

Minnesota Watersheds Resolutions Committee Meeting

October 10, 2023

Via Zoom



Committee members present: Region 1 Manager Linda Vavra, Bois de Sioux WD (BDSWD) and Minnesota Watersheds (MW) Board; Region 1 Manager Don Andringa, Sand Hill River WD; Region 2 Manager Brad Kramer, Shell Rock River WD; Region 2 Administrator Dan Livdahl, Okabena-Ocheda WD; 3 Administrator Nick Tomczik, Rice Creek WD; and Jan Voit, MW

Other meeting participant: Phil Belfiori, Vadnais Lake Area Watershed Management Organization and a member of the Minnesota Association of Watershed Administrators (MAWA) Legislative Platform Committee

Committee members absent: Region 1 Administrators Jamie Beyer, BDWSD and Region 3 Manager Joe Collins, Capitol Region WD

RESOLUTIONS

Co-Chair Vavra opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. The committee reviewed and discussed the resolutions that were submitted. The committee unanimously agreed to move the recommendations to the MW Board.

#	Resolution Title	Committee Recommendation
1	Require Watershed District Permits for the Department of Natural Resources	Recommends adoption
2	Clarify Budget Adoption Deadlines and Certification Types for Watershed Districts	Does not recommend adoption; recommends working with boards, staff, and legal counsel to understand and confirm best practices
3	Support New Legislation Modeled after HF2687 and SF2419 (2018) Regarding DNR Regulatory Authority over Public Drainage Maintenance and Repairs	Recommends adoption as amended
4	Support Streamlining the DNR Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	Recommends adoption
5	Support Increased Flexibility in Open Meeting Law to Utilize Interactive Technology	Recommends adoption
6	Support Minnesota Watersheds Education and Outreach to Encourage Formation of Watershed Districts in Unserved Areas	Recommends adoption

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

In accordance with our Strategic Plan, the MAWA Legislative Platform Committee developed a draft Legislative Platform. Phil Belfiori gave an overview of the process that was undertaken by the MAWA Legislative Platform Committee. The Resolutions Committee reviewed the draft document and recommended adoption of the Legislative Platform with the understanding that this is a living document. Each year, the sunset resolutions will be removed and newly adopted resolutions will be added. The document will be reviewed annually by the MAWA

Legislative Platform Committee and the Resolutions Committee. Any recommended additions or corrections will be brought to the membership for consideration. The Legislative Platform will be updated and voted on by the membership each year at the annual business meeting. In addition, the committee discussed the need for clarity in the roles of both the Resolutions and Legislative Committees as it relates to the Legislative Platform.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting notes submitted by Jan Voit