

Minnesota Watersheds

Events-Education and Resolutions Committees Meeting

January 10, 2023

Via Zoom

Meeting participants: Region 1 Managers Linda Vavra, Bois de Sioux WD and Gene Tiedemann, Red Lake WD; Tina Carstens, Ramsey Washington Metro WD; Region 2 Manager Brad Kramer, Shell Rock River WD; Region 2 Administrator Jon Roeschlein, Sauk River WD; Region 3 Manager Rick Sanders; Region 3 Administrator Tina Carstens; and Maddy Bohn and Jan Voit, Minnesota Watersheds

Absent: Region 1 Manager Cathy Affield, Buffalo-Red River WD and Region 1 Administrator Mori Maher, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD

TASK 1. LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING AND DAY AT THE CAPITOL

The draft agenda for the Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol was discussed.

- The draft agenda was based on the same format as previous years.
- This event has faced declining attendance for both watersheds and legislators. Legislators are extremely busy at this time of the year and find it difficult to get away. Watersheds have found ways to meet with their legislators in other manners, such as in person in their home districts or virtually, which has also led to the declining attendance.
- Legislators will only be invited to the networking event, not the breakfast.
- Regional caucuses will be encouraged to meet informally during the networking event.
- Personal connects and food are the driving factors for legislators to attend.

Next steps for Jan and Maddy:

- The agenda will be revised based on today's discussion.
- Invitations for legislators will be drafted.
- Invitations that watersheds can use to invite legislators will be drafted.

TASK 2. SUMMER TOUR

Discussion was held regarding the Summer Tour.

- The event will be hosted by the Shell Rock River Watershed District, hopefully in partnership with Cedar River and Turtle Creek Watershed Districts.
- The dates are June 20 – 22.
- The hotel room block has been reserved. Two venues are being explored for hosting the welcome reception and tour overview, as well as the Minnesota Association of Watershed Administrators (MAWA) and Minnesota Watersheds Board of Directors meetings.
- Making this a two-day event was discussed, as well as the importance of the education component.
- The committee agreed that changing the event makeup would be good. It will begin with the education sessions in the afternoon of the first day, followed by the welcome reception and tour overview. The tour will be held the second day. The MAWA and Minnesota Watersheds meetings will be held on the third day, with the event tentatively ending at noon.
- Potential education topics:
 - Theme. It was mentioned that it would be beneficial to have the theme of the tour fit with the education sessions. The list of education topics developed by the former Education Committee will be distributed to the committee.
 - Stormwater stewardship programs, especially street sweeping. Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District has a staff person that could present on this topic.

- Common carp. Megan Duhr, Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center has contacted Minnesota Watersheds about presenting on this topic. Jan Voit will contact her regarding the date and determine her availability.
- Watershed funding sources. This topic was done at a MAWA meeting several years ago and may be good to revisit. Shell Rock River Watershed District's unique funding opportunities could be presented.
- Partnerships with private industry. Brad Kramer would be willing to speak on this topic.

The committee will meet again following the Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol to review the event.

The meeting concluded at 2:30 p.m.

Meeting notes by Jan Voit