

Metro MAWD Meeting Summary

*“Metro MAWD” is the Region 3 (Metro) Chapter of the
Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts*

7:00 PM, Tuesday, July 17, 2019

Capitol Region Watershed District

Attending:

Board Members

Sherry White, Minnehaha Creek
Pat Preiner, Rice Creek
Mary Texer, Capitol Region
Joe Collins, Capitol Region
Craig Leiser, Brown’s Creek
Mike Bradley, Rice Creek
Barb Haake, Rice Creek
Bill Olson, Minnehaha Creek
Grace Sheely, Nine Mile
Shirley Reider, Capitol Region
Larry Koch, Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek
John Waller, Rice Creek
Dave Raby, Lower Minnesota River
Dave Ziegler, Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek

Staff and Guests

Ruth Schaefer, MAWD Board/MFCRWD
Emily Javens, MAWD
Mark Doneux, CRWD
Nick Tomczik, RCWD
Linda Loomis, LMRWD
Doug Snyder, MWMO
Stephanie McNamara, VLWMO
Laura Jester, Basset Creek
Pam Blixt, Clean Water Council
Geoff Maas, Metro GIS/Council
Jen Sorensen, MNDNR
Michael Welch, Smith Partners
Louis Smith, Smith Partners
Brian Livingston, MPCA
Ryan Anderson, MPCA
Dereck Richter, MDH
Jamie Rockney, PLSPWD
Joe Sellner, CRWD

Action Items

The group agreed to discontinue formal meeting meetings and opted instead for brief meeting summaries as available.

Special Reports

- A. Joe Selner presented Capitol Region Watershed District’s experience in updating its capacity for automation, data management and reporting for its water monitoring program; including an investment of about \$50,000 in Kisters WISKI software, CRWD’s program has improved dramatically, with a web-based portal to allow anyone (including cities, consultants, citizens) access to navigate, visualize, and download monitoring data;
- B. Geoffrey Maas presented an update on the Metro GIS Stormwater Geodata Project; the project relies on a broad-based advisory committee to promote standardized GIS data formats with the ultimate goal of a metro-wide data sharing stormwater data system with potential applications such as infrastructure capacity, modeling, maintenance needs, hazard mitigation, and environmental health;

- C. Emily Javens provided a MAWD update: resolutions and annual conference program abstracts will be due 9-1-19; MAWD's draft strategic plan will be distributed for review and comment soon; MAWD and MASWCD will be co-hosting a "Governance 101" workshop September 12-13; Emily reviewed the status of past and pending MAWD resolutions, the 2019 legislative platform results, and a preliminary look at a 2020 legislative platform; Emily reported on a meeting of the Local Government Roundtable, continued discussion of watershed-based funding (recently increased from \$9 M to \$26 M);

Agency and Association Updates

- A. BWSR: Mark Doneux reported on behalf of Kevin Bigalke that BWSR is working on a policy for watershed-based allocation of Clean Water Legacy funding; a draft policy should be available in August, and the BWSR Board will act on it this fall; the LGR focus is on promoting projects in the ground – implementation; upon request from Craig Leiser, the BWSR map showing the status of 1W1P efforts will be distributed; we were reminded of BWSR's legislative summary;
- B. MPCA: Ryan Anderson introduced himself as the new stormwater program manager; he noted work on an update to the Stormwater Manual; pre-public notice comments have been received and digested, and a public notice version will be released in late August; various research projects have recently concluded; Ryan was asked to keep Metro MAWD up to date on any changes to the MS4, construction and industrial permitting programs;
- C. Brief updates were received from DNR (Jeanne Daniels) and MDH (Dereck Richter);
- D. Clean Water Council: Pam Blixt noted several important developments in Clean Water funding; the legislature again took \$24M in legacy funds to pay for SWCD buffer implementation, marking the need for SWCDs to find sustainable funding; the legislature sunset the Legislative Water Commission's authority but not their funding, so an ad hoc group continues to meet; there is a proposal to merge the LWC and the Clean Water Council with an eye to operating more like the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council and make individual project grant decisions, rather than allocate clean water funds programmatically;
- E. MAWA: Mark Doneux reported that administrators are assisting in review of abstracts in preparation for the annual MAWD conference.

General Information Sharing

- A. A watershed district is invited to provide a "Show and Tell" presentation of a successful project or program at the next quarterly meeting;
- B. Craig Leiser urged members to keep an eye out for developer Mark Lambert and his promotion of 'developer's rights' vis watershed regulation;
- C. Grace Sheely noted the importance of promoting deep-rooted grass seed in site stabilization, perhaps to be incorporated into watershed district project specifications or even permit requirements; she agreed to gather more information for future discussion.

Next Meeting: October 15, 2019, 7-9 p.m., 595 Aldine St., St. Paul
The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Meeting summary prepared by Louis Smith, Smith Partners

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