

Metro MAWD Meeting Summary

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

7:00 PM, Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

2522 Marshall St. NE, Minneapolis, MN

Attending:

Board Members

Jackie Anderson, Comfort Lake–Forest Lake
Mary Texer, Capitol Region Joe Collins, Capitol Region
Rick Sanders, Capitol Region
Mike Bradley, Rice Creek Barb Haake, Rice Creek
Bill Olson, Minnehaha Creek Grace Sheely, Nine Mile
John Waller, Rice Creek
Anne Maule Miller, Browns Creek
Eugene Maxwell, Minnehaha Creek

Staff and Guests

Emily Javens, MAWD
Mark Doneux, CRWD
Nick Tomczik, RCWD
Linda Loomis, LMRWD
Doug Snyder, MWMO
Laura Jester, Basset Creek
Kevin Bigalke, BWSR
Chris Otterness, Houston Engineering
Chantill Kahler Royer, Kahler Automation

1. Call to Order, Mary Texer called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Introductions were made of those in attendance.

Action Items

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Barb Haake, seconded by Bill Olson to approve the agenda as presented.

Meeting Summary

The group agreed to discontinue formal meeting meetings and opted instead for brief meeting summaries as available. The accepted the meeting summary from the July 17, 2019. The meeting summary will be posted on the MAWD website.

Special Reports - Watershed Feature Program

A. Managing Water Systems for Resiliency through Future Conditions Modeling, Nick Tomczik, Rice Creek Watershed District, Chris Otterness, Houston Engineering

The Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) contains some of the fastest-growing communities in the metro area. Because of the scale of these land use changes, the RCWD recognized that increasing runoff volumes may have cumulative effects on downstream water management systems, despite the RCWD's progressive stormwater management rules. To effectively address these changes and to understand their magnitude, the RCWD needed a tool to predict the effects of projected land use changes on a watershed-wide scale, and needed to evaluate the effectiveness of proactive projects and programs the RCWD can use to address these issues.

The tool the RCWD chose for predicting the resiliency of its systems was an adaptation of its District Wide Modeling Program (DWMP). The DWMP, based on the EPA's Stormwater Management Model, was developed in 2011 to simulate the complex interconnectivity of the RCWD's water management systems. The DWMP was later modified to reflect hydrologic changes which would result from the projected future changes in land uses, and then the DWMP was further altered to simulate potential stormwater management decisions.

This presentation will describe the challenges faced in "predicting the future" on a watershed-wide scale, the value of these tools in striving for system resiliency, and opportunities for collaboration with local governments to achieve common goals.

Rice Creek is now working with the Cities to do additional more detailed studies to evaluate local land use changes in light of anticipated downstream impacts.

B. MAWD Initiatives Update, Emily Javens

a) Annual Meeting Preview

Ms. Javens provided and preview of the upcoming Annual Meeting.

b) Strategic Plan Review, Mary Texer

Ms. Texer gave a presentation on the MAWD Strategic Plan. The Plan was for 2020-2021 and included the 2016-2019 Goals and Accomplishments, MAWD Guiding Principles, the Approach, Core Values and Strategic Goal Areas. The Strategic Goal Areas included: Education and Training, Communication and Collaboration and Lobbying and Advocacy.

c) Legislative Session Preview

Ms. Javens provided a preliminary platform from 2019 session, noting there were 15 new resolutions. The Resolutions Committee met, reviewed the resolution and two were removed because of duplication. Committee voted against 6 resolutions. The Committee also provided feedback on concerns on resolutions not supported. The Legislative Briefing will be March 18 & 19, 2020, no reception that night, just breakfast on the 19th.

Agency and Association Updates

A. BWSR Update, Kevin Bigalke

Mr. Bigalke of BWSR updated the group on the Watershed Based Implementation Funding. Mr. Bigalke reviewed the process over the last year. BWSR Board adopted the new policy on September 25th. The Local Government Water Roundtable asked that the word “implementation” be added to the policy. This was done by the BWSR Board. Watershed Strategic Planning Committee and Grants Policy Committee met to discuss and review. Mr. Bigalke noted that the new partnership will bring forward projects. Partnership get funding based on Watershed Management Plans. The prior allocation was on County basis and the 2020 process will be on a watershed alignment. BWSR will be responsible for convening partners. Mr. Bigalke noted that WMO/WD Plans and County Groundwater Plans will be eligible and BWSR is working to get annual SWCD Work Plans eligible. There was a discussion on annual SWCD work plan component of the is process. Questions and concerns were raised about the possibility of duplication of SWCD work plans the level of effort required of WMO/WD plans compared to SWCD annual work plans. MR. Bigalke noted that this is an interim process and the SWCD plans will require a public approval component.

B. Minnesota Stormwater Research Council Update, John Bilotta

John Bilotta provided an update on the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council.

C. 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. 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: January 21, 2020, 7-9 p.m., 595 Aldine St., St. Paul

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Meeting summary prepared by Mark Doneux, Administrator, Capitol Region Watershed District