

**Minnesota Association of Watershed District  
Board of Director's Workshop Minutes, January 26, 2016  
Holiday Inn, St. Cloud, MN**

Lee Coe, Craig Leiser, Ruth Schaefer, Darrel Ellefson, Jerome Deal, Larry Kuseske, Perry Forster, Linda Vavra, and by conference call: Barb Haake. Others: Kevin Bigalke, Ray Bohn, and Peg Bohn

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m by President Lee Coe. He thanked everyone for their team effort and is grateful for the Board's support in re-electing him president.

**Agenda:** Craig Leiser moved to accept the agenda as presented, seconded by Perry Forster and passed.

**MGA Contract:** Ray Bohn presented contract items for review and consideration by the Board. After discussion, Craig Leiser moved to accept the proposed contract from MGA to include an additional \$10,000 to enhance MAWD's social media efforts per the budget, and to readjust the budget by an additional \$1,000 for MAWD registration activities for the 2016 AIS Summit, for a total of \$92,500. Seconded by Darrel Ellefson and passed.

**Legislative Reception/Breakfast & Day at the Capitol:** Scheduled for March 30-31 at the Embassy Suites in St. Paul. Construction at the Capitol may make for a difficult time to reach legislators, but not impossible with the new Senate Office Building.

**Summer Tour:** Board discussed the 2016 Summer Tour dates and decided on June 15-17 in Winona. The ADA will coordinate the Tour and work with the MAWD staff to complete details for the tour. Eric Evenson from Winona County has offered to assist us with the Tour program and logistics.

Craig Leiser requested that staff coordinate a meeting room for the Strategic Planning Committee meeting at the Legislative Breakfast and Summer Tour.

**Meeting Dates:** The MAWD Board will meet in conjunction with the various projects though out the year. The Fall meeting was schedule for September 19, with location to be determined.

**Annual Meeting & Trade Show:** After discussion Craig Leiser moved to return to the Arrowwood Conference Center for our 2016 Annual Meeting & Trade Show, seconded by Darrel Ellefson and passed.

The Board discussed the amount it has authorized for payment of entertainment at the Annual Meeting. After review of past entertainment, Darrel Ellefson moved to increase the amount to \$2500, seconded by Larry Kueske and passed.

The Board discussed the resolution process at the Annual Meeting and concluded that the Board should be getting any resolutions it may want to move forward out to membership prior to the meeting, preferably by November 1<sup>st</sup>. In addition, the Board discussed ways to make the resolutions process more efficient. It was suggested that the chair of the meeting continue to chair the meeting during the Resolution Committee report which allows the committee chair to focus on his report, rather than the report and running the meeting at the same

time. The Annual Meeting committee will review this process at its meeting in July.

**2016 Legislative Priorities:** The Board reviewed potential legislative priorities for the 2016 Session. After discussion, the Board decided on the following items:

- a. Advocate clarifying language on the 2015 Buffer legislation to enhance the implementation of the 2015 buffer law.
- b. Advocate sufficient funds for the Flood Hazard Mitigation Program in the Bonding Bill to cover the Red River Valley requests and other statewide watershed district needs.
- c. Advocate for the \$500,000 bonding request from Area II and the Lac Qui Parle-Yellow Bank WD for an engineering study on two floodwater retention ponds.
- d. Advocate returning the sales tax exemption effective date for local government joint power organizations and special taxing districts to January 1, 2016 from January 1, 2017.

Darrel Ellefson moved to accept the legislative priorities as outlined, seconded by Larry Kueseke and passed.

**Committee Appointments:** The committee chairs and board members were appointed by President Lee Coe to the following committees:

<u>MAWD Committees</u>	<u>2016 Chair</u>	<u>BOD Member</u>
a). By-laws	Barb Haake/Ruth Schaefer	
b.) Annual Meeting	Perry Forster	Craig Leiser, Larry Kueske
c.) Education	-----	
d.) Budget	Craig Leiser, Treas.	Barb Haake
e.) Legislative	Lee Coe	Barb Haake
f.) Awards	Mark Doneax , Ruth Schaefer, Jerry Van Amburg,	Co-Chairs
g.) Resolutions/Policy	Larry Kuseske	Linda Vavra, Darrel Ellefson
h.) Transition Committee	Jerome Deal	Ruth Schaefer, Barb Haake
i.) Summer Tour	Kevin Bigalke	
j.) Strategic Plan Committee	Craig Leiser	Perry Forster

**External Committee appointments:**

- a. Drainage Work Group – Jerome Deal, Larry Kuseske, Ray Bohn
- b. WCA Stakeholders Group – Ron Harnack (RRVMB), Phil Belfori, alternate
- c. Local Government Roundtable – Lee Coe, Jerome Deal, Craig Leiser, Ray Bohn (staff)
- d. 404 Assumption Adv Committee – Ron Harnack, Phil Belfori, alternate

The MAWD president serves as an ex officio member on all MAWD Committees.

**Old Business:**

Transition Committee: Jerome Deal has prepared a list of survey questions. They will be combined with the survey being done by the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC).

Strategic Planning Committee: Craig Leiser reported that the committee will be conducting a survey of all board managers in coordination with the Training/Education study and the Transition committee. The committee will have its first meeting during the Legislative

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Breakfast.

**New Business:**

Ray Bohn reviewed the New Business items and updated the Board. Bohn recruited Lee Coe and Darrel Ellefson for the Ag Pollinator Summit on Feb. 12, 2016.

The Board discussed the Governor's Water Summit and asked Bohn to get tickets for the event so they could attend.

Bohn discussed issues with several WD's in the news, and reviewed report of lobbying costs for the State Auditor's annual report.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barb Haake  
Secretary