



**Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts
Board of Directors' Meeting – APPROVED MINUTES**

Friday, January 17, 2020

8:30am to 12:30pm

Dial In and Capitol Region WD

Board Members present:

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

Staff Present-Emily Javens, Executive Director

Others Present-Maddy Bohn, MB Consulting; Ray Bohn, Media and Government Affairs; Kevin Bigalke & Joe Collins-BWSR; M. Johnson-MFCRWD; S. Henderson-SRWD

General Housekeeping-

Meeting was called to order by President Texer at 8:40. She thanked everyone for attending by conference call or at Capitol Region's office.

Agenda-Motion by Anderson, second by Vavra to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

Secretary Reports from 12/4/19 and 12/7/19 were reviewed. Anderson asked that the BWSR information be added to the 12/4 minutes-" Angie Becker Kudelka-BWSR stated that BSWR wanted to start featuring stories about the good work done by watershed districts. The Board suggested that BWSR start with the 2019 Project and Program of the Year winners. A writer and photographer will create these stories." 12/4/19 minutes will be amended. 12/7/19 minutes were reviewed. Motion by Vavra, second by Anderson to approve the amended 12/4 minutes; motion passed. Motion by Anderson, second by Vavra to approve the 12/7 minutes. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Davis White:

- The HSA plan has been implemented and the credit card is in process.
- Davis White was granted approval to pay invoices from Minnehaha Creek WD for the summer tour. Boat deposit of \$750 was made.
- Inventory of MAWD assets has started.
- Account status: Checking \$152,999.95; Savings \$194,667.26 for a total of \$347,667.21
- See report. Motion by Anderson, second by Vavra to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Presidents Report-Texer reviewed conference call rules.

-The process for Javens performance evaluation was reviewed. The survey will be sent out soon and completion is expected prior to the end of February.

Executive Director Report-Javens reviewed the 2020 calendar with the Board.

- March 18th DoubleTree St Paul
- June 24th Minnehaha Creek
- September 25th Buffalo Red or Bois de Sioux Watershed District office
- December 2nd and 3rd Annual Meeting

Program Manager Report-M. Bohn reported:

- 2019 Convention Update- The e-check hold issue has been resolved. The \$7000 has been released. \$1400 check was received from MN State Vendor services after the address was corrected. Survey responses were reviewed, the majority were positive. Areas of concern were discussed by the Board, see below.
- \$89,140 in registration
- \$43,120 trade show
- \$132,260 total
- This is a \$17,605 increase from 2018.
- 2020 Legislative Briefing-Day at the Capital is March 18 & 19th, hotel credit of \$1500 will be used. The MAWA meeting will be 9:30-1 and MAWD Board at 2-5, both meetings will be held at Capitol Region's offices on the 18th. The 19th will start with a breakfast meeting in the vault room in the basement of the Capitol. Maddy is working with caterers and the link is live and the invites will go out soon.
- 2020 Annual Meeting-Discussed option of viewing other venues for greater space. Will sign with Arrowwood for 2020 and view other sites this year for consideration for 2021. Other changes discussed: offering certain topics twice, offering topics on Thursday, more space for certain topics and longer break after the main speaker.
- M. Bohn and E. Javens will be attending the MN Erosion Control Conference. Bohn will set up a booth showcasing the Project & Program of the Year winners. The event is being held at Crown Plaza in Plymouth. Summer tour brochures will also be handed out.

New Business

2020 Committee Structure and Representation-to be determined

- Governance (Bylaw, MOPP, Strategic Plan) -- Texer
- Legislative -- Anderson
- Resolutions -- Davis White
- Finance -- Davis White
- Events -- Dritz
- Education – Schaefer and Vavra
- Personnel -- Texer

Set 2020 Board Endorsements

- Drainage Work Group-consists of 1 manager, 1 administrator and Javens. Dritz will continue as a manager (Vavra as back up) and Skonard (NFCRWD) as administrator and Javens.
- BWSR Board Recommendation-A short list will be presented to BWSR for their final decision.
- Local Government Roundtable Committee-Last year members were: Tiedemann-Region 1; Willenbring-Region 2, Davis White-Region 3 and Schaefer as President. New members were selected as: Tiedemann (Fjestad as a back up); Holker (Schaefer as back up) and Anderson with Texer as President.

Set 2020 Goals

- Regional Meetings: Discussed the creation of regional meetings throughout the year. Region 1-get together are mainly at the Red Board meetings: Region 2 started meeting during the Summer Tour events and Region 3 has their Metro MAWD meetings.
- WD/WMO meeting attendance/assistance including celebrations

Set 2020 Legislative Platform-J. Anderson & R. Bohn

-Committee Recommendations-See Legislative Committee Notes 1-10-2020. See Proposed 2020 MAWD Legislative Platform dated 1-10-20

-Discussion by the Board centered on:

-Local representatives need to agree to the general levy increase prior to the start of the legislative session.

-Bois de Sioux wants and needs R. Bohn's support with their lobbyist, on matters of concern.

-Buffalo Red wants to increase their levy which has legislator support if it has a cap.

-Motion to accept the Resolutions from Shell Rock, Pelican Lake and Buffalo Red for the general levy increase made by Dritz, second by Tiedemann. Motion passed.

-Motion by Dritz, second by Fjestad to move 2018-08 Reinforce Existing Rights to Maintain/Repair 103E Drainage Systems to Priority B category. Motion passed.

-Motion by Vavra, second by Schaefer to approve the amended changes. Motion passed.

-Lobbyist Recommendations and Discussion

-R. Bohn stated that the Governor has made recommendations for 2.1 billion for bonding. 3.5 billion would be the maximum amount allowed for bonding in MN. Legislators and the Governor are proposing much different amounts.

-R. Bohn reported that the Governor also proposed 20 million for flood mitigation, earmarked for the Roseau River water project. Vavra expressed concern over the DNR withholding money for WD projects in the Red River area unless control of projects is given to the DNR. Bohn and Javens will consult with the Red Board.

-Stop Over Salting (SOS) Legislation would limit the liability and policy issues are in agreement. The Trial Lawyers are not in agreement. Bohn will attend their meetings to learn more. Texer recommended that MAWD approach this issue from a water quality standpoint rather than a liability issue.

-Discussed the need for a dedicated fund for flood mitigation.

-All WDs need to educate their county commissioners on the benefits of WD funds utilized within hydrological boundaries, not just county boundaries.

-Developers' Bill of Rights meeting is next week. Bohn has not seen the language in the Bill. Davis White asked that the bill be sent to all Board members for their review. Bohn stated he would send the information.

-Discussion of rural WD funding and SWCD funding and the need to protect Clean Water Funds.

-R. Bohn will continue the video updates.

-Motion by Anderson, second by Dritz to adopt the Legislative Platform as amended. Motion passed. Copy included with these minutes.

-Partner Platforms and Considerations

-BWSR-K. Bigalke-Long discussion with the Board and others in attendance. Concerns were raised and presented to BWSR. Discussion of the following documents took place:

- 12/2/2019 letter to Board Chair Van Amburg-BWSR from President Schaefer;
- 1/13/2019 letter to President Texer from Board Chair Van Amburg-BWSR and BWSR document FY20-21 Interim Process: Metro Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Work Plan for Watershed-Based Implementation Funding.
- Also discussed the Sauk River WD 2003 Project involving a public drainage system that has been problematic.

-MPCA-No report

-MAWA-S. Henderson thanked the Board for their support and collaboration with MAWA. See letter by Henderson to MAWD Board in support Resolution #3 and other legislative issues.

-Clean Water Council-P.Blixt-No report

Motion to adjourn made by Anderson, seconded by Vavra. Motion passed and the meeting closed at 12:22 pm.

Submitted by,

Ruth Schaefer
Secretary