



Land and Water Shall be Preserved

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts

Board of Directors

September 22, 2015

Phone Conference Meeting

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

Others: Ray Bohn, Kevin Bigalke, Peg Bohn

The agenda was amended to place John Jaschke of BWSR after the treasurer's report. Motion by Barbara Haake, second by Craig Leiser. Approved.

Minutes of the June 5, 2015 meeting were amended to note that Kevin Bigalke attended the meeting. Motion to approve the minutes as amended by Craig Leiser. Second by Barb Haake. Approved.

Minutes of June 24, 2015 meeting were reviewed and Craig Leiser moved to approved the minutes as submitted, seconded by Barb Haake and passed.

Treasurer's Report – Craig Leiser

Account balances were reviewed.

It will be necessary to replace Marvin Brunsell as the treasurer with Craig Leiser on the Annandale CD. Brunsell has agreed to call the bank and approve Leiser as treasurer and to authorize Leiser to be the signer for financial purposes. It was also agreed that there should be two signers on all CD's in the future.

Motion to approve the CD changes as submitted by Brian Johnson. Second by Larry Kuseske. Approved. Angie Fischer, MAWD accountant, suggested that the credit card charges are excessive and MAWD may want to look at another processor - perhaps check out a cell phone charge process. MAWD may consider this at a later date.

A motion was made by Barbara Haake to accept the treasurer's report as submitted. Second by Jerome Deal. Approved.

John Jaschke – BWSR

1. Patti Acomb from western metro Basset Creek WMO has been appointed to the BWSR Board.
2. Watershed representative, Joe Collins's term will expire in 2016. MAWD is asked to make recommendations to fill the position. Collins would like to be reappointed.
3. BWSR is in the process of researching what can and should be done to streamline the redetermination of benefits for ag drainage.
4. BWSR is in the process of hiring a program coordinator for buffers.
5. An outline and schedule of the rulemaking process for wetlands is also being researched.

President's Report - Lee Coe

Coe attended a groundwater information session presented by the soil and water conservation districts. DNR presented the program and discussed the contamination in southern Minnesota.

Coordinator's Report – Ray Bohn

There was much discussion on the pitfalls of the new buffer law and the possibility of watershed districts becoming implementers causing defunding possibilities for watershed districts.

DNR is dealing with maps. Requesting watershed districts to research maps to determine the benefited areas of ditches can cause great expense and consume time and dollars that watershed districts do not have available. There is still confusion about the inclusion of private ditches in benefitted areas and what failure to implement means in regard to the defunding portion of the new law.

The summer tour of 2014 lost money. There is support for the summer tour and it was suggested that perhaps MAWD does not need to make money every year on the summer tour. ADA was congratulated on the Duluth event, the harbor tour and the visits offered in Duluth.

The 2016 summer tour will be held in the Winona/LaCrosse area. Kevin and Craig have contacts in the area and will explore the options.

ADA – Kevin Bigalke

Bigalke gave an overview of the summer tour.

ADA representation on the resolutions committee was reviewed. Diane Lynch, Prior Lake Spring Lake, and Tom Casey, Minnehaha Creek, would like to serve on the committee. Jon Roeschlein has asked to be replaced on the committee.

Transition Committee – Jerome Deal

There was discussion of office space at watershed district offices. No office space is needed at this time.

Annual Meeting Committee – Craig Leiser

The committee met to review proposals for sessions, plenary sessions and pre-conference workshops. The registration mailing will be mailed in September.

Resolutions Committee – Larry Kuseske

The deadline for resolutions will be October 16 and the committee will meet at Sauk River or by phone conference on October 22 to review proposed resolutions and make recommendations for the membership.

Local Government Roundtable

The group met and discussed agency conflicts and staff preparation.

Drainage Work Group

A public waters sub-group was formed to deal with permitting and the time it takes to get a permit to work in public waters. This is proving to be a very controversial topic.

Redetermination of benefits process continues to be of concern. A subcommittee was formed to review methods to streamline and update the process by using electronics – WD members are Jerome Deal, Larry Kuseske, Ron Harnack, Lee Coe and Dan Wilkens.

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Brian Johnson moved to pay Sara Noah an additional \$500 for her work on the salary survey. Second by Barbara Haake.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40. Motion by Barbara Haake. Second by Linda Vavra. Approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Vavra
Secretary