



**Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts**

**Board of Directors' Meeting MINUTES**

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

1:00 to 4:15 p.m.

Courtyard by Marriott

1080 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Moorhead, 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 (via phone)  
Gene Tiedemann, Red Lake WD  
Tim Dritz, Yellow Medicine River WD  
Linda Vavra, Bois de Sioux WD (via phone)  
Peter Fjestad, Buffalo Red River WD

**Staff Present:**

Emily Javens, Executive Director

**Others Present**

Kevin Bigalke, BWSR  
Scott Henderson, Sauk River WD  
Dave Weirens, BWSR

**General Housekeeping**

President Schaefer called the meeting to order at 1:00.

Dritz moved and Willenbring seconded approval of the agenda. Motion carried.

Texer moved and Davis White seconded approval of the minutes for the February 20, 2019 meeting. Motion carried.

Davis White reported that there was \$146,904.49 in the checking account and \$176,080.70 in the savings account. Dues have been received from all members which includes 4 WMOs. The total received is \$216,668.00. Actual revenue from the annual meeting exceeded budgeted revenue by \$5,000. Revenue was down from the legislative breakfast due to fewer last-minute registrations because of the challenging weather that day. Texer moved and Fjestad seconded acceptance of the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Davis White met with the accountant to check on expense and income classifications.

Javens said that it is her goal to have the MAWD storage unit emptied and the contents moved into the Capitol Region Watershed District's Thomas building by the end of July thus eliminating this monthly expense.

## Reports and New Business

### President's Report

President Schaefer thanked the Board for the improvements they have made in their operating procedures and all that they have accomplished during her terms as president. President Schaefer also reminded the Board that this is her last year as president as positional term limits were put into place with the adoption of the Manual of Policies and Procedures.

### Executive Director's Report

#### **Governance 101 Class**

MAWD is co-sponsoring a Governance 101 class with MASWCD September 12-13 at a facility near the Mall of America. This 1.5 day seminar is similar to MAWD's New Manager Training. Javens is helping to develop the agenda. MASWCD will be doing most of the work in putting the seminar together and facilitating it. BWSR will supply resources for the course.

The Board wants to continue New Manager Training at the annual meeting. Additionally, at the Board's September 2019 meeting the Board will discuss developing Advanced Manager Training for experienced managers as well as providing leadership training for WD Board leadership. Javens agreed to develop a proposal for discussion.

#### **2019 Annual Meeting**

The high-level schedule for the Annual Meeting is as follows:

December 4

- 1-4 MAWA meeting
- 6-9 MAWD Board

December 5

- Pre-conference workshops and exhibit reception

December 6

- Conference Sessions and Dinner

December 7

- Last Chance Networking Breakfast and MAWD Board organizing meeting

#### **Summer Tours**

Javens reviewed the schedule for the 2019 Summer Tour. Buses are being provided by the City of Moorhead. Since Thursday's dinner is "on your own", Region II and Region III are organizing regional gatherings to encourage networking. Friday morning there will be a light continental breakfast followed by three presentations and a legislative update. See the Tour's agenda for more complete details.

The 2020 Summer Tour will be held at the end of June (specific dates TBD) and will tour Minnehaha Creek.

#### **Legislative Update**

See the Legislative report Javens sent out to all managers and the Board for what got accomplished and what will continue on our Legislative Agenda. While a lot was accomplished this year the Legislative Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee and Javens all strongly believe that MAWD needs to develop branded materials that tell the members of the House and Senate who watersheds are and what watersheds do. This is particularly needed to effectively counter the developers' lobby. A Watershed Handbook was developed in the past. (Javens brought two prior editions) This would involve creating an effective introduction and summary along with each WD completing a template so like information is provided.

Javens is in discussion with John Jaschke, BWSR, to recreate the handbook as a type of annual report. A template would be sent to each WD to complete including how they have spent Clean Water dollars. The introduction and summary would be aggregated from the WD information. BWSR is looking for dollars to do this. The Legislative Committee suggested holding a fund raiser. Anderson is currently soliciting pricing quotations for the graphics costs.

The completed document would be sent in hard copy to all legislators, each WD, the Minnesota Historical Society, and other stake holders. Additionally, a digital copy would be available on the MAWD website.

### **Miscellaneous Topics**

Shell Rock WD is having serious problems with the Coordinated Water Plan. Javens is working with Glenn Skuta to get this corrected.

Schaefer and Javens went to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for Turtle Creek Watershed District and gave them their award honoring their 50 years.

Javens visited Basset Creek WMO. They have volunteered to serve on the finance committee and to assist with the developer issue.

BWSR is working with the PCA to help WDs move from WRAPS (Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy) to 1 Watershed 1 Plan.

Javens is exploring getting assistance from Capitol Region WD to develop a marketing strategy to deal with the developers. She is also exploring getting some administrative help and will meet with the Capitol Watershed WD Communications and Community Engagement Manager for help with the Annual Meeting.

### **Legislative Committee, Jackie Anderson, Chair**

First and foremost, the committee worked very well.

See the report provided by Anderson. Of the 7 top priorities 5 were passed or resolved and two will be carried forward to the next session.

The committee is focusing on the statutes, how they work and how financing works so that they can more effectively communicate our various positions. The committee also felt it was very important to develop marketing materials to combat the Developers' resolution.

Anderson reviewed the archived resolutions and will bring two forward through the resolutions process again this year:

- Legacy fund restoration
- Isolation of lakes that have AIS discovered in them

Fjestad moved and Dritz seconded accepting the archive list. Motion carried. A copy of the archived list will be sent to the Administrators.

It was moved by Fjestad and seconded by Vavra to accept the proposed 2020 MAWD Legislative Platform subject to changes at the Annual Meeting. Motion carried.

Fjestad moved and Vavra seconded that the committee should move forward with advocacy work (including the watershed handbook/directory discussed earlier in these minutes) as presented on the third page of the committee report in appendix 1. Motion carried.

### **Governance Committee, Mary Texer, Chair**

See the committee report provided.

The Governance Committee is comprised of two sub committees – Strategic Plan and Bylaws/MOPP. The Strategic Plan Subcommittee met and developed a proposed Plan for 2020-2022. In addition to surveying the membership in December 2018/January 2019 (results present to the MAWD Board at the February 20, 2019 meeting) the committee identified what they saw as MAWD's values. Dritz moved and Davis White seconded that these values be accepted as stated in the Strategic Plan. Motion carried.

Anderson moved and Willenbring seconded that MAWD accept the committee report and strategic plan. Motion carried. The Strategic Plan will be sent in its entirety with a cover letter from President Schaefer and Executive Director Javens asking each WD to review the plan and send comments by September 1. These will be reviewed and incorporated into the plan as feasible for review by the MAWD Board at their September meeting.

#### Finance Committee, Sherry Davis White, Chair

This committee will meet mid-August. Three issues on their agenda are:

- Per diem
- Financial goals for events
- Dues

Please get input to Davis White by August 1.

Regarding dues for 2020, the issue is the value provided by MAWD and explaining this budget line item to taxpayers. Anderson moved and Dritz seconded leaving the current dues structure in place for 2020. Motion carried.

As we explore other structures in the future, we have to look at the equity issue between WMOs and WDs. For now, WMOs will \$500.00 per year for their first and second years.

#### Personnel Committee, Ruth Schaefer, Chair

Schaefer got input via a Survey Monkey from ALL Board members. She conducted Javen's review and gave her an increase as approved.

Anderson requested that Javens look ahead and let the Board know of any additional staffing needs Javens will need.

#### Local Government Water Roundtable (LGWRT), Gene Tiedemann reporting

The LGWRT met on June 19<sup>th</sup> and reviewed the recommendations put together on watershed-based funding policies by the group's Advisory Committee. One sticking point seems to be related to eligible expenses, particularly monitoring and community engagement. The group thought perhaps a better use of the funds would be to limit it strictly to implementation projects on the ground. The watershed-based funding program could even be renamed the "watershed-based funding implementation program." The group meets again on July 16<sup>th</sup> to finalize their recommendations to BWSR.

Another issue that came up was the requirement of paying the prevailing wage on state funded projects which can dramatically increase project costs. The prevailing wage in the Twin Cities is not the same as in outstate regions so the question is which prevailing wage is required.

#### Partner Reports

##### **BWSR**, Kevin Bigalke

See the written reports provided at the meeting for complete details. Generally, BWSR faired quite well in the area of funding. Their general fund allotment remained the same.

\$200K was allotted to the EQB via Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

\$900K was allotted for Lawns to Legumes (natural vegetation/pollinator friendly) as part of the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. There has been a very high response from citizens. BWSR is currently looking at how to implement this program.

This was the last year CREP dollars will be received from the Clean Water Fund. Riparian Buffer Repair cost share was a one-time allotment so funding in FY 20-21 is \$00.00.

SWCD funding will continue to come out of the Clean Water Fund for this biennium. The legislature needs to decide where this funding comes from in the future.

**BWSR**, Dave Weirens

BWSR is hiring two leadership positions. Buffer compliance was 80% by the end of 2018. There have been a few enforcement issues. They have to certify those WDs and Counties receiving Riparian Aid. County payments are coming. With CRP the question is how landowners register or register in the CRP and CREP programs. The State supplies 100% of the dollars and support for these programs.

**MAWA**, Scott Henderson

MAWA met in the morning prior to the MAWD Board meeting. There was quite a bit of discussion on the need to raise the Legislative Levy Limit. In general, how can MAWD get this pushed through the Legislature. MAWD can/should expect a number of resolutions on this topic. The cost of administering grants alone warrants an increase.

One Watershed One Plan (1W1P). Getting funding for this is a work in progress.

Dianne Rademacher retired. Amber Doschadis is the new administrator. Michelle Overholser, Yellow Medicine WD, will now serve on the MAWA Executive Committee.

**Clean Water Council**, Pam Blixt

Pam sent an email report. President Shaefer will contact R. Bohn to discuss the status of replacing Pam on the Council with a MAWD member.

[Next Board Meeting](#)

The next MAWD Board meeting will be held September 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 – 2:00 at the offices of the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District, 189 Co. Rd. 8, Spicer, MN.

Davis White moved, Vavra seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Texer,  
Secretary