD levy is being discussed.

- Redetermination of benefits - Jerome Deal said Ohio used current technology such as LIDAR which is saving a lot of time. Darrel Ellefson says Lac Qui Parle Yellow Bank WD is using those methods. It takes years using the present method.
- AIS funding is in the environment committee. Money is needed to get people talking about the issue.
- Brian Johnson reported on the Grey Cloud Slough in Newport. A culvert has collapsed and the connection on the river filled in. It should be free-flowing by culvert or bridge. Legacy funds are requested.

ADA Report – Kevin Bigalke

ADA is researching an ongoing program of leadership development including –

1. Watershed district assistant team – go into a district and help when requested
2. Leadership academy – similar to the BWSR academy but for administrators
3. Staff development – building new leaders out of staff and encouraging leadership skills
4. Shared Services such as:
 - Possibly lend staff temporarily
 - Develop and share policies, forms, manuals,
 - Share tools and equipment
 - GIS expertise
 - Formalized agreements and liability policies.

John Jaschke encouraged ADA to keep in mind that tax dollars in area may not be OK to share elsewhere.

Brian Johnson moved to encourage ADA to move forward with leadership possibilities. Second by Barbara Haake. Approved.

BWSR Update – Doug Thomas

Jill is reapplying to fill the vacancy on the BWSR Board.

CREP is still being modified. It is a slow process.

The proposed BWSR budget is presently at about one half of the request.

Committee Reports:

Summer Tour – summary by Kevin Bigalke

The Duluth Tour is progressing well. The VISTA Cruise will cost about \$1,325.

Brian Johnson moved to allow the cruise bill to reach \$1500. Second by Barbara Haake. Approved.

Transition Committee – Jerome Deal

The group will meet after the legislative session ends.

Eric Evenson moderated a meeting with ADA to determine what they see as the future in leadership of MAWD. Their priority is a well-planned overlap.

Jerome said Ray needs to be involved because he has key knowledge to draw on. He also mentioned the advantage of having both Ray and Peg involved in MAWD events.

There are many options to be considered and complications of each option need to be examined.

Annual Meeting – Craig Leiser

A commitment has been made to Arrowwood for the 2015 Annual Meeting & Trade Show.

The acoustics system in the tennis center is lacking. That is the best opportunity to reach the largest audience and the system should be optimum.

The quality of the lunch speaker needs to be a higher priority in the event planning. That person needs to be a GOOD speaker.

Local Government Roundtable – Jerome Deal

The group meets on Friday but is inactive during the legislative session.

Salary Survey – Brian Johnson

Sara Noah is conducting the survey across the state and the cost has risen to \$6,000. Johnson considers that a bargain. The survey may be ready by the Summer Tour. Johnson recommends it be distributed regionally. Matt Moore will coordinate the distribution with Noah.

Brian Johnson moved to allocate \$7,000 for the survey. Second by Craig Leiser. Approved.

New Business:

Viewers Association membership. Jerome Deal moved to renew the membership to the Viewers. Second by Darrel Ellefson. Approved.

Legislative Issues

Doug Thomas – Governor’s Initiative

The Governor has a water quality focus. His buffer proposal calls for 50’ buffers in all cases. The Board thinks one size does not fit all situations and cannot support a blanket proposal.

One Watershed One Plan

Framework in statute will help the plan move forward. 2015 proposed legislation provides \$4.2 M of Clean Water Council funds to begin implementation of the plan. The plan offers the advantage of less duplication. Four watershed districts are in pilot programs.

Thomas emphasized that One Watershed One Plan does not usurp any local authority.

Legislative Breakfast

All legislators are invited to both the reception and the breakfast. There is no charge to any legislator.

WCA

The program is working on mitigation requirements. The results are after two years of effort by BWSR.

1. Alternatives to NEMN – stream restoration, rice paddies
2. Local government looking for mitigation priorities
3. In leu of fee program – allow to pay into account without mitigation (already accomplished)

MAWD 2015-2016 Budget

Barbara Haake moved to support the CWC recommendation. Second by Craig Leiser. Approved.

Meeting Adjourned. Motion by Brian Johnson. Second Barb Haake. Approved at 4:55.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Vavra
Secretary

