



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting
Wednesday, April 20, 2022

Agenda Item

Item 6. D. – MAWD Membership

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

It is the time of year when MAWD asks for membership renewals. The LMRWD received a message from MAWD asking the Board to consider rejoining MAWD. The message and membership renewal packet are attached for the Board's information. Emily Javens, MAWD Executive Director, provided a presentation made at the MAWD Annual Meeting. Ms. Javens said if the Board has any questions

Attachments

Email message from MAWD Executive Director
MAWD 2022 Membership Renewal Packet
MAWD 2021 Executive Director update

Recommended Action

Provide direction to staff regarding membership in MAWD



Linda Loomis <naiadconsulting@gmail.com>

2022 MAWD Membership Renewal Consideration

Emily Javens <emily@mnwatershed.org>

Mon, Mar 28, 2022 at 4:28 PM

To: jgiese@plslwd.org, Linda Loomis <naiadconsulting@gmail.com>, Jon Roeschlein <jon@srwdmn.org>

Cc: Jan Voit <jrvoit@outlook.com>, Angie Fischer <amofischer@gmail.com>, sherrywhite@mediacombb.net

Hello Joni, Linda, and Jon,

I've attached a membership renewal packet for your review and consideration. We would love to have you back as members and would be more than happy to meet with your boards or board presidents. We met last week with Sauk River and we obtained great feedback and look forward to attending a future meeting to discuss.

Thanks again for considering and sharing with your boards.

Emily

Emily Javens, PE | Executive Director

MN Association of Watershed Districts, Inc. (MAWD)

595 Aldine Street | St. Paul, MN 55104

(651) 440-9407 | (320) 979-0084 cell (*texts welcome*)

www.mnwatershed.org | emily@mnwatershed.org



2022-03-28 MAWD Membership Invitation.pdf

3263K

President

Mary Texer (Region 3)
Capitol Region WD
metexer@gmail.com
651-224-2919 | Term 2023

Vice President

Linda Vavra (Region 1)
Bois de Sioux WD
lvavra@fedtel.net
320-760-1774 | Term 2023

Secretary

Ruth Schaefer (Region 2)
Middle Fork Crow River WD
ruths56288@gmail.com
320-212-5973 | Term 2022

Treasurer

Sherry Davis White (Region 3)
Minnehaha Creek WD
sherrywhite@mediacombb.net
952-215-6963 | Term 2022

Directors

Gene Tiedemann (Region 1)
Red Lake WD
gtiedemann@rrv.net
218-289-3511 | Term 2024

Peter Fjestad (Region 1)
Buffalo Red River WD
pfjestad@prt.com
218-731-4630 | Term 2022

Wanda Holker (Region 2)
Upper Minnesota WD
ewholker@fedtel.net
320-760-6093 | Term 2024
Appointed until Dec 2022

Vacant (Region 2)
Term 2023
Appointment Pending
*If interested, please contact
your region representative or
the MAWD President.*

Jackie Anderson (Region 3)
Comfort Lake – Forest Lake WD
cflwdjapa@gmail.com
612-819-6906 | Term 2024

Executive Director

Emily Javens, PE
emily@mnwatershed.org
320-979-0084 (mobile)

Memorandum

DATE: March 28, 2022
TO: Watershed Administrators
FROM: Emily Javens, Executive Director
CC: Treasurer Sherry Davis White
MAWD Accountant Angie Obremski
RE: **MAWD MEMBERSHIP INVITATION**



**Your voices are important,
and we would be honored to
have you join us! Give us a
call today to discuss further.**

As a non-profit organization that represents local governments that focus on water management on watershed boundaries, MAWD invites you to be a member in our association. Membership benefits include, but are not limited to, education and training opportunities at workshops, a summer tour, and an annual convention and trade show; and legislative and state agency lobbying for resources that enhance your ability to preserve and protect Minnesota's water resources. Progress on this work is communicated to you through regular newsletters, social media, and our website.

Please find a member services document that highlights the benefits of being a member of this state-wide organization. Also included are details that explain the rates members pay for annual membership. Dues for watershed districts (WDs) are equal to 0.5% of each WD's maximum general levy as defined in statute (before applying the \$250,000 levy limit), not to exceed \$7,500. Dues for water management organizations is equal to \$500 for the first year of membership, 50% of full dues (using the same formula as WDs) the second year, and full dues the third year.

MAWD Board Members and I are available to discuss membership with your boards. If interested, please contact me and we can get that scheduled.

2022 WD Dues = 2020 Estimated Market Values x 0.00048 x 0.005, not to exceed \$7,500
2022 WMO Dues = \$500 (1st year), 50% WD dues (2nd year), 100% WD Dues (3rd year)

If interested in being a 2022 MAWD member, please submit payment by May 31, 2022 to:

**MN Association of Watershed Districts
c/o Obremski Ltd.
1005 Mainstreet
Hopkins, MN 55343**

***PLEASE NOTE THIS IS NOT THE MAWD OFFICE.
PLEASE SEND TO MAWD'S ACCOUNTANT DIRECTLY.***

Please contact me if you have any questions at (320) 979-0084 or emily@mnwatershed.org.

Enclosures: MAWD Member Benefits
WD/WMO Map
MAWD Board Members
2021 MAWD Strategic Plan Progress Summary
2022 MAWD Membership Dues Spreadsheet
BWSR Memo dated June 28, 2021 re: 2021 WD Estimated Market Values

MEMBER SERVICES

MN Association of Watershed Districts, Inc. 595 Aldine St., St. Paul MN 55104
(651) 440-9407 | www.mnwatershed.org | [@mnwd46](https://www.facebook.com/mnwd46) | [facebook.com/mnwd46](https://www.facebook.com/mnwd46)



Land and Water Shall be Preserved

What is the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD)?

The Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts, Inc. (MAWD) is a 501(c)(4) non-profit and membership-based organization serving local governments that manage water on watershed boundaries rather than political boundaries such as those of cities and counties. Members benefit from having an organization that provides **a unified voice for watershed management** and works diligently to maximize the availability of tools and resources to allow members to most effectively and efficiently meet their watershed management goals. Areas of service include providing lobbying and advocacy services, education and training opportunities, and direct support to members.

Lobbying and Advocacy



MAWD lobbies for funding and programs that enhance the restoration and protection of Minnesota's water resources. Members drive the organization's policy issues through an annual resolutions process and the MAWD Board of Directors sets each year's priorities. Although legislative solutions are often needed to maximize resources, sometimes MAWD will find the best solutions by working directly with state agencies and other non-profits such as wildlife groups, lake associations, environmental groups, and farm organizations.

Education and Training



Every year, MAWD provides members with opportunities to learn from other members, as well as industry experts, at a variety of workshops, a summer tour, and an annual convention and trade show. Training topics typically include the following: watershed planning, permitting, flood control, education and outreach programs, innovative technologies, effective administration, public relations, data collection and assessment, aquatic invasive species, urban and rural best management practices, governance, and leadership.

Member Support



MAWD maintains regular communication with its members to ensure they are kept informed on the latest watershed news including trainings they may find useful, changes to legislation that may impact them, and information to help them stay in compliance with governmental regulations and laws. Formats used to distribute information include newsletters, social media (Facebook and Twitter), email updates and alerts, fact sheets, press releases, and the organization's website: www.mnwatershed.org. Check us out today!

For more information, contact Emily Javens, Executive Director, at (651) 440-9407 or emily@mnwatershed.org



2021 MAWD Summary Progress Report

Strategic Plan Goals (2020-2022)

Based on input from the MAWD membership via a membership survey taken in December 2018, goals need to focus in three areas: (1) Education and Training, (2) Communication and Collaboration, and (3) Lobbying and Advocacy. MAWD resources are invested in these focus areas.

Education and Training

Activities in this area address the education and training needs of board managers, administrators, and staff. MAWD will partner with such agencies and organizations as the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and the University of Minnesota to offer timely and affordable educational opportunities.

- ONGOING** Continue to provide educational and training opportunities at MAWD events.
- ONGOING** Continue to partner with other agencies and organizations to offer timely and affordable educational opportunities.
- ONGOING** NEW - Expand training to MAWD members to engage with their elected local, state, and federal officials.
- ONGOING** NEW - Identify and advertise online/eLearning courses and training opportunities.

Communication and Collaboration

Activities in this area focus on keeping MAWD membership informed of developments with water issues and collaboration between MAWD and other agencies and groups.

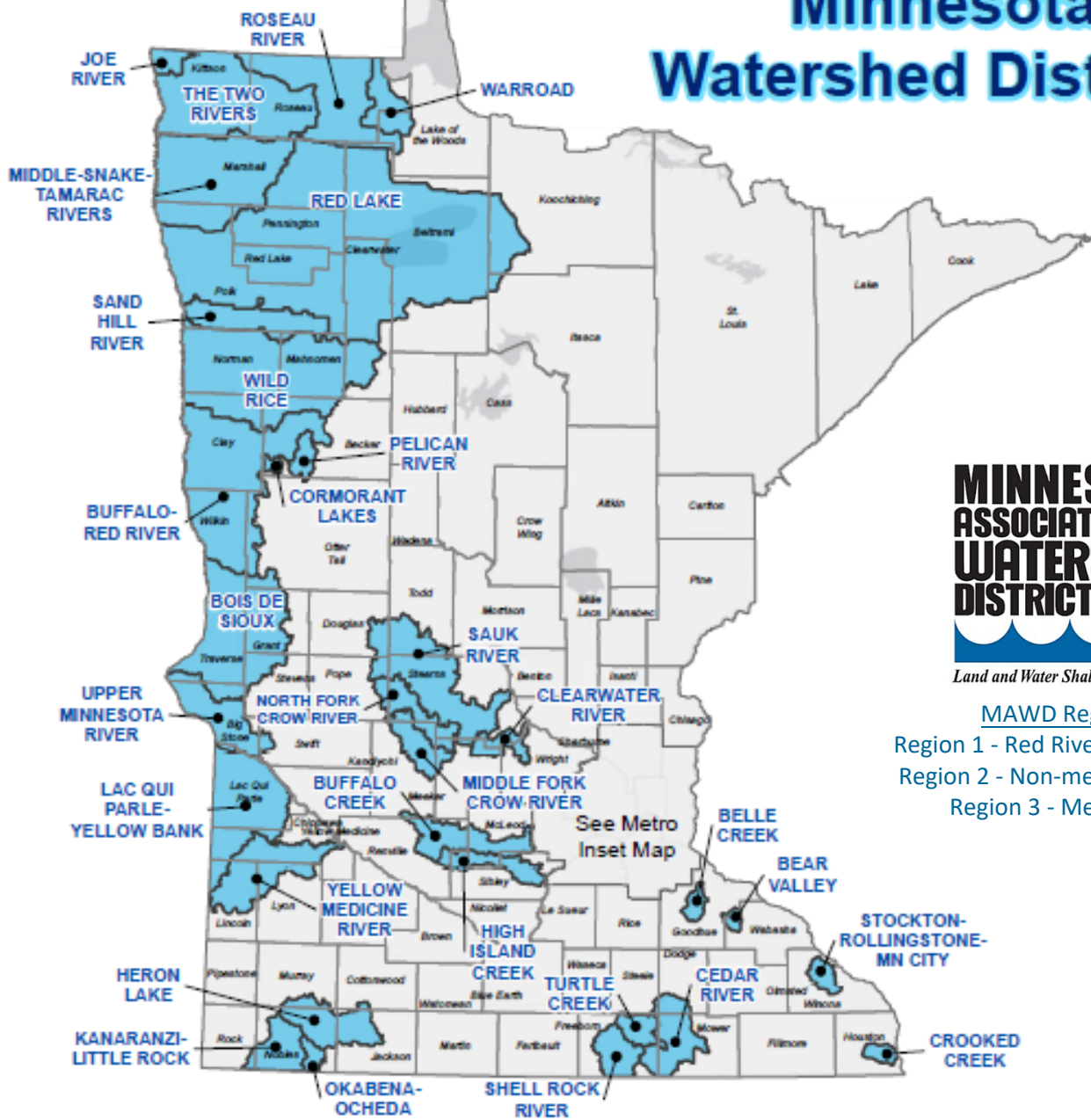
- ONGOING** Continue to expand MAWD’s social media presence to increase visibility and impact.
- ONGOING** Continue to improve communications to MAWD members regarding MAWD’s legislative efforts and general advocacy. This is done prior to, during, and after the legislative session.
- ONGOING** Continue weekly video and written updates during the legislative session and periodically off session.
- ONGOING** NEW - Post official MAWD documents in such a way as to increase accessibility by MAWD members.
- ONGOING** NEW - Post reports from individuals representing MAWD on various state boards on the MAWD website after each meeting including, but not limited to the (1) BWSR Board, (2) Clean Water Council, (3) Local Government Water Roundtable, and (4) Drainage Work Group.
- STARTED** NEW - Establish regional chapters in Regions I and II to promote more local information sharing and education.
- STARTED** NEW - Develop brochures and handouts in the following areas:
 - ONGOING** Annual Legislative Agenda
 - TO DO** Benefits of Watershed Management
 - TO DO** How to Form a Watershed District
- TO DO** NEW - Expand MAWD’s presence in the press with the goal of educating the public about water organizations and their activities.
- TO DO** NEW - Post the Watershed Handbook online in a more searchable format that is easier to update and reference.
- TO DO** NEW - Publish quarterly financial reports to promote financial transparency between MAWD and its membership.

Lobbying and Advocacy

Activities in this area focus on lobbying on issues the membership identifies in their legislative agenda and advocating for MAWD and water organizations. These activities take place year-round and not just during the legislative session.

- ONGOING** Continue work to establish MAWD as a leadership organization – the experts regarding water management.
- ONGOING** Continue to improve and increase the effectiveness of the MAWD legislative agenda preparation and lobbying activities.
- ONGOING** Continue to actively collaborate with state agencies and other organizations as appropriate on legislative issues.
- ONGOING** Continue to actively support watershed management and the formation of new watershed organizations.
- ONGOING** NEW - Implement MAWD’s Sunset Policy for resolutions.
- ONGOING** NEW - Ensure that legislative positions are in alignment with the MAWD mission, vision, and core values.
- TO DO** NEW - Develop state and federal policy statements that reflect MAWD’s legislative positions and post online.

Minnesota Watershed Districts



Land and Water Shall be Preserved

MAWD Regions

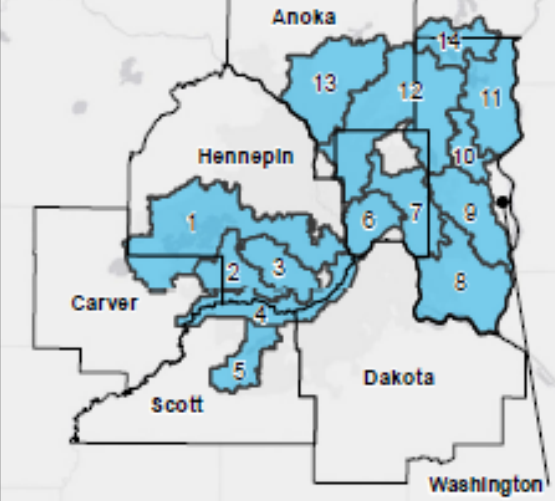
Region 1 - Red River Valley (RRV)

Region 2 - Non-metro, Non-RRV

Region 3 - Metro Area

See Metro Inset Map

Metro Area



Metro Watershed Districts

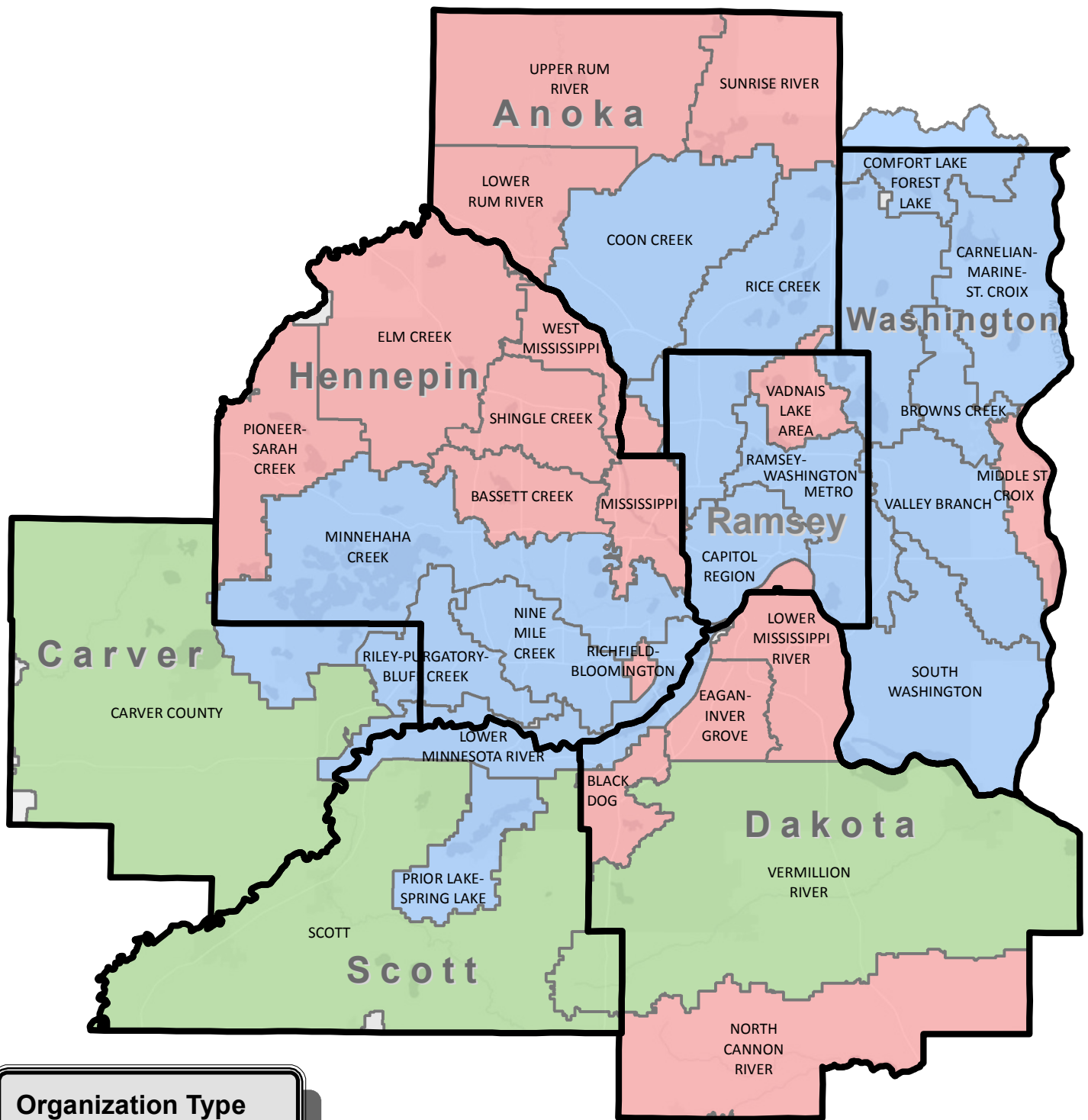
- 1, MINNEHAHA CREEK
- 2, RILEY-PURGATORY-BLUFF CREEK
- 3, NINE MILE CREEK
- 4, LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER
- 5, PRIOR LAKE-SPRING LAKE
- 6, CAPITOL REGION
- 7, RAMSEY-WASHINGTON METRO
- 8, SOUTH WASHINGTON
- 9, VALLEY BRANCH
- 10, BROWNS CREEK
- 11, CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX
- 12, RICE CREEK
- 13, COON CREEK
- 14, COMFORT LAKE FOREST LAKE







Updated Nov. 2016



Metro Watershed Management Organizations (Metro WMOs)



Organization Type

-  Watershed District
-  Joint Powers WMO
-  County WMO
-  County Boundary



2022 MAWD Board of Directors



Mary Texer - President
Capitol Region WD
Region III / Term 2023
metexer@gmail.com
651-224-2919



Linda Vavra – Vice President
Bois de Sioux WD
Region I / Term 2023
lvavra@fedtel.net
320-760-1774



Sherry Davis White - Treasurer
Minnehaha Creek WD
Region III / Term 2022
swhite@minnehahacreek.org
952-215-6963



Ruth Schaefer - Secretary
Middle Fork Crow River WD
Region II / Term 2022
ruths56288@gmail.com
320-212-5973



Jackie Anderson, Co-Treasurer
Comfort Lake-Forest Lake WD
Region III / Term 2024
jackie.anderson@clflwd.org
612-819-6906



Peter Fjestad
Buffalo Red River WD
Region I / Term 2022
pfjestad@prtcl.com
218-731-4630

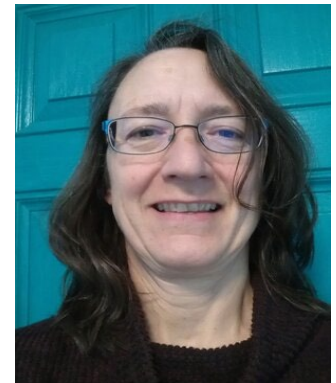


Gene Tiedemann
Red Lake WD
Region I / Term 2024
gtiedemann@rrv.net
218-289-3511



VACANT
Region II / Term 2023

www.mnwatershed.org



Wanda Holker
Upper MN River WD
Region II / Term 2024
ewholker@fedtel.net
321-760-6093

2022 MAWD Membership Dues

WATERSHED DISTRICT	2021 Estimated Market Values (EMV)	.048% EMV	x 0.005	2022 MAWD Dues
BEAR VALLEY	224,975,300	107,988	540	540
BELLE CREEK	424,118,500	203,577	1,018	1,018
BOIS DE SIOUX	4,606,146,500	2,210,950	11,055	7,500
BROWN'S CREEK	2,137,451,400	1,025,977	5,130	5,130
BUFFALO CREEK	2,444,687,900	1,173,450	5,867	5,867
BUFFALO-RED RIVER	9,317,905,900	4,472,595	22,363	7,500
CAPITOL REGION	25,899,519,900	12,431,770	62,159	7,500
CARNELIAN MARINE ST. CROIX	1,925,444,400	924,213	4,621	4,621
CEDAR RIVER	3,168,693,200	1,520,973	7,605	7,500
CLEARWATER RIVER	1,813,016,700	870,248	4,351	4,351
COMFORT LAKE - FOREST LAKE	2,294,312,700	1,101,270	5,506	5,506
COON CREEK	18,333,796,600	8,800,222	44,001	7,500
CORMORANT LAKES	631,570,700	303,154	1,516	1,516
CROOKED CREEK	406,323,000	195,035	975	975
HERON LAKE	2,495,004,200	1,197,602	5,988	5,988
HIGH ISLAND	1,210,914,200	581,239	2,906	2,906
JOE RIVER	234,768,400	112,689	563	563
KANARANZI-LITTLE ROCK	1,770,101,400	849,649	4,248	4,248
LAC QUI PARLE-YELLOW BANK	2,817,445,000	1,352,374	6,762	6,762
LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER	11,890,535,300	5,707,457	28,537	7,500
MIDDLE FORK CROW RIVER	1,918,921,400	921,082	4,605	4,605
MIDDLE SNAKE TAMARAC RIVERS	2,704,993,000	1,298,397	6,492	6,492
MINNEHAHA CREEK	60,337,920,800	28,962,202	144,811	7,500
NINE MILE CREEK	22,871,435,900	10,978,289	54,891	7,500
NORTH FORK CROW RIVER	1,547,178,500	742,646	3,713	3,713
OKABENA-CHEDA	1,009,825,800	484,716	2,424	2,424
PELICAN RIVER	2,435,242,600	1,168,916	5,845	5,845
PRIOR LAKE-SPRING LAKE	4,777,961,100	2,293,421	11,467	7,500
RAMSEY-WASHINGTON METRO	19,159,680,800	9,196,647	45,983	7,500
RED LAKE	8,576,861,300	4,116,893	20,584	7,500
RICE CREEK	26,212,348,400	12,581,927	62,910	7,500
RILEY-PURGATORY-BLUFF CREEK	16,210,441,400	7,781,012	38,905	7,500
ROSEAU RIVER	810,243,400	388,917	1,945	1,945
SAND HILL RIVER	1,211,427,700	581,485	2,907	2,907
SAUK RIVER	9,506,470,000	4,563,106	22,816	7,500
SHELL ROCK RIVER	2,173,136,300	1,043,105	5,216	5,216
SOUTH WASHINGTON	14,692,742,500	7,052,516	35,263	7,500
STOCKTON-ROLLINGSTONE WS	549,673,300	263,843	1,319	1,319
TURTLE CREEK	1,295,615,600	621,895	3,109	3,109
TWO RIVERS	1,577,158,000	757,036	3,785	3,785
UPPER MINNESOTA RIVER	1,425,780,300	684,375	3,422	3,422
VALLEY BRANCH	5,445,217,600	2,613,704	13,069	7,500
WARROAD	428,011,100	205,445	1,027	1,027
WILD RICE	3,876,943,600	1,860,933	9,305	7,500
YELLOW MEDICINE RIVER	2,477,437,300	1,189,170	5,946	5,946
Metro Watershed Management Organizations (WMOs)				
Bassett Creek WMC - 3rd year	14,681,551,100	7,047,145	35,236	7,500
Mississippi WMO - 3rd year	35,435,169,900	17,008,882	85,044	7,500
Lower Rum River WMO - 2nd year	3,408,635,200	1,636,145	8,181	3,750
Vadnais Lakes Area Lakes WMO - 3rd year	4,875,538,300	2,340,258	11,701	7,500
New MWO members - 1st year				500
TOTALS	365,680,293,400	175,526,541	877,633	255,497

Notes:

Dues Calculation = Estimated Market Values x 0.00048 x 0.005, capped at \$7,500

Source of 2021 WD Estimated Market Values: See included BWSR Memorandum, June 28, 2021

Source of 2021 WMO Estimated Market Values - same values used for 2021 dues calculation

For more information, contact Executive Director Emily Javens at (320) 979-0084 or emily@mnwatershed.org.

To retain all membership benefits, please submit payment by May 31, 2022. Thank you!

Memo

Date: June 28, 2021

To: Watershed District Administrators and Managers

From: Annie Felix-Gerth, Water Programs Coordinator

Cc: Emily Javens, MAWD

Rob Sip, RRWMB

BWSR: John Jaschke, Angie Becker Kudelka, Kevin Bigalke, Dave Weirens, Jeremy Olson,
Regional Operations Staff

RE: 2021 Estimated Market Values

Please find attached a table containing the recently released total estimate market values (EMV) for 2021 from the Minnesota Department of Revenue. The 2020 abstract of tax lists was used as the basis for calculating the table.

In order to determine the annual maximum General Fund levy for a watershed district, the EMV listed in the table must be multiplied by 0.048 percent (0.00048) and then compared to the maximum General Fund levy limit of \$250,000. Use whichever value is less. See Minn. Stat. § 103D.905, Subd. 3 for reference.

Please contact me if you have any questions,

Annie Felix-Gerth

Annie.Felix-gerth@state.mn.us | 651-238-0677

Attachment: Taxes Payable 2021 Estimated Market Values for Watershed Districts in Minnesota

TAXES PAYABLE 2021**ESTIMATED & TAXABLE MARKET VALUES FOR WATERSHEDS IN MINNESOTA**

Watershed Name	Total EMV (\$)	Watershed Code
Bear Valley Watershed District	224,975,300	001
Belle Creek Watershed District	424,118,500	003
Bois De Sioux Watershed District	4,606,146,500	031
Browns Creek Watershed District	2,137,451,400	069
Buffalo Creek Watershed District	2,444,687,900	005
Buffalo-Red River Watershed District	9,317,905,900	007
Capitol Region Watershed District	25,899,519,900	070
Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District	1,925,444,400	010
Cedar River Watershed District	3,168,693,200	002
Clearwater River Watershed District	1,813,016,700	009
Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District	2,294,312,700	071
Coon Creek Watershed District	18,333,796,600	013
Cormorant Lakes Watershed District	631,570,700	015
Crooked Creek Watershed District	406,323,000	016
Heron Lake Watershed District	2,495,004,200	024
High Island Watershed District	1,210,914,200	018
Joe River Watershed District	234,768,400	020
Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed District	1,770,101,400	021
Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District	2,817,445,000	022
Lower Minnesota River Watershed District	11,890,535,300	060
Middle Fork-Crow River Watershed District	1,918,921,400	074
Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District	2,704,993,000	026
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District	60,337,920,800	062
Nine Mile Creek Watershed District	22,871,435,900	058
North Fork Crow River Watershed District	1,547,178,500	008
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District	1,009,825,800	028
Pelican River Watershed District	2,435,242,600	030
Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District	4,777,961,100	032
Ramsey-Washington Metropolitan Watershed District	19,159,680,800	034
Red Lake Watershed District	8,576,861,300	036
Rice Creek Watershed District	26,212,348,400	038
Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District	16,210,441,400	064
Roseau River Watershed District	810,243,400	040
Sand Hill Watershed District	1,211,427,700	042
Sauk River Watershed District	9,506,470,000	043
Shell Rock River Watershed District	2,173,136,300	073
South Washington Watershed District	14,692,742,500	014
Stockton-Rollingstone-Minnesota City Watershed District	549,673,300	044
The Two Rivers Watershed District	1,577,158,000	050
Turtle Creek Watershed District	1,295,615,600	048
Upper Minnesota River Watershed District	1,425,780,300	052
Valley Branch Watershed District	5,445,217,600	054
Warroad Watershed District	428,011,100	056
Wild Rice Watershed District	3,876,943,600	066
Yellow Medicine River Watershed District	2,477,437,300	068

SOURCE: Mn Dept. of Revenue 2021 PRISM SUBMISSION #3 - FINAL ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION

Welcome

MAWD Annual Business Meeting
December 3, 2021



1



Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts
Lifetime Achievement Award

Presented to

Craig Leiser

In recognition for service to the
Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts

- Through membership on the MAWD Board of Directors
- Leading the initial Strategic Planning Effort
- Serving on the Board's restructuring team
- Serving on the Governance Committee which updated the MAWD Bylaws and drafted the first Board Manual of Policies and Procedures
- And for a continual upbeat spirit and leadership skills that always encouraged and inspired



www.bradshawfuneral.com/obituary/Craig-Leiser



2

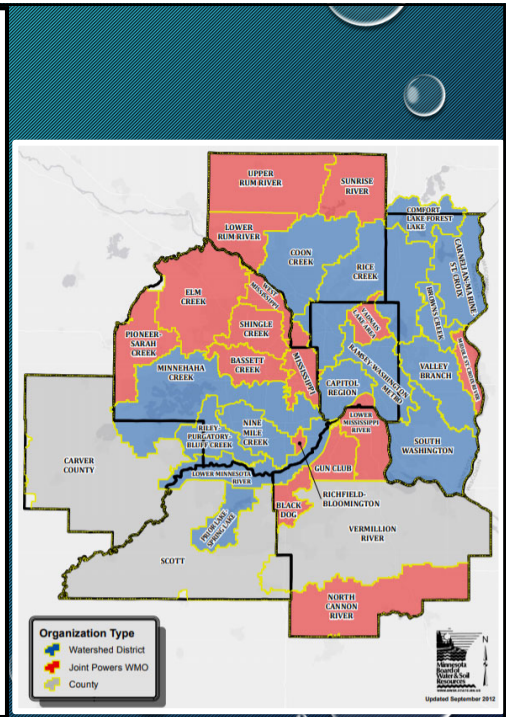
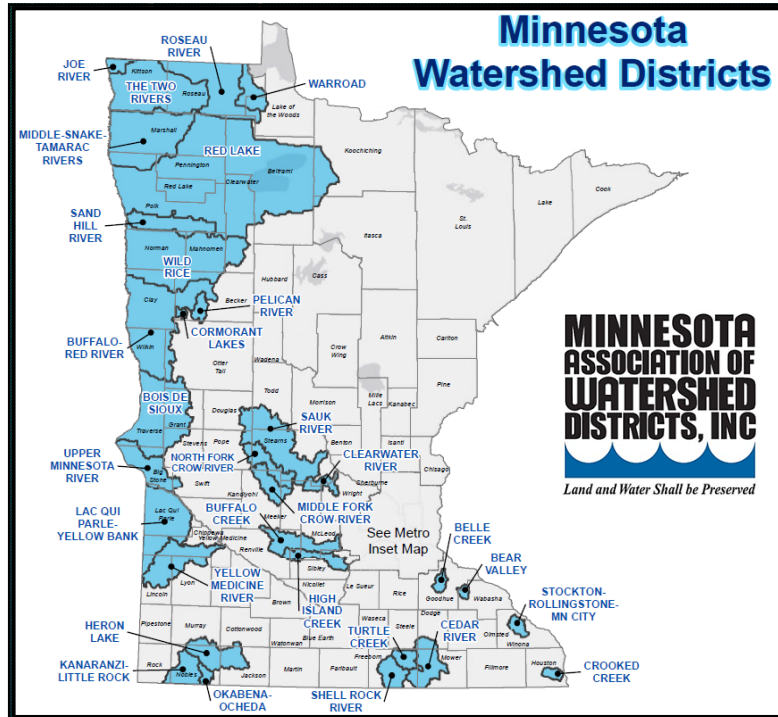
Executive Director Update

MAWD Annual Business Meeting
December 3, 2021

Emily Javens, PE



3



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MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF WATERSHED DISTRICTS

ABOUT MAWD

ANNUAL AWARDS
ANNUAL REPORTS
BOARD MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
COMMITTEES
GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTS
METRO MAWD
MEMBERSHIPS
MEMBER LOGIN
MISSION
PARTNERS
ONLINE LIBRARY
STAFF
UPCOMING MEETINGS

Bylaws
Watershed District Handbook
Manual of Policy and Procedures (MOPP)
Strategic Plan

www.mnwatershed.org/governance-documents

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF WATERSHED DISTRICTS, INC
Land and Water Shall be Preserved

5

Governance Structure

BYLAWS - “Constitution” of our 501c4 association

- MAWD Board of Directors - 9 Members, 3 from each region
- ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING - Resolutions-based policies
- STAFFING - Executive Director, Part-time Lobbyist, Part-time events and website/social media (1.75 FTE total)
- COMMITTEES - Ensure input from members

MOPP (Manual of Policies and Procedures) - Day to Day Operations

STRATEGIC PLAN

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF WATERSHED DISTRICTS, INC
Land and Water Shall be Preserved

6

Strategic Plan

Advocate and establish MAWD as the leading resource and advocate on watershed management through

- Education and Training
- Communication and Collaboration
- Lobbying and Advocacy

MAWD Strategic Plan 2020-2022

I. History & Purpose: Minnesota Watershed Districts (WDs) were established with the Minnesota Watershed Act, M.S., Chapter 103 D in 1955. From inception it was felt that Minnesota WDs should be run by people somewhat removed from the political process, so they would be able to make tough and possibly unpopular decisions without a complete focus on political consequences. To facilitate this, it was agreed that the position of WD Manager would be appointed, rather than elected. Land use and zoning powers remained with elected city and county officials.

While the boundaries of WDs are determined by hydrologic lines of demarcation, rather than political boundaries, water does not follow political boundaries. The organizations are established by local petition to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), a state agency. After filing of an establishment petition, the Board has the authority to establish a WD, define the boundaries, and appoint the first board of managers (Board) as defined under Minnesota Statutes 103D.101. All subsequent Board are appointed by the associated County Boards of Commissioners as defined under Minnesota Statutes 103D.311.

WDs responsibilities have changed from their original objectives of focusing solely upon water quantity. WDs have now assumed responsibility for a wide variety of water-related concerns, especially those related to water quality, including wetlands, wetland restoration, and groundwater management. The science associated with water quality and quantity issues continues to grow and as a result, awareness and application of these technologies is a significant consideration for WD Boards and staff.

Another important component of watershed work is engaging the public in its efforts through education, outreach, and cost-sharing grants.


WDs work with multiple state agencies, such as BWSR, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. They work with federal agencies, such as Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Army Corps of Engineers, United States Department of Agriculture, United States Environmental Protection Agency and United States Fish and Wildlife Service. They also work with cities, counties, and such organizations as Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and regional governments, such as the Metropolitan Council. At all times a WD must be responsive to the community or communities they serve as well as citizen groups, which may from time to time seek assistance. This includes organizations, such as Lake Associations or Community Development organizations of many types.

To capitalize on watershed districts combined knowledge and to share information, the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) was incorporated August 26, 1971.

II. Core Values:

- Integrity
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Relevance
- Science-based

III. State Mandate: Per Minnesota State Statute 103D.201 subdivision 1 resources of the state by land use planning, flood control, and other conservation principles for the protection of the public health and welfare and the provide



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2020-2022 Strategic Plan

- Significant progress in ALL service areas
- 1 of 3 years remain - on track for full implementation
- 2023-2025 plan writing starts now

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF WATERSHED DISTRICTS, INC.

2021 MAWD Summary Progress Report

Strategic Plan Goals (2020-2022)

Based on input from the MAWD membership via a membership survey taken in December 2018, goals need to focus in three areas: (1) Education and Training, (2) Communication and Collaboration, and (3) Lobbying and Advocacy. MAWD resources are invested in these focus areas.

Education and Training

Activities in this area address the education and training needs of board managers, administrators, and staff. MAWD will partner with such agencies and organizations as the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and the University of Minnesota to offer timely and affordable educational opportunities.

- ONGOING Continue to provide educational and training opportunities at MAWD events.
- ONGOING Continue to partner with other agencies and organizations to offer timely and affordable educational opportunities.
- ONGOING NEW - Expand training to MAWD members to engage with their elected local, state, and federal officials.
- ONGOING NEW - Identify and advertise online/learning courses and training opportunities.

Communication and Collaboration

Activities in this area focus on keeping MAWD membership informed of developments with water issues and collaboration between MAWD and other agencies and groups.

- ONGOING Continue to expand MAWD's social media presence to increase visibility and impact.
- ONGOING Continue to improve communications to MAWD members regarding MAWD's legislative efforts and general advocacy. This is done prior to, during, and after the legislative session.
- ONGOING Continue weekly video and written updates during the legislative session and periodically off session.
- ONGOING NEW - Post official MAWD documents in such a way as to increase accessibility by MAWD members.
- ONGOING NEW - Post reports from individuals representing MAWD on various state boards on the MAWD website after each meeting including, but not limited to the (1) BWSR Board, (2) Clean Water Council, (3) Local Government Water Roundtable, and (4) Drainage Work Group.
- STARTED NEW - Establish regional chapters in Regions 1 and 2 to promote more local information sharing and education.
- STARTED NEW - Develop brochures and handouts in the following areas:
 - ONGOING Annual Legislative Agenda
 - TO DO Benefits of Watershed Management
 - TO DO How to Form a Watershed District
- TO DO NEW - Expand MAWD's presence in the press with the goal of educating the public about water organizations and their activities.
- TO DO NEW - Post the Watershed Handbook online in a more searchable format that is easier to update and reference.
- TO DO NEW - Publish quarterly financial reports to promote financial transparency between MAWD and its membership.

Lobbying and Advocacy

Activities in this area focus on lobbying on issues the membership identifies in their legislative water organizations. These activities take place year-round and not just during the legislative activities.

- ONGOING Continue work to establish MAWD as a leadership organization – the expect Continue to improve and increase the effectiveness of the MAWD legislative activities.
- ONGOING Continue to actively collaborate with state agencies and other organizations
- ONGOING Continue to actively support watershed management and the formation of
- ONGOING NEW - Implement MAWD's Sunset Policy for resolutions.
- ONGOING NEW - Ensure that legislative positions are in alignment with the MAWD m
- TO DO NEW - Develop state and federal policy statements that reflect MAWD's in



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2020-2022 Goals: Member Education and Training

Education

Connect members with the learning opportunities that maximizes their influence on the restoration and protection of Minnesota's water resources.

Committee launched June 2021
Chair: Jackie Anderson

Communication

Keep members informed of watershed management developments and facilitate collaboration and information-sharing.

Strategic Plan Chair:
Mary Texer

Advocacy


Provide legislative and state agency lobbying for watershed organizations on issues identified through the resolutions process.


Resolutions/Policy Chair:
Sherry Davis White
Legislative Chair: Jackie Anderson

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Education Work Plan

- Original plan written and approved in 2018
- Nearly all initiatives were established





Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts
2018 - 2020 Training Work Plan

Mission
Provide ample opportunities for managers, administrators, and staff to be as empowered and well-trained as possible so they can maximize their influence on the restoration and protection of Minnesota's water resources.

Vision and Goals
"Empowered to be awesome. No excuses!"

- Goal 1. Unleash the leadership potential in our managers
- Goal 2. Ensure effective organizational operations through our administrators
- Goal 3. Bolster technical capacity of watershed district staff

Actions
Short Term (2018-2019)

1. Create an inventory and track delivery of needed training **DONE**
 - Create a single list of the needed training topics that have been identified through the 2017 Administrator Survey and the 2016 MAWD Survey completed by Cliff Aichinger
 - Track training events that address the topics on the list
 - Annually review the list, add/subtract as deemed appropriate **CONTINUE**
2. Increase communication with BWSR to address training concerns **ONGOING**
 - Meet with BWSR Academy Coordinator to discuss how the event could be improved for WDs
 - Meet with BWSR to discuss opportunities to create a leadership training program
 - Develop course descriptions on the top training needs and request assistance from BWSR
 - Follow up with BWSR leadership when WDs aren't invited to applicable training events
3. Meet with other state agencies, non-profits, etc. to fill training gaps **ONGOING**
4. Make sure districts are aware of existing training opportunities (forward training opportunities to administrators via email and use social media when appropriate) **ONGOING**
5. Facilitate the sharing of knowledge between districts **REMOVE -> SEND to MAWA**
 - Create opportunities for employees with similar positions to network with each other at MAWD sponsored events
 - Promote watershed district exchanges and/or retreats
6. Promote minimum training standards as set forth in the Performance Review and Assessment Program and work with BWSR to develop training plan worksheets **NOT STARTED**
7. Increase the number of training opportunities available to MAWD members **ONGOING**
 - Enhance training at existing events (Annual Convention, Summer Tour, Legislative Breakfast)
 - Investigate potential for area/regional meetings and training events
 - Forge partnerships with existing training programs to allow WDs to participate

Long Term (2020+)


1. Set up an online training library **STARTED**
2. Update the MAWD Handbook and transition it to a wiki format **STARTED**
3. Consider setting up a mentoring exchange program **REMOVE -> SEND to MAWA**

March 6, 2018 2018-2020 MAWD Training Work Plan


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Education Work Plan

- MAWD Events
- Partner Training
- Online Education
- Special Projects



Land and Water Shall be Preserved



**Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts
Member Education Work Plan
2020-2022**

Mission
Provide ample educational opportunities for managers, administrators, staff, and partners to be as empowered and well-trained as possible so they can maximize their influence on the restoration and protection of Minnesota's water resources.

Vision and Goals
Vision. Members can confidently and accurately apply and speak to the principles of watershed management and watershed governance.

Goal 1. Unleash the leadership potential in our managers.
Goal 2. Ensure effective organizational operations through our administrators.
Goal 3. Bolster the technical capacity of our watershed staff.

Actions
Short- (Items 1-3) and Long-Term (Item 4) Deliverables


1. **TRAINING AT MAWD EVENTS.** Continue to provide leadership and technical training at events:
 - MAWD Conference / Trade Show (24+ sessions, keynote speaker, ample networking)
 - MAWD Pre-Conference workshops: Drainage Workshop, New Manager Training, and one additional training topic of interest
 - MAWD Summer Tour (Wednesday Evening Kickoff Educational Event, Thursday Bus Tour, and Friday half-day leadership and technical trainings)
 - MAWD Legislative Breakfast: provide at least one leadership education session (**NEW**)
2. **PARTNER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES.** Continue to expand training opportunities by networking with partners to offer joint training sessions. Continue to share information on these opportunities via social media, newsletters, and a **NEW** online training calendar. Continue to maintain a database of the training needs of members. Update periodically. *Note: Partners may include state and federal agencies (BWSR, DNR, MPCA, EPA, NRCS), our local government partners (MASWCD, AMC, LMC), non-profits, universities, and insurance providers (LMCIT, MCIT)*
3. **NEW ONLINE TRAINING RESOURCES.**
 - Create an online library to store recorded trainings.
 - Provide links and descriptions for applicable online leadership and technical training resources, including the EPA Watershed Certification Program
4. **NEW SPECIAL PROJECTS: MORE RESOURCES NEEDED BEFORE COMPLETION IS POSSIBLE**
 - Update the MAWD Handbook and make it available in a searchable online format.
 - Develop and host lunch and learn trainings on the handbook once it is updated.
 - Hire an education coordinator or contract for additional office support staff to oversee and grow our education program.
 - Create and promote a checklist of minimum training standards and learning objectives for board members. Create a certification and/or recognition program for members who complete the goals of the program. Consider contracting with a consultant, such as the University of Minnesota to develop a comprehensive education program for members.

July 8, 2021 DRAFT Proposed 2020-2022 MAWD Education Work Plan

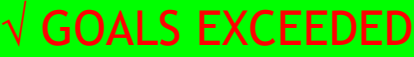
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Education Summary

- We were able to offer **more training sessions** in 2020 and 2021 despite COVID.
- We strengthened our governance structure to get input on education efforts from administrators AND managers in all 3 regions through the **newly launched MAWD education committee**.
- We expanded notifications with a **training calendar**.
- We launched an **online training library** for **24/7 access**.
- We are providing general education access through **Pryor Learning**.



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Communication and Collaboration

1. Continue social media efforts to increase visibility and impact.

- Minimum 2 postings per week, analyzed for impact and reach

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts
Published by Maddy Bohn · July 13 at 8:49 AM

What is really happening in your soil? **Renville County SWCD** did an experiment using underwear, watch the video below!

SOIL YOUR UNDIES

Renville County Soil & Water Conservation SWCD

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YOUTUBE.COM
Soil Your Undies Experiment
Kyle want's to discuss what's been going on with our underwear exper

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Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts
Published by Buffer · May 24

Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District will celebrate nine days of family fun at **WaterFest** from June 19 – 27 at Lake Phalen Park in St. Paul. The event will be hosted this year in a self-directed, multi-day format with your safety in mind. Families can enjoy outdoor, interactive activities that will change throughout the course of the event, so we invite you to visit as many days as you like to get the full experience! [#mnwaterfest](#)

June 19–27, 2021

WaterFest
EST 1999
RWMWD
LAKE PHALEN, MINN.

EXPLORE. LEARN. EXPERIENCE. SAFELY.

114 People Reached 8 Engagements ↑ +2.6x Higher Distribution Score

Boost Post

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Communication and Collaboration

2. Expand MAWD's presence by educating the public about the work of watershed organizations.

- **Main social media focus is telling watershed stories. This not only shares new ideas between members but highlights the good work we do with members of the public.**



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Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts
Published by Maddy Bohn · June 30 at 8:38 AM ·

What a beautiful transformation done by [Coon Creek Watershed District](#)

COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

Middle Sand Creek Corridor Restoration Project

Coon Creek Watershed District
June 29 at 3:03 PM ·

The bulk of construction is now done on our Middle Sand Creek Corridor Restoration project. To see what was done for the project, check out this timelapse video on it!

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts
Published by Maddy Bohn · June 16 ·

Congratulations goes out to [Capitol Region Watershed District](#) who received a Merit Award from the Minnesota Chapter of the [American Society of Landscape Architects](#).
[#mnwatershed](#)

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Communication and Collaboration


3. Increase member communications regarding legislative and state agency lobbying.

Accomplishments:

- Continued legislative video updates
- New! Launched newsletter format for member communications

Next steps - 2022:

- Bring back written legislative updates




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Communication and Collaboration

3. Increase member communications regarding lobbying.

Accomplishments:

- New! Weekly meetings between Executive Directors of MAWD and BWSR
- New! Quarterly meetings with the DNR Commissioner
- New! 2x/year meetings with all Commissioners with Clean Water Funding
- Continued giving MAWD updates at BWSR meetings



Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts, Inc.
www.mnwatershed.org | 651-440-9407

July 6, 2021

Dear Chair Ruud,

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD), I would like to express our strong support on the confirmation of Sarah Strommen by the Senate as the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources.

Commissioner Strommen's instinct and ability to work with diverse groups and bring them together on issues is commendable and leads to positive outcomes.

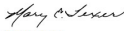
The Commissioner meets with MAWD on a regular basis to review and discuss any pending issues between our members and the department. We appreciate the time she spends with us listening to our concerns and recommendations. Our last meeting took place just last week.

Commissioner Strommen is very action orientated. After meeting with us on several drainage issues, the department developed a plan of action and resolution of our issues has been more than satisfactory. The Commissioner is more than willing to listen to other ideas and is not staff driven. She thinks for herself and is not afraid of breaking new ground on issues.

Commissioner Strommen is a refreshing change at the DNR. Her local government leadership experience has been beneficial to local governments that work with her and the department. To not confirm her would be a major loss to the State of Minnesota, and to us as water management stewards.


We strongly support Commissioner Strommen and recommend her confirmation by the Senate. Please feel free to contact me if you need any further information. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Mary E. Texer
MAWD President

cc: Senator Bill Weber – VIA EMAIL
Matthew Elfritz, Committee Administrator
Lisa Handrick, Legislative Assistant
Emily Javens, MAWD Executive Director
MAWD Board



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Communication and Collaboration

4. Increase accessibility to MAWD documents like the handbook, financial reports, and minutes.

Accomplishments:

- **NEW! A formalized policy was adopted regarding the openness of meetings**
- **NEW! Agendas posted with links to zoom meetings**

www.mnwatershed.org/upcomingmeetings
www.mnwatershed.org/board-minutes
www.mnwatershed.org/governance-documents

12.2 Board Meeting Attendance:

Any MAWD member in good standing may attend a MAWD Board meeting and address the Board up to five minutes during the public comment period of the meeting.

12.3 MAWD Committee Meetings Attendance:

Members may attend committee meetings as observers by contact chair. Committee meeting schedules will be posted on the Member MAWD website. Members who wish to fully participate in committee decisions are encouraged to volunteer to join the committee by contact director and the committee chair. Appointments to the committee accordance with committee composition policy. Attendance or part member is solely at the discretion of the committee chair.



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Communication and Collaboration

5. Share updates from state agency meetings like BWSR, the Drainage Work Group, Clean Water Council, and the Local Government Water Roundtable.

Accomplishments:

- **Started sharing updates in our member newsletters**


NEXT STEPS:

- **More to come - keep an eye in upcoming newsletters**



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BWSR Board Update – June 2021 Meeting



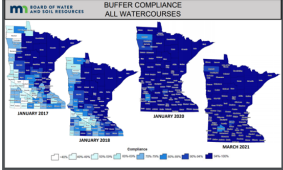
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)
Meeting Highlights – June 23, 2021

1. New Board Members – The Board welcomed three new members:

- Township Representative: Eunice Biel, Bristol Township and Pineco SWCD
- Watershed District Representative: Lacey Ora, Red Lake WD and Red River Watershed Management Board
- WELCOME LENNY!**
- Non-metro City Representative: Kelly Kirkpatrick, Rochester City Council


2. Reports – Committee chairs, agencies, and partners gave reports to the board. Here are some highlights:

- The Audit and Oversight committee reviewed and submitted BWSR's internal controls report.
- BWSR staff are preparing for a potential government shutdown. Agency staff have received layoff notices, grantees have received notices that no spending of state dollars can occur during a shutdown. If the bill passes and the Governor signs it before July 1, there will be no impact.
- The next board meeting (August) will include a tour that is being planned in partnership with the Cedar River Watershed Districts.
- Buffer compliance for all watercourses continues to see improvement. Over 63,000 parcels have added buffers since the passage of the buffer law. Debate continues in the legislature about appropriate compensation for taking the land out of production.



3. Public Relations Stories – At each meeting, board members receive copies of stories that will be highlighted on the home page of the BWSR website. Stories included for July 2021 include:

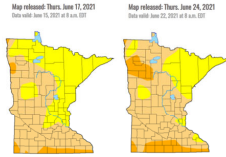
- Feedlot upgrade aids the Mississippi
- Watsonwan County buffers in place – the 29th county to reach 100% compliance with buffer law
- Two Chicago County lakes deleted – North Center Lake and South Center Lake (part of the Chicago Chain of Lakes) have been deleted from the impaired waters list
- 10 ecological landscaping principles – advice for getting started with native plantings



Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)
Meeting Highlights – June 23, 2021

4. MN Department of Agriculture Commissioner Thom Peterson reported the agriculture omnibus bill passed and they received an increase in the agSMR Loan Program. They are concerned about drought – the entire state is in some stage of drought. [New maps](#) are released each Thursday.

U.S. Drought Monitor Minnesota



5. Two Rivers Plus One Watershed One Plan – Plan was approved. Unfortunately, the **Two Rivers Watershed District** didn't feel they could adopt the plan as their comprehensive watershed management plan and decided to drop out of the partnership.

6. FY2022 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Policy – The following policy revisions were adopted:


- Eligible activities added:** out-letting land locked basins, development and delivery of education/curriculum that does not lead to implementation of water quality practices, activities required under the Groundwater Protection Rule, and activities associated with wetland banking
- Eligible applicants clarified:** clarification that municipalities that have adopted a One Watershed One Plan are eligible for these competitive grants.
- Eligible activities clarified:** clarification that grant funds for public participation and engagement can ONLY be used if those expenses are necessary for the implementation of water quality practices consistent with the purposes of the funds.
- Feedlot expenses clarified:** reimbursement for roof structures and feedlot relocations cannot exceed 100% of construction costs.
- Monitoring exclusion clarified:** Water quality monitoring is an ineligible expense. The definition monitoring now calls out routine, baseline, diagnostic, and effectiveness monitoring for both surface and groundwater.
- Repayment Policy added:** Funds repaid to a grantee from a landowner or other land occupier who has failed to maintain a practice for its effective life must be reallocated to a local cost share program or project account consistent with MN Statutes Chapter 114D.30, less the administrative cost of the grantee.

7. FY2022 and FY2023 Natural Resource Block Grants to Counties – Provisional approval to enter into agreements with counties to implement 4 programs: (1) \$2.28M Local Water Management (2) \$3.81M Wetland Conservation Act, (3) \$6.8M shoreline management, and (4) Subsurface Sewage Treatment System for the STS grants.

8. FY2022 and FY2023 Soil and Water Conservation – an order to enter into agreements totaling \$5M to provide er

9. Farewell – Tom Scholz, SWCD Representative, 1

10. Next Meeting – August 26, 2021, Austin, MN



Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)
Meeting Highlights – June 23, 2021

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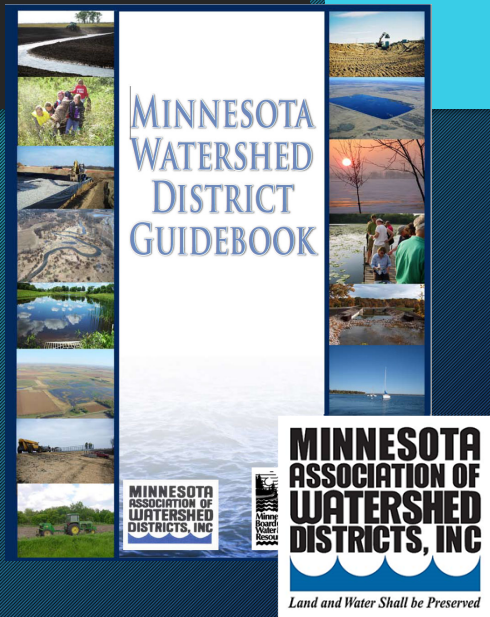
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Communication and Collaboration

6. Develop brochures and fact sheets that members can use to meet MAWD and WD/WMO objectives.

NEXT STEPS:

- **Potential directory 2022**
- **Expand library of fact sheets – let us know what you have developed**



MINNESOTA WATERSHED DISTRICT GUIDEBOOK

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF WATERSHED DISTRICTS, INC

Land and Water Shall be Preserved

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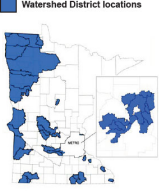
Watershed District manager appointments

Watershed District manager appointments

Effective water management: seldom a solo effort

Improving water quality or addressing flood prevention in one community almost always requires partnerships among many organizations in the surrounding area. Watershed District boundaries are based on the natural, hydrologic boundaries of a watershed, because water doesn't follow political boundaries.

Watershed Districts are independent, special purpose units of government that are created by petition. Some exist mainly to minimize property damage caused by flooding, while others have a broad range of programs and services that protect and improve water quality.



Watershed District locations

Appoint good managers: get good return on investment


Recruiting and appointing qualified, professional Watershed District managers is a key to sound water management. Watershed Districts work with counties, state and federal government agencies, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and other organizations to accomplish conservation projects that provide tremendous value to state and local taxpayers.

Watershed District manager responsibilities


Watershed District manager duties include preparing for and attending board meetings, serving as a liaison to the local community, attending regional and statewide training, and responding professionally to inquiries from the public.

Watershed District managers:

1. Oversee and guide – Utilizing appropriate staff, partnerships and consultants, Watershed District boards guide overall planning and implementation of education, monitoring, construction and regulatory programs.
2. Utilize unique authorities – Watershed Districts exercise local levy authority and a unique statutory blend of authorities to finance projects and programs, and some may establish standards regarding land use or development activities to protect water quality and prevent flooding.



Heiberg dam - Wild Rice Watershed District



State laws related to appointing watershed district managers are found in M.S. section 103D.311.

Watershed District manager appointments

Factors to consider

- **Experience:** does the candidate have relevant experience in water resources, executive, administrative or board experience?
- **Representation/Geography:** does the candidate represent a sector, location or interest which is needed on the watershed district board (but will not act only on behalf of that interest)?
- **Beliefs:** does the candidate support the mission and primary goals of the watershed district?
- **Trust:** as the appointing authority, does the county board have familiarity with or knowledge of the candidate to ensure that the watershed district's responsibilities will be fulfilled?
- **Commitment Level:** is the candidate willing to invest the necessary time and energy to prepare for and attend watershed board meetings, serve as a liaison to the local community, attend regional and statewide training, receive and respond professionally to inquiries from the public?
- **Expectations:** is the candidate willing to be a liaison to the county board on a regular basis?


Application and Interview

The appointment process should be clear, deliberate and transparent in order to recruit and appoint the best candidate. A model job description and expectations for Watershed District managers can be found at www.mnwatershed.org. Each Watershed District also has a comprehensive plan, annual budget and other documents that may be helpful in considering the qualifications of potential candidates.


Processing the decision

Approaches for identifying, screening and nominating candidates:

- County Board standing committee
- Committee of commissioners representing the watershed district area.
- County Appointments Committee or staff recommendation.
- For watersheds which have multiple counties, establish a committee with representation from each county to make recommendations to the respective county board.
- Recommendation from the Watershed District Advisory Committee.



Vesledahl wetland restoration - Sand Hill Fever Watershed District.



Lake Calhoun park, Minnehaha Creek

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF WATERSHED DISTRICTS, INC

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For more information

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts
540 Duffley Road
St. Paul, MN 55123
(651) 452-8506
www.mnwatershed.org

Minnesota Board of WI
520 Lafayette
St. Paul, J
65112
www.bwsr.org

* Note: For districts wholly in the seven-county Twin Cities Metro Area, or jointly or severally within the district submit at least three nominees for each to be filed. The county board appoints the managers from this list. The county board appoints the managers from this list. The county board appoints the managers from this list. The county board appoints the managers from this list.

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Communication and Collaboration


7. Establish chapters in Regions 1 and 2 to foster more local information sharing and education.

Accomplishments:

- Region 1 MAWD Directors hosted the first Region 1 Meeting
- Region 3 Metro MAWD continues to meet quarterly

NEXT STEPS:

- Region 2 to discuss future networking at the annual convention



Land and Water Shall be Preserved

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Communication and Collaboration

8. Continue to work with the Local Government Water Roundtable to have unified voice.

Current Focus:

- Increase Clean Water Fund allocations for watershed implementation
- Provide adequate capacity funding to local water governments
- Tell stories about wise use of Clean Water Funds



Association of
Minnesota Counties



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Communications and Collaborations Summary

- We have increased the ways we communicate with members.
- We are strengthening our commitment to providing adequate communication to members by writing a **communications strategy** and allocating resources to make sure it happens.
- We continue to enhance stakeholder/**member input**.
- We have more communication with **state agencies** than ever before!
- We are coordinating with **local government partners** to make our resources and influence go further.


✓ GOALS EXCEEDED



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Lobbying and Advocacy

- Increase the effectiveness of preparing and implementing our legislative platform.
 - Accomplishments:**
 - Launched the MAWD Legislative Committee for the 2020 Session.
 - Enhanced review and feedback on resolutions.
 - While very few policy bills were passed during the pandemic, MAWD continued to stay on top of pending legislation to prevent any negative impacts.
 - NEXT STEPS:**
 - Engage the legislative committee and members to develop handouts on top priorities



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Lobbying and Advocacy

2019

10/18 Issues Passed / Resolved


2020

2 Passed / Resolved, 2 died

2021

Issues Remaining:

- Increase tax levy
- Limited liability for salt applicators
- Timely WMA updates
- WD permits for DNR projects



2019 Legislative Platform - RESULTS

MN Association of Watershed Districts

TOP 2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The following top priorities have been set by the MAWD Board of Directors for 2019.

- Remove (or increase) the \$250,000 general fund levy limit while keeping the not-to-exceed levy limit of 0.048 percent of estimated market value. – MN Statute § 103D.905 subd. 3 **(Unable to find authors)**
- PASSED** Allow a project tax levy to serve as matching funds for all types of state and federal grants, not just for Clean Water Partnership grants (that no longer exist). – MN Statute § 103D.905 subd. 9
- RESOLVED** Remove (or increase) the \$2M limit on outstanding loans for watershed districts, especially for those entities that serve as drainage authorities. – MN Statute § 103D.335 subd. 17
- PASSED** Improve coordination and remove duplicate efforts of water management planning as currently required by various local, state, and federal laws. – MN Statutes 114D and 103D
- Reinforce existing rights to maintain/repair drainage systems that operate under Statute 103E. **(Ongoing)**
- PASSED** Increase maximum daily manager per diem rates. – MN Statute § 103D.315 subd. 8
- PASSED** Remove permitting restrictions when hiring contractors to remove common carp from lakes.

LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS WE SUPPORT (BUT LED BY OTHERS)

The following issues are supported by MAWD, but legislative efforts are being led by others.

- Obtain a strong allocation for the flood hazard mitigation funding program. LEAD: Red River Watershed Management Board (Efforts will continue next year since bonding typically happens in even-numbered years.)
- Provide limited liability protection to certified commercial salt applicators. LEAD: Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association and Stop Over Salting
- PASSED** Provide drainage authorities a voluntary alternative option for apportioning drainage system repair costs. LEAD: Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and Drainage Work Group (DWG) partners
- PASSED** Update statutes to allow for faster compensation of ditch buffer strips. LEAD: BWSR, DWG
- When approved by the MAWD Board, bills for single watersheds will be supported. Examples: appropriation for Lower MN River dredging **PASSED**, Bois de Sioux pilot to update drainage system values **(Withdrawn by WD)**

ISSUES TO HANDLE ADMINISTRATIVELY (FOR NOW)

MAWD will continue (or begin) working with state agencies to address the following issues:


- Ensure watershed districts are given opportunities to provide input on storm
- Ensure timely updates to Wildlife Management Area (WMA) plans. **(Not started)**
- Require watershed district permits for the Department of Natural Resources:

ISSUES TO WATCH AND PLAY DEFENSE (IF NEEDED)

MAWD will keep a close eye on potential threats to watershed organizations.

- COMPLETED** Protect Clean Water Funds that focus on local implementation
- COMPLETED** Monitor for pending legislation that impacts rulemaking, for
 - HF 1887 / SF 1766 – Watershed district provisions modified (a.k.a. “De
 - HF 2314 / SF 2372 – Rice Creek watershed district spending and report

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www.mnwatershed.org



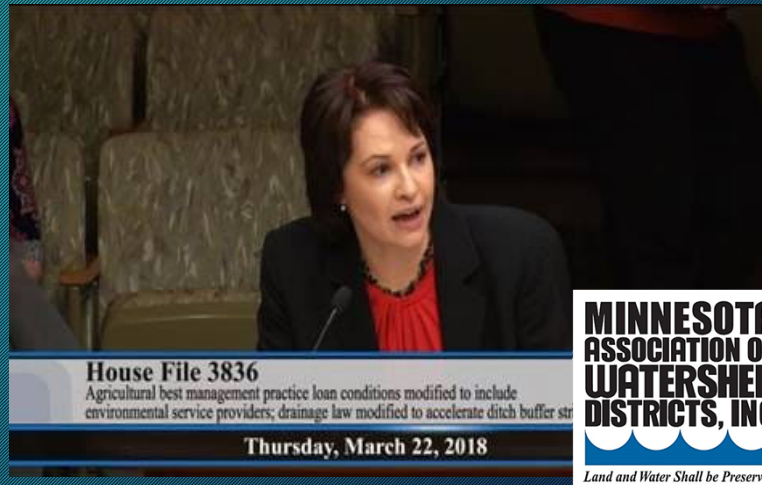
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Testimony - 2021

Voluntary SWCD / WD
Merger Study

County Obligation to
Bond for Legally Ordered
103E Drainage Projects

103D Capacity Funding



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Lobbying and Advocacy



2. Develop state and federal policy statements to reflect MAWD's positions on critical issues.

Accomplishments:

Sought legal opinions and official state positions on:

- Removal of Managers from WD boards without cause
- County refusal to bond for 103E drainage system projects that were legally ordered by a watershed district
- County's legal responsibility to appoint watershed district managers from a list submitted by only one city

NEXT STEPS:

- Write a policy book that includes positions we always work on.

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m1 BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

May 22, 2020

To: Louis Smith, Smith Partners PLLP on behalf of the Heron Lake Watershed District

Fr: John Jaszchke, Executive Director, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources; Tom Gile, Resource Conservation Section Manager, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

Re: BWSR Staff Assessment, HLWD petition requesting intervention

The following questions were submitted as part of the Heron Lake Watershed District (HLWD) petition to BWSR requesting intervention per §103A.311 in a proceeding (JD #14 improvement) under Minn. Stat. §103E on April 24, 2020.

- Whether a county, on receipt of an assessment statement, is obligated to provide funds for the total cost of a drainage project duly ordered by the watershed district acting as drainage authority, for which the county may issue bonds.
- Whether the watershed district is operating as the lawful drainage authority in this proceeding, and if so, whether the county may lawfully step in to take over that authority.

The purpose of this memo is to provide a staff assessment as to whether the BWSR Board has proper jurisdiction to act on these questions based on the definition of "Question of water policy" as defined under Minn. Stat. §103A.301, and some practical considerations related to the circumstances leading to the petition.

Assessment of Question b

We first looked at whether the watershed district is operating as the lawful drainage authority in this proceeding, and if so, whether the county may lawfully step in to take over that authority.

As to whether this is a "Question of water policy" as defined in Minn. Stat. §103A.301 the statute defines a "Question of water policy" as meaning a question of water law and policy in which use, disposal, pollution, or conservation of water is a factor in a proceeding, including:

- Determination of the governing policy of state law in the proceeding and resolution of apparent inconsistencies between different statutes;
- Or
- The proper application of the policy of state law to facts in the proceeding if application is a matter of administrative discretion.

Petition Conclusion:

"Question b" of the petition does not appear to be an issue of inconsistencies between different statutes based on the information provided by the petitioner. Nor does this appear to be an issue of proper application of the policy of state law to the facts in the proceeding as the application does not seem to be a matter of administrative discretion.

Circumstantial Findings:

According to 103D.625 Subd. 4. Construction or improvement. Construction of new drainage systems or improvements of existing drainage systems in the watershed district must be initiated by filing a petition with the managers. The proceedings for the construction or improvement of drainage systems in the watershed district must conform to chapter 103E, except for repairs and maintenance done pursuant to section 103D.621, subdivision 4.

Further review of the Minnesota Public Drainage Manual was conducted to provide guidance to the statutory interpretation.

Chapter 2, Section II, Paragraph C. Determining the Correct Drainage Authority

The legal concept of jurisdiction is built on having a statutorily authorized body adopt findings and make decisions. Determining what drainage authority has jurisdiction over a petition for a drainage project or repair is crucial. Determining the proper drainage authority depends on two equal factors:

- The type of petition being filed; and
- The location of the public drainage system.

Chapter 3 Section C (3)(i) Obtaining Jurisdiction as Drainage Authority:

The public drainage code expressly states that the petition for an improvement and bond are to be filed with the county auditor. If the proposed drainage project affects land in two or more counties, the petition must be filed with the auditor of the county with the largest area of property in the proposed drainage system.

However, if a new drainage system or an improvement to an existing drainage system is located within the jurisdiction of a watershed district, the petition must be filed with the managers of the watershed district.

Chapter 2, Section II, Paragraph C Part (3)(i). Obtaining Jurisdiction as Drainage Authority

Whether a watershed district is the proper drainage authority with jurisdiction over a drainage project or repair proceeding is dependent upon three factors:

- Whether the drainage system exists, or is proposed to be constructed, within the boundaries of an established watershed district;
- The type of project under petition; and
- Whether the joint county or county drainage authority has transferred drainage system to the watershed district.

When a watershed district is established, it has no jurisdiction as the drainage : public drainage systems until the respective joint county or county boards transfer jurisdiction to the watershed district for improvement of existing drainage systems in the watershed

A watershed district does have jurisdiction over all new drainage systems and systems within its boundaries, but must proceed according to the procedures u

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www.bwsr.state.mn.us TTY: (800) 627-3529 An equal opportunity employer

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Lobbying and Advocacy

3. Partner with various groups to track legislation

The image displays a collection of logos for various Minnesota-based organizations involved in lobbying and advocacy. At the top left is the Association of Minnesota Counties. Next to it is MASWCD (Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts). In the center is the logo for the m1 BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES. To the right is the logo for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Below these are logos for MICA (Minnesota Inter-City Association), LMC (League of Minnesota Cities), MRC (Minnesota Rural Counties), and the Minnesota Association of Townships. The Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts, Inc. logo is also present, featuring a map of Minnesota and the slogan "Land and Water Shall be Preserved".

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Lobbying and Advocacy

- 4. Ensure legislative positions are in line with the mission, vision, and core values of MAWD.
- 5. Promote watershed management principles and support the formation of new watershed organizations.



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Lobbying and Advocacy

- 5. Promote watershed management principles.

Accomplishments:

- Testified to the Clean Water Council regarding the importance of watershed management
- Submitted joint letters with AMC, MASWCD to the Clean Water Council
- Submitted policy paper to BWSR regarding watershed-based funding policy position
- Coordinated with metro watersheds to reinforce our watershed-based funding position
- Filed petition for Rulemaking with BWSR

Attachment 5
Metro WBI Options and Criteria Comparison

Option	1. Project location (watershed location, watershed size, watershed population, watershed land use, watershed water quality, watershed water quantity, watershed water quality, watershed water quantity, watershed water quality, watershed water quantity)	2. Financial Impact (total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost)	3. The Association's (MAWD) Interest (total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost)	4. The Association's (MAWD) Interest (total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost)	5. The Association's (MAWD) Interest (total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost)	6. The Association's (MAWD) Interest (total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost, total project cost)
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Lobbying and Advocacy

Legislative Subcommittee on Minnesota Water Policy
Water Governance

Legislative Issues Pre-meeting Document
This summarizes all 5 Goals (G5)

G1: SWCDs and Watershed Districts
A. Phased out Clean Water Legacy funds/increased general funding
B. General funds
C. Levy authority
D. Fixed and permanent funding from CWF

G2: Re-activation of Water Supply and Wastewater Advisory Council
A. Re-activation to ensure professional input regarding rules and guidelines
B. Council would advise MDH and the MPCA
C. What kind of staff support is needed?
D. Solicit input from stakeholders, refine duties.

G3: Re-activation of the Legislative Water Commission
A. If the work of the Commission is important, should it exist for more than 2 years?
B. This would allow for a staff commitment over reasonable amount of time
C. Prepare a bill that would re-activate the LWC for a five year period

G4-G5: Creating a Department of Water Resources: Streamlining Water Governance and Management
A. Recently, the U of M/MH (2020) studied the issues in detail
B. Recommends creation of a formal coordinating entity across agencies
C. Recommends minor changes to the current statutory framework that clarifies connections among agencies and addresses recommendations that have been made in previous reports

G1: SWCDs and Watershed Districts
D. Fixed and permanent funding from CWF
E. Voluntary consolidation/cooperation among SWCs and WEs
F. Changes to the tax bill
G. Local fees

G1: SWCDs and Watershed Districts
G. Local fees
H. Property transfer fees
I. Dedicated sale's tax
Stakeholder questions/ideas/comments to permanently fund SWCDs

WD Funding
As a reminder, the general fund levy for watershed districts has been restricted to the same amount (\$250k) for 20 years now. We need both SWCDs and WDs to have the ability to fund operations and revenue sources need to have the ability to be adjusted over time. Imagine if counties or the legislature had to operate at the same levels as in 2001! It doesn't

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Lobbying and Advocacy

Letter of Support for the Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative Act (MRRRI) - sent July 12, 2021

MN Association of Watershed Districts, Inc.
595 Aldine Street
St. Paul MN 55104

July 12, 2021

VIA EMAIL ONLY

The Honorable Betty McCollum
United States House of Representatives
2256 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Support of the Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative

Dear Representative McCollum:

This letter is to show support from the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts, Inc. for the Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative (MRRRI) legislation you introduced.

MAWD is a 501(c)4 non-profit organization that represents local Minnesota governments that focus on the management of water on watershed boundaries rather than political boundaries, such as cities and counties. Our primary areas of focus include providing education and training resources for members and the lobbying and advocacy services needed to enable members to maximize their efforts to protect and restore Minnesota's water resources.

Since the Mississippi River starts in our prized Lake Itasca in northern Minnesota, it should not be a surprise we are deeply committed to the MRRRI mission of keeping the Mississippi River system as healthy and resilient as possible for current and succeeding generations of both Americans and the fish and wildlife that depend on the river. The river is in a state of ecological decline and we agree it is critical the health of the river system be restored and protected.

MAWD supports the effort to restore and protect the Mississippi River Corridor and asks Congress to pass the MRRRI Act in 2021.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Texer
Mary E. Texer
President, MAWD


cc: Josh Straka, District Director, Office of Congressman Betty McCollum - VIA E;
Emily Javens, Executive Director, MAWD - VIA EMAIL ONLY



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Lobbying and Advocacy Summary



- We were **invested in legal research** that will help WDs when faced with similar challenges.
- We increased our **circle of influence** with regular meetings with state agency commissioners.
- We strengthened our governance structure to get input from administrators AND managers in all 3 regions regarding legislative efforts through the **MAWD legislative committee**.
- We **survived 2 COVID legislative sessions** without any bills passing with negative impacts to members.

✓ GOALS EXCEEDED

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Preliminary Legislative Platform

2022 MAWD Legislative Lobbying Platform - Preliminary (not FINAL)		
PRIORITY A: TOP PRIORITIES FOR 2022 LEGISLATIVE ACTION		
TAX BILL	2018-02	18-02: Increase or Remove the \$250k General Fund Tax Levy Limit
PRIORITY B1: LEGISLATION TO SUPPORT		
'22 Bonding Bill	2016-08	16-08: Bonding Bill, Flood Hazard Mitigation Program
	2020-01	20-01: Appealing Public Water Designations
	2020-02	20-02: Limiting Negative Impacts from Wake Boats
	2017-04	17-04: Limited Liability for Certified Commercial Salt Applicators
PRIORITY B2: LEGISLATION TO DEFEAT		
	MAWD Board	Remove Eminent Domain powers for Watershed Districts
	MAWD Board	Replace Appointed Managers with County Commissioners on WD Boards
	MAWD Board	Fund a SWCD/WD Merger Study Once a 1W1P is Approved

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Preliminary Administrative Platform

BWSR - Ensure watershed-based funding goes through solid comprehensive watershed-based planning efforts

CWC - Increase funds to watershed-based implementation

MDH - Work to have WD/WMO representation on stormwater reuse issues

DNR - Work on finding ways to allow temporary water storage on DNR wetlands during major flood events

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How you can help



1. Get involved - volunteer to serve on a committee.
2. Read the newsletters and familiarize yourself with our website and the resources available there.
3. Connect regularly with your legislators and keep us in the loop or bring us along.
4. Share the educational and promotional resources you have already developed.
5. Follow us on social media. Share and/or comment on stories.

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How you can help



7. Focus on solutions and share your ideas with us.
8. Invite your MAWD Directors to your next meeting. Communicate with them often.
www.mnwatershed.org/board-of-directors-2
9. Attend events and encourage your colleagues to come, too.
10. Have an elevator speech ready about WDs/WMOs and watershed management.
11. Apply to serve on the BWSR Board.
<https://commissionsandappointments.sos.state.mn.us/Agency/Details/38>

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Questions?

<https://www.mnwatershed.org/board-of-directors-2>



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Wanda Holker	Director	II	320-760-6093	ewholker@fedtel.net
Linda Vavra	Director	I	320-760-1774	lvavra@fedtel.net
Peter Fjestad	Director	I	218-731-4630	pfjestad@prtel.com
Gene Tiedemann	Director	I	218-289-3511	gtiedemann@rrv.net
Emily Javens	Executive		651-440-9407	emily@mnwatershed.org

We hope you enjoyed this year's conference!

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