

Minnesota Watersheds Bylaws-Manual of Policy and Procedures (MOPP) Committee Meeting

October 16, 2023

Via Zoom



Committee members present: Region 1 Manager Linda Vavra (Bois de Sioux WD); Region 1 Administrator Jamie Beyer (Bois de Sioux WD); Region 2 Manager Wanda Holker (Upper Minnesota River WD); Region 2 Administrator Colton Henjum (North Fork Crow River WD); Region 3 Managers David Ziegler (Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek WD) and Mike Bradley (Rice Creek WD); and Jan Voit, Minnesota Watersheds

Committee member absent: Region 3 Administrator John Hanson (Valley Branch WD)

Co-chair Vavra opened the meeting at 9:01 a.m. and turned it over to Co-chair Beyer. The committee reviewed proposed changes to the Bylaws. Discussion was held regarding the following.

- Associate membership. There have been inquiries from non-governmental organizations to become associate members. At present, additional funds from outside organizations are not necessary for our budgetary needs. Representing both government and non-government organizations would be confusing for members and for legislators. The committee recommends that the associate membership section should be removed from the Bylaws.
- Annual meeting. The annual business meeting is what this section is referring to. The Board of Directors are elected during regional caucuses. The committee recommends updating this section to refer specifically to the annual business meeting and to reflect more accurately what transpires.
- Chairman and Recording Secretary. The agendas for the regional caucuses denote the election of a chairman and a recording secretary. Very often an administrator or other staff person takes the notes. The committee recommends revising this section to more accurately reflect the procedure that is followed.

The committee reviewed proposed changes to the MOPP. Discussion was held regarding the following.

- Additions and corrections. There are several small changes within the document (adopted date, acronyms, adding communication plans, etc.) The committee recommends accepting those changes.
- Posting board meeting documents. The Strategic Plan calls for meeting packets to be distributed to the board and dues paying members. It also calls for agendas to be posted on the website. The committee discussed the difference between government entities and non-profit organizations when it comes to posting requirements. The committee recommends the proposed changes to this section.
- Committees. Currently, there is no restriction on whether a non-member watershed district or watershed management organization member can be represented on a Minnesota Watersheds committee. At present, there is a member of a non-member watershed district serving on the Events-Education Committee, as well as serving on a committee that is making recommendations regarding to proposed fixes to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103D. Allowing this provides an opportunity for a non-member to circumvent paying dues and to advance an agenda for their organization without being a member. The committee recommends that only dues paying members be allowed representation on Minnesota Watersheds committees.
- Scopes of Work. The committee membership on each committee will be updated after the annual conference elections.
- Maps. A request was made to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for updated watershed maps. These documents will be added to the MOPP as soon as they are available.

The committee asked for an update on the annual conference. Registration information has not yet been distributed. Hopefully that will be done this coming week. It would be helpful to have better guidance for attendees to know where caucuses, workshops, education sessions, and the business meeting will be held, specifically which floor. Because the entire structure of the event will change for 2023, it will be interesting to hear the survey results.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Meeting notes by Jan Voit