



**Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts
Board of Directors Planning Workshop/Meeting
Friday, January 19, 2018 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Holiday Inn & Suites - 75 S 37th Ave, St. Cloud MN 56301
River Bats Conference Room**

Ruth Schaefer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Ruth Schaefer, President - Middle Fork Crow River
Duane Willenbring, Vice President - Sauk River
Craig Leiser, Treasurer - Brown's Creek
Mary Texer, Secretary - Capitol Region
Peter Fjestad - Buffalo Red River
Gene Tiedemann - Red Lake River
Linda Vavra - Bois De Sioux
Tim Dritz - Yellow Medicine River
Sherry Davis White, Co-Treasurer - Minnehaha Creek - per teleconference

Staff Present:

Emily Javens, Executive Director
Ray Bohn, Lobbyist
Maddy Bohn, Program Manager

Guests Present:

Dave Weirens, BWSR Assistant Director for Programs & Policy

Agenda

Added 2h: Destroy regional ballots from Annual Meeting
Leiser moved adoption of the agenda as amended; Texer seconded; passed unanimously.

Meeting Minutes

November 30th: Leiser moved approval; Fjestad seconded; passed unanimously.
December 3rd: Fjestad moved approval; Tiedemann seconded; passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Leiser reviewed the budget. Please see the submitted report for details on revenues vs actuals. As of 1/17/18 the checking account balance was \$13,673.96 and the savings account balance was \$166,310.74 for a total of \$179,984.70. All invoices are in for expenses associated with the annual meeting and trade show. Revenue exceeded expenses in all categories for the event and there is a current revenue projection of about \$10,000. We have received \$3,200 in back dues from one

watershed with one more pending. Note the current report is after 1/3 of the year. The treasurer goes through received invoices with the accountant and manually breaks them apart into the right accounts. All savings were transferred to checking and moved to Bremer Bank. Four people are authorized to sign checks: Craig Leiser, Ruth Schaefer, Duane Willenbring and Sherry Davis White. All are interacting with a different Bremer branch. New accounts are active; all transfers will be complete by 2/1. The complete move to Bremer will be complete by March 7. The new credit card is approved and active.

Vavra moved to accept the Treasurer's report; Fjestad seconded; passed unanimously.

Insurance Policies

The board previously asked for details regarding the insurance currently held by MAWD. Javens brought those policies and will forward to Davis-White and Texer for further review.

Per Diem Policy

The board previously inquired about adopting a per diem policy. The board reviewed the current policy adopted by BWSR. Leiser suggested that a policy be added to the Manual of Policy and Procedures (MOPP) and recommended sending the task to the MOPP committee. The BWSR policy would be used as a template but not in its entirety.

Leiser moved and Fjestad seconded; motion was passed unanimously.

Manual of Policies and Procedures (MOPP)

Leiser walked the board through all proposed changes to the MOPP. All changes were accepted as proposed with the following additions.

- Change date in last sentence of Section I, 1.1 to January 1, 2018 and the address to that of Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District.
- Section IV. Add Cedar River and High Island to the list of Region II members; move Belle Creek and Bear Valley from Region III to Region II. Moved by Vavra; seconded by Willenbring; passed unanimously.
- Section V, 5.5, change last sentence to read: Committees of the MAWD Board of Directors should be chaired by a Member of the Board or a designee but should include a member from each Region and may include Administrators as their knowledge or unique skills may be especially qualified. Vavra moved; Texer seconded; passed unanimously.
- Section VI, 6.3, remove "prepared and" from the proposed change. Approved by group.
- Section XI, 11.1. Craig will add the phrase "shall be placed on the agenda". Leiser moved; Texer seconded; passed unanimously.
- Craig will make a clean copy of the updated MOPP and forward to Emily for posting.

Committee and other assignments (see next page for list)

BWSR Board: Dritz moved; Vavra seconded to support the nomination of Dr. Jay Leitch; passed unanimously.

Drainage Workgroup: Texer moved; Leiser seconded to appoint Harvey Kruger, Tim Dritz and Emily Javens to this group; passed unanimously.

Committees: Leiser moved; Dritz seconded to appoint chairs to the MAWD committees as shown below; passed unanimously.

Destruction of Regional Election Ballots

Leiser moved; Texer seconded that Ruth was authorized to destroy the ballots in a secure manner as soon as possible; passed unanimously. Ruth will shred them.

MAWD Appointments and Assignments

| Who is representing WDs? | 2017 | 2018 |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| | | |
| MAWD Board of Directors - Region One | Ben Kleinwachter | Gene Tiedemann (2018) |
| | Peter Fjestad | Peter Fjestad (2019) |
| | Jerome Deal (2017) | Linda Vavra (2020) |
| MAWD Board of Directors - Region Two | Duane Willenbring | Duane Willenbring (2018) |
| | Ruth Schaefer | Ruth Schaefer (2019) |
| | Darrel Ellefson (2017) | Tim Dritz (2020) |
| MAWD Board of Directors - Region Three | Craig Leiser | Craig Leiser (2018) |
| | Perry Forster | Sherry White (2019) |
| | Barb Haake (2017) | Mary Texer (2020) |
| | | |
| Drainage Work Group | Jerome Deal | Harvey Kruger |
| | Darrel Ellefson | Tim Dritz |
| | Ray Bohn | Emily Javens |
| | | |
| Local Government Water Roundtable | Jerome Deal | Gene Tiedemann |
| | Ruth Schaefer | Ruth Schaefer |
| | Craig Leiser | Craig Leiser |
| | Ray Bohn | Emily Javens |
| | | |
| BWSR Board (Governor appoints) | Jill Crafton | Jill Crafton (January 2019) |
| | Joe Collins | Joe Collins (January 2020) |
| | Gene Tiedemann (Jan 2018) | Dr. Jay Leitch (recommended) |
| | | |
| Clean Water Council (Governor appoints) | Pam Blixt | Pam Blixt (January 2021) |
| | | |

| Committee Chairs | 2017 | 2018 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | |
| By Laws and MOPP | Barb Haake | Mary Texer |
| Annual Meeting | Perry Forster | Craig Leiser |
| Education | None | Duane Willenbring |
| Budget | Craig Leiser | Craig Leiser |
| Legislative | Ray Bohn | Emily Javens |
| Awards | Mark Doneux | Mark Doneux |
| Resolutions / Policy | Barb Haake | Ruth Schaefer |
| Transition | Jerome Deal/Ruth Schaefer | None |
| Summer Tour | None | Claire Bleser |
| Strategic Plan | Perry Forster | Mary Texer |
| 404 Assumption | Ron Harnack/Phil Belfiori | Emily Javens/Phil Belfiori |
| | | |

Website Demo

Maddy walked us through the new website. VERY impressive! There are now live links to make hotel reservations for Legislative Breakfast - The Legislative Breakfast registration will go live in the next week. Suggested linking to the Capitol Region Watershed District site for access to the Metro MAWD agendas and minutes. Margaret Johnson is working on a MAWA subsite that would contain their bylaws, committees and meeting minutes.

Annual Meeting Feedback

Maddy walked us through the survey results from the Annual Meeting. Overall those that attended were very satisfied. Peg still has the Filemaker database for MAWD. She will transfer this to excel and give to Emily. We do need to find a way to collect the email addresses of individual attendees. Maddy is working with registration platforms on a solution.

Legislative Breakfast March 7-8

Registration is ready to go. Email blast will go out Monday with hotel information and a live hotel link. Pricing will increase the week before the event. Ray will invite the legislators. MAWA will have a meeting starting at 9 a.m. and the MAWD board of directors will meet 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Summer Tour, June 20-22

Location will be the southwest metro and Claire Bleser (Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek) and Linda Loomis (Lower MN River) are taking the lead on organizing a Wednesday evening barge tour and Thursday bus tour. The Country Inn & Suites in Chanhassen has been booked. This motel is near both the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre and the Arboretum. Technical training for staff is being considered as an additional activity on Friday. Registration will start mid-April

2018 Annual Meeting

Leiser moved; Texer seconded that the 2018 annual meeting be held November 29 – December 1 at Arrowwood in Alexandria; passed unanimously

September Board Meeting

The Board set the September meeting for September 21 at Holiday Inn & Suites in St. Cloud.

BWSR Update – Dave Weirens Assistant Director for Programs & Policy

- Tax Legislation will require a lot of attention to bring state tax code in line with federal changes.
- Policy Matter – short session, not a lot of time to get into details. BWSR is part of Exec Branch and will work with the Governor's Office.
- Bonding Bill has \$30 million for CREP
- Drainage Work Group made recommendations on how to accelerate the establishment of ditch buffers. The report is going to the BWSR board for approval and submittal to the legislature. (Report is on the website and in the January BWSR board packet.)
- Working lands and restoration – develop a program to sustain perennial crops by the February deadline. What will it take to get land owners to change their crops in place? Engaging the economic incentive land owners to agree to this report will be key. Deadline for report to be released is Feb 1st.
- The 404 Assumption committee will be called for a meeting to review the work completed by the DNR and BWSR to estimate the number of public waters that could have jurisdiction turned over to the State.
- Town Hall meetings called by the Governor statewide: recommendations were submitted to the Governor and there will be an announcement coming out with the 25 by 25 initiative.
- Emily Javens answered Ruth's question about funding levels for the metro vs. rural One Watershed One Plan projects. Although funding in the metro is significantly higher in this round of funding, it will likely remain static while the rural portion will increase as more plans are completed.

Legislative Priorities

The Board reviewed resolutions from 2013 through 2017 and prioritized them as follows. In many cases MAWD would not take the lead but would strongly support.

Priority 1

- Increase Manager's per diem.
- Protect the integrity of Clean Water Council appointments (from undue influence by State Agencies)
- Watershed District Funds: Statutory correction to stop imposing a project tax
- Amend the MN Open Meeting Law to allow electronic meeting participation by WD managers
- Modify/increase levy authority for non-metro Wes
- Bonding bill for flood hazard mitigation \$12.5 M, RIM \$10M
- State Water Program Coordination and integrations with local water implementations

- Creation of Stormwater Reuse Task Force
- Monitor and React to buffer updates / changes #1
- Enforcement funding spending #1
- BWSR legislation #1

Priority 2

- Establishment of Minnesota River Basin Committee
- Increase Middle Fork Crow River WD's general fund levy limit

Priority 3

- Road Raises for Cities with levees
- Tax Treatment of conservations easements
- Temporary Quarantine Authority to control spread of AIS
- Support legislation to provide limited liability protections for certified commercial salt applicators
- Stable funding for flood damage reduction

2018 Administrative Priorities

Emily requested, and the Board agreed to move this item to the March meeting.

Adjournment

Leiser moved; Willenbring seconded that the meeting be adjourned; passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Minutes prepared by M. Bohn, Texer, and Javens.