

PRIORITY A - TOP 2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The following top priorities have been set by the MAWD Board of Directors for lobbying efforts in 2020.

- 1. Increase the \$250,000 general fund levy limit.**
- 2. Secure a strong bonding allocation for flood hazard mitigation projects.**
- 3. Permit temporary storage of water on DNR land during major flood events.**

PRIORITY B - LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS WE SUPPORT (when led by others)

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

- Provide limited liability protection to certified commercial salt applicators.
- Reinforce existing rights to maintain and repair public drainage systems as originally built.
- Clarify the responsibility of counties to finance public drainage system projects upon request of a watershed district and/or provide authorization to watershed districts to do their own general obligation bonding.
- Allow artificial water courses that serve as public drainage systems to be classified as a Class 7 Limited Resource Value Water rather than a Class 2 Aquatic Life and Recreation Water when implementing the MN Pollution Control Agency's Tiered Aquatic Life Uses (TALU) standard.
- Obtain stable and reliable funding for an ongoing flood damage reduction program.
- Support efforts of the Minnesota River Congress to increase water storage in the Minnesota River Basin.

ISSUES TO HANDLE ADMINISTRATIVELY

MAWD will continue to work with state agencies to address the following issues:

- Increase allocations of Clean Water Funds that focus on local implementation programs and projects identified in comprehensive watershed management plans such as those written under the One Watershed One Plan Program or MN Statute 103B.201 Metropolitan Surface Water Management Program.
- Ensure watershed organizations are given opportunities to provide input on stormwater reuse standards.

ISSUES TO WATCH AND PLAY DEFENSE (if needed)

MAWD will oppose legislation that negatively impacts the ability of watershed organizations to protect and preserve Minnesota's water resources. Currently, this includes the following bills already in the hopper:

- HF 1887 / SF 1766 – Watershed district provisions modified (a.k.a. "Developer's Bill of Rights")
- HF 2314 / SF 2372 – Rice Creek watershed district spending and reporting requirements