

# Minnesota Watersheds

## Legislative Committee Meeting

June 12, 2023  
Via Zoom



Meeting participants: Region 1 Manager Linda Vavra, MW Board (Bois de Sioux WD); Region 1 Manager Gene Tiedemann, MW Board (Red Lake WD); Region 2 Manager Jeff Gertgen, MW Board (Middle Fork Crow River WD); Region 2 Administrator Michelle Overholser, Yellow Medicine River WD; Region 3 Manager Shawn Murphy, Capitol Region WD; Region 3 Administrator Phil Belfiori, Vadnais Lake Area Watershed Management Organization; and Jan Voit, MW Executive Director

Absent: Region 1 Administrator Dan Money (Two Rivers WD)

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Michelle Overholser called meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. The purpose of today's meeting is to review the draft Legislative Coordination and Communication Plan.

### **TASK ONE. REVIEW DRAFT LEGISLATIVE COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION DOCUMENT**

The Legislative Committee reviewed the draft document that is attached to these meeting notes. Discussion included:

- Once approved, the Legislative Coordination and Communication Plan will be incorporated into the Minnesota Watersheds Communication Plan. The Legislative Platform will be an overarching document that contains our policies on everything from drainage to aquatic invasive species. While they are related, the Legislative Platform will be a standalone document.
- Watersheds often base their membership on legislative achievements. It's necessary for our members to know what is happening, as well as for this committee to provide input to the Minnesota Watersheds Board on legislative activities.
- Minnesota Watersheds has one lobbyist. The Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) has hired Park Street Public and will have four lobbyists at their disposal.
- Lobbyists not only push legislation for our members, they also watch for legislation that could be harmful. The goal is to work together and have a stronger voice.
- The lobbyists for Minnesota Watersheds, the RRWMB, Association of Minnesota Counties, and other watersheds all work together, depending upon the issue.
- Weekly updates are not necessary, nor is providing bill tracking to members on a weekly basis. Members want information that is timely. They do not want constant emails that don't contain important information. Monthly and as needed is preferred over weekly updates.
- Regulatory updates do not need to have a specific number of times for distribution. As needed is preferred over two to four times per year.
- Partner coordination happens throughout the legislative session and often in preparation for Drainage Work Group meetings and other committee meetings.

### **TASK TWO. NEXT STEPS**

The draft Legislative Coordination and Communication Plan will be sent to the RRWMB Legislative Committee for review and comment.

The meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m.

Notes submitted by Jan Voit