



**Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

December 1, 2018

8:55 am to 10:30 am

Arrowwood Resort, Alexandria, MN

Board Members present:

- Ruth Schaefer, President, Middle Fork Crow River WD
- Duane Willenbring, Vice President, Sauk River WD
- Mary Texer, Secretary, Capitol Region WD
- Sherry Davis White, Treasurer, Minnehaha Creek WD
- Jackie Anderson, Comfort Lake Forest Lake WD
- Gene Tiedemann, Red Lake WD
- Tim Dritz, Yellow Medicine River WD
- Linda Vavra, Bois de Sioux WD
- Peter Fjestad, Buffalo Red WD

Staff Present:

- Emily Javens, Executive Director
- Maddy Bohn, Program Manager

Others Present:

- John Jaschke, BWSR

General Business

President Schaefer called the meeting to order at 8:55 am.

Dritz moved; Texer seconded approval of the agenda. Motion carried.

The Board welcomed Jackie Anderson, Comfort Lake Forest Lake WD, Region 3 and did introductions all around.

Board Elections

Moved	Seconded	Position	Individual
Fjestad	Vavra	President	Schaefer
Davis White	Vavra	Vice-President	Willenbring
Dritz	Willenbring	Secretary	Texer
Fjestad	Tiedemann	Treasurer	Davis White

All positions elected with unanimous votes. After Schaefer was nominated Dritz moved and Texer seconded that nominations for President be closed. Motion passed.

General Reports/Discussion

Maddy Bohn reported approximately 500 registrants (includes vendors); 350 at lunch; 250 at dinner. Schaefer received so many compliments about the revised conference agenda.

Spouses' activities were requested for future conferences; they enjoyed networking with each other and were willing to pay for the activities. It was suggested that one of them could organize the event. The Events Committee will explore other options.

Even with all of the notification of the revised schedule and holding the annual meeting concurrently with sessions, several delegates were surprised and missed the meeting. The Board suggested sending out a delegate expectations document that included the schedule with the call for delegates.

Vavra got a request from someone that they wanted face time with the Board. The Board discussed holding the 1st meeting of the session in a lower level room and advertise it to the membership as a Board meeting and listening session which is open to the public.

A note to the Events Committee, make sure the luncheon speaker keeps to 35 minutes.

Movie night was a big hit but cleared out the Trade Show floor. We need to look at scheduling this differently or even having the videos on a continuous loop that is broadcast in the Trade Show.

Top Legislative Items identified at the Regional Caucuses:

Region 1

- Removal of the 250 General Fund Tax Levy Limit
- Right to Repair 103E Drainage Systems
- Adjust the District Statutory Borrowing Limit

Region 2

- Require DNR to obtain WD permits
- Removal of the 250 General Fund Tax Levy Limit
- Timely updates of Watershed Management Area plans

Region 3

- Removal of the 250 General Fund Tax Levy Limit

The Legislative Committee will meet in December and present to the Board at their January meeting for approval.

Day at the Capitol (formerly Legislative Breakfast)

Bohn explored many options when she was told the Embassy Suites would be under renovation and not available. The event will be held at the Double Tree February 20-21. They have a shuttle to and from the Capitol. If booked before January 27th the room rate is \$155.00 per night and includes breakfast. After January 27th the rate is \$172.00. Parking is \$18.00 per night.

An agenda is being developed. At a high level, it is:

February 19 – Board meeting from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the hotel

February 20 –

MAWA meeting 9:00 – 12:00

Afternoon Legislative Training; Partner Panel (DNR, PCA, BWSR); Legislative Agenda Discussion

Legislative Reception

February 21 – Day at the Capitol

Note: Our goal is to reserve a room at the Capitol for the 2020 Session and beyond. Bohn will research and book a space.

Contracts

MAWD Office at Capitol Region WD. This contract would establish an office for MAWD/Javens at CRWD, 595 Aldine, St. Paul, MN 55104 for 12 months beginning January 1, 2019. After that MAWD and CRWD may enter into a longer term agreement. In addition to a monthly rate of \$400.00 this contract includes hourly rate charges for support as needed.

Texer recommended changing the word “will” to “may” enter into a longer term agreement. Javens recommended changing her title to Executive Director in the contract. Dritz moved; Davis White seconded accepting these changes. Motion carried.

Willenbring moved; Fjestad seconded adding the word “are” under point 1 line 4 of the contract to read as they are available. Motion carried.

Dritz moved; Willenbring seconded that MAWD accept the contract as amended and give Javens signing authority on this contract. Motion carried. Texer recused herself as she is on the CRWD Board.

Davis White moved; Tiedemann seconded the acceptance of the amended contract with MB Consulting for program management services as decided at the September MAWD Board meeting. Motion carried.

Texer moved; Vavra seconded a contract with MGA/Ray Bohn for lobbying services. This contract reflects an increase of \$5,000 to \$40,000 with payments front-end loaded during the legislative session. Motion carried.

Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee will meet December 12 from 9-12. Members listed below. The committee will review the resolutions, caucus feedback and last year’s history. John Jaschke, Angie and Doug Thomas will be active. Jaschke suggested we do this much earlier in the future. Dritz moved; Vavra seconded that Jackie Anderson chair the committee. Motion carried. Davis White moved; Anderson seconded the appointment of Schaefer, Willenbring and Tiedemann to the committee and accept the nomination of administrators as stated with alternatives identified. Motion carried.

Diane Lynch
Myron Jesme
Michelle Overholser
Scott Henderson, alternate
Gene Tiedemann
Duane Willenbring
Ruth Schaefer
Jackie Anderson – chair

Financial Authorities

Dritz moved; Tiedemann seconded that the Treasurer execute a letter of engagement with Obremski Ltd and Angie Fischer and authorize Treasurer to sign said letter after review and approval of the Finance Committee. Motion carried.

Fjestad moved; Dritz seconded Resolution 2018-01 giving Davis White, Schaefer and Willenbring MAWD check signing authority. Motion carried. This resolution document to be signed today, December 1, 2018 and delivered to the bank on Monday.

Miscellaneous topics

The Summer Tour will be in the Red River Valley and based out of Moorhead. Dates to be determined.

Committee Chair Assignments. Dritz moved; Willenbring seconded the following. Motion carried.

Committee	Chair
Legislative	Jackie Anderson
Resolutions	Sherry Davis White
Governance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bylaws • Strategic Plan 	Mary Texer
Finance	Sherry Davis White
Awards	Ruth Schaefer
Education	Duane Willenbring
Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Tour • Annual Meeting 	Tim Dritz

The administrators said they would continue serving on their current committees. Chairs will work with Javens to populate their committees.

Davis White will distribute per diem forms for 2019.

Javens will get her timesheet to Schaefer before she goes on vacation 12/14.

The Strategic Planning Committee should consider a name change and logo update to reflect WMOs as members.

Ray Bohn will have a private conversation with Pam and get back to the Board in December. Jaschke suggested we have Pam resign as of July 1 and that we focus on Pam not being part of a watershed district; that we need a watershed district affiliated person representing watersheds.

The next MAWD Board meeting will be:

January 7, 2019
 MAWD Office
 595 Aldine Street
 St. Paul, MN 55104

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Mary Texer, Secretary