



**Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts  
Board of Directors Meeting MINUTES - Approved  
Wednesday, March 18, 2020 | 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
GoToMeeting-Call in attendance: M. Texer; T. Dritz; S. Davis White; L.  
Vavra; W. Holker; G. Tiedemann; P. Fjestad; J. Anderson; E. Javens; M.  
Bohn; R. Bohn and R. Schaefer**

The Board meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by President M. Texer.

#### **GENERAL HOUSEKEEPING**

Motion to approve the agenda, made by T. Dritz, seconded by P. Fjestad. Motion passed.

Secretary's Report- R. Schaefer noted an error on page 2 incorrectly stating the members of the Education Committee. Correct members are Vavra and Schaefer. Motion made by J. Anderson, seconded by L. Vavra to approve the minutes of the January 17<sup>th</sup> minutes with the above correction. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report-S. Davis White- Discussed concerns shared by our accountant and Board about a debit card/credit card. After further discussion with the Board, E. Javens removed her request for a credit card. Our CPA expressed concerns about the MAWD Associations tax status. After discussion by the Board, a motion was made by J. Anderson to consult a tax attorney. T. Dritz seconded the motion, motion passed. R. Bohn suggested that S. Davis White consult with Eve Rose Borenstien, a nonprofit tax attorney. She has provided clarification in the past on the tax status of MAWD. Davis White will also talk to Craig Leiser to get more background on this. Motion to accept the Treasurers Report was made by S. Davis White, seconded by P. Fjestad. Motion carried.

#### **REPORT**

President's Report -M. Texer-Thanked everyone for their electronic attendance during this difficult time.

- WMO Dues-Dues are currently at \$500 per year, now in their second year. The land value calculation is difficult; unable to use the same formula for WMO's as we do for WD. Committee to still develop this policy.
- Board Workshop – Live or Virtual- Will be scheduled depending upon the COVID 19 recommendations.
- Tentative Workshop Agenda
  - Committee Structure and Expectations-Committee chairs are asked to write up their responsibilities.
  - Policies and Procedures – Review and approval will be started by M. Texer, S. Davis White with E. Javens.
  - Regional Issues-Discussed when regional meetings will be held and what their issues are currently.
  - Value of MAWD Membership – Telling our story.
    - Our Name and Logo-Consider a change for future use.
    - Retaining Current and Attracting new members-Ongoing goal.
    - Video-Creat for statewide use.

Executive Director Report-E. Javens

- 2019 Year in Review and Vision for Moving Forward:
  - Visited many WD's to acknowledge accomplishments and assist with concerns.
  - Legislative update videos work well, and the quarterly written updates are very time consuming.
  - Educational topics were provided and tracking of feedback will identify the gaps in our topics.
  - Our future conferences will all be dependent on the COVID 19 health concerns.
  - We need a consistent "WD Message-WD are part of the solution". This will be developed and implemented in 2020.

Legislative Report (Ray Bohn)

- Reported the need for a serious discussion with BWSR on the needs of the our WD's. WD's that experienced difficulties during 2019 would appreciate greater involvement/assistance by BWSR.

- Legislators are “on call” and will comeback before/on April 14<sup>th</sup>. All available bills will be dealt with at that time. COVID-19 spending has occurred and will most likely occur again. \$30 M is still requested for flood mitigation. A special session may occur, which would be topic specific.
- Water Commission-Rep. Torkelson received a bill to merge SWCD and WD on a voluntary basis. Also, SWCD supervisors to receive same per diem as WD Manager and other requests.
- Rep. Westrom wants to return 10% of the assessed value of the Sauk River WD project. The request is thought to be too cumbersome to process. No Senate companion co-author.
- A meeting with Rep. Marquardt-Chair of the Tax Committee to discuss the general levy funding request was scheduled. Little assistance has been offered by BWSR on this need for rural districts. This meeting was cancelled and is being rescheduled. Several WD are still in favor of pursuing this increase.

#### Program Report (Maddy Bohn)

- Legislative Briefing / Day at the Capitol -Event cancelled due to COVID 19. Members and Legislators were notified. Refunds for all 63 registered individuals have been processed. The hotel credit from 2019 of \$1155 will carry over to 2021. The only bill that was not able to be credited/voided was AV Company for \$789.44 Next year’s Legislative Event will be held on 2/18/21 from 8:00-10:00 am in the L’Etoile du Nord Vault Room B5 Ceremonial Space at the Capital.
- Summer Tour Update-The Board discussed and reviewed the contract for the event. The contract did have an exit clause, if a decision was made today. A motion was made by J. Anderson, seconded by S. White Davis to cancel the Summer Tour. The motion passed and the event will be cancelled. S. Davis White will inquire if Minnehaha Creek Watershed District will host this event in 2021.

Committee Report-Committee work will occur at a workshop to be scheduled in May or June.

- Call for Volunteers update
- Education
- Events
- Finance
- Governance (both)
- Legislative
- Resolutions/Policy

#### Partner Reports –

- Based on a very frank discussion with John Jaschke, we learned that we need to be very specific in our asks from BWSR.
- NCRS, Troy Daniel, would like a series of discussions with us on whether we can put dollars toward lobbying at the federal level.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Executive Director Review was discussed in closed session. The Board gave E. Javens a favorable review.

Motion to close the meeting was made by T. Dritz and seconded by P. Fjestad. Motion passed and the meeting ended at 3:30pm.

These minutes are a draft and will be reviewed for approval at the next Board of Directors Meeting.

Submitted by,

Ruth Schaefer  
Secretary