

# Metro MAWD Meeting Minutes

*“Metro MAWD” is the Metro Chapter of the  
Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts*

**7:00 PM, Tuesday, April 19, 2016**

## **Capitol Region Watershed District**

### **Attending:**

#### Board Members

Joe Collins, Capitol Region  
Mike Thienes, Capitol Region  
Marianne Breitbach, Prior Lake Spring Lake  
Jill Crafton, Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek  
Pat Preiner, Rice Creek  
Mary Texer, Capitol Region  
Shirley Reider, Capitol Region  
Len Kramer, Lower Minnesota  
Perry Forrester, Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek  
Cliff Aichinger, Ramsey Washington Metro  
John Waller, Rice Creek  
Craig Leiser, Brown’s Creek  
Mike Bradley, Rice Creek

#### Staff and Guests

Mark Doneux, CRWD  
Phil Belfiori, RCWD  
Dan Fetter, Barr Eng.  
Steve Robertson, MNDH  
Ray Bohn, MAWD  
Judy Sventek, Met Council  
Doug Thomas, BWSR  
Terri Yearwood, DNR  
Gwen Willems, CRWD /RCD  
John Hanson, VBWD  
Doug Snyder, MWMO  
Terri McDill, MPCA

### **I. Call to Order**

- a. Mike Thienes called the meeting to Order at. Attendance was taken and introductions were made.
- b. The Agenda was accepted with no changes

### **II. Special Reports**

#### **A. Stormwater Management on Brownfield sites, Dan Fetter, Barr Engineering Company**

#### **B. MN Stormwater Research Council, Cliff Aichinger**

Cliff Aichinger gave a report on the proposed Minnesota Stormwater Research Council

Minnesota has exceptionally competent stormwater practitioners who have banded together over the years to find ways to do things better, faster and with an eye on costs and benefits. These efforts were called nation-leading by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. We retain much of the same energies and interests and we have nationally recognized stormwater professionals. So, what’s next?

We suggest forming a group under the banner of a Minnesota Stormwater Resources Council with a purpose to conduct fundamental applied research, collect summary performance data/case studies and disseminate information to practitioners for better urban stormwater management. This will require consideration of the following:

Development of goals, objectives, operating principles and membership.

Organize a Board of Directors and subgroups as directed by organizing principles including research, communication/outreach strategies and budget.

Link with related groups, agencies, and professional entities.

Request start-up assistance from agencies and local governments to support organizational development, staffing and to begin databases and storage of case studies and reports.

There are existing, dedicated state resources that may be available plus several state and regional agencies with allied interests (source water protection, local water plans, restoration grants and biological integrity) which could assist in funding and staff support for this effort.

The following is a list of research priorities developed through a January 8, 2015 discussion of 29 Minnesota practitioners and researchers. Funding to support these efforts is greatly needed. Please contact the contributors if you want a copy of the full meeting notes.

Research Need Priority 1: Best Management Practice Effectiveness, with specific investigations into practices placed in series, sizing, and long term effectiveness.

Research Need Priority 2: Infiltration Research, with specific investigations into long term effects, groundwater impacts, underground practices, and how soils impact effectiveness.

Research Need Priority 3: Information sharing and coordination, so that results and data are accessible and research is coordinated to most effectively use funds available.

Research Need Priority 4: Best Management Practice Maintenance, to understand how to maintain practices, predict life cycle costs, and longevity.

Research Need Priority 5: Trees as stormwater management to better understand their positive and negative impacts to water quality and other community benefits.

Other Research Needs: Reuse of stormwater, Source reduction, Street sweeping, channel stabilization, education of decision makers, filtration media performance, and toxicity of pond sediments.

The bottom line is that there is a need for \$100-\$150 K for the first 1-2 years with support from the U of MN Water Resources Institute. Cliff stated a formal request will be coming in the future for support.

Manager Mary Texer suggested that at first why conduct studies and rather start by sharing data using a platform like Sharepoint and use the Community of practice approach. Manger Leiser asked how the research would be handled. Terri McDill suggested looking into NSF Grants.

### **C. MAWD Strategic Planning Process, Perry Forrester**

Perry Forester, Craig Leiser and Mary Texer gave an update on the MAWD Strategic Planning process. Perry stated that a survey was sent out to Managers and Administrators.

a) The first part of the survey looked at the Executive Director's position. Key findings so far indicate the respondents see the key roles as administration, work with MAWD Board, communicate with watershed districts. The next key area was lobbying and establish relationships state organizations. The third area of importance was education and leadership training.

b) The second part of the survey asked what should MAWD look like? While not unanimous, the majority responded that the organization should have an executive director that may oversee legislative functions.

c) The third area of the survey asked if MAWD was providing too much, too little or about the right amount of service to members. While Board Managers felt the level of service was about right or too little, the Administrators felt strongly that too little service is provided.

Perry stated that the full results of the survey will be presented at the Summer Tour. Craig stated that the survey and resultant report will not focus on priorities but rather a suite of options.

### **III. Agency and Association Updates**

#### **A. Governor's Water Summit Recap**

The group discussed the Governor's Water Summit and the follow up to it.

#### **B. BWSR Updates, Doug Thomas**

Doug Thomas gave the BWSR Update. Mr. Thomas stated the 8410 Rules went into effect. One change is that the annual report will be due on April 30<sup>th</sup> if a District's fiscal year ends December 31<sup>st</sup> and the audit would then be due June 30<sup>th</sup>. The WCA Rulemaking Advisory Group continues on their path for revisions out in 2016. The Local Government Roundtable has been working on recommendations to determine stable, consistent funding statewide for water management. Much work continues on the Buffer Rule. Comments on draft buffer maps are due May 4<sup>th</sup>. The state is also revising a model ordinance for the soil loss law.

#### **C. MPCA Updates, Teresa McDill**

Teresa McDill gave the MPCA update. Ms. McDill stated that Glen Skuta is the new Watershed Program Director. The Stormwater Program has hired a new inspector and is dealing with the MS4/NPDES Rule Remand through the EPA. MPCA is also working on a partnership with MECA for MS4 training. The training will focus on the inspection aspects of meeting your MS4 permit requirements. Highlights include prioritizing construction sites, pre-inspection activities, completing inspections, post-construction activities, non-compliance, MS4 system inspections, and incorporating IDDE inspections into everyday activities.

#### **D. DNR Updates, Terri Yearwood**

Terri Yearwood gave the DNR update. The North and East Metro Groundwater Management Plan has been approved and is now moving to implementation. The DNR is also coordinating 1 Watershed 1 Plan with other agencies and local partners. The MRCA Corridor Rules will have hearings in June. The 2016 summer Watercraft Inspection Program is ramping up. The DNR continues to be heavily involved in the buffer mapping effort.

#### **E. MDH Updates, Steve Robertson**

Steve Robertson gave the MDH update. Steve stated the MDH website has new information on it regarding reuse. The MN Stormwater Manual is being updated to include wellhead protection guidance. The state agency Reuse group will be starting a stakeholder process that will include a watershed district representative. MHD is working on Lead and Copper Regulations.

#### **F. Met Council Updates, Judy Sventek**

Judy Sventek gave the Met Council update. Ms. Sventek stated the Met Council will have innovative stormwater grants up to \$200,000 and will be due May 11<sup>th</sup>. There is a total of \$1,000,000 available. The Council is working to provide better public access to lake and stream data. The Council is also ramping up for the Comprehensive planning process to begin in 2017 or 2018.

#### **G. MAWD Updates, Ray Bohn**

**Ray Bohn gave the MAWD Update. He stated the** Legislative Breakfast was a success and well attended. He said the Summer Tour will be in Winona and the ADA will help with the effort. The tour will be June 22-24. He reiterated the efforts being made on the MAWD Strategic Plan. Regarding the Buffer Legislation Rep. Torkelson on the House side and Senator Skoe on the Senate side have agreed to a bill that will go a long way to clarify the language of the original legislation (HF3000/SF2503). The pending legislation clarifies the public waters covered, jurisdictional issues, APO enforcement issues, local water plan updates, funding withholding, and public drainage issues. In addition, the Senate included language to provide local aids to local governments that accept jurisdiction (counties & watershed districts) for the enforcement provisions in the law. We are also working on a revolving fund concept which will allow drainage authorities to borrow from the fund to be able to move more quickly to implement the buffer law, and then repay the funds when a redetermination of benefits are completed on the ditch. The two funding issues are both being considered separately (taxes & capital investment committees) for inclusion in the two bills.

The local aids language was left behind in the tax committee when the bill passed through Senate taxes for consideration, and the revolving fund bill was introduced by Rep. Torkelson and Sen. Dziejcz (HF3734/SF3521). We are hopeful these two bills pass considering both bodies want the local units to do the enforcement rather than the state agencies and any added incentive to that end helps bring the local units on board.

## **F. Administrator's Update**

Mark Doneux gave the Administrator's Report and stated that there will be a stormwater Reuse Workshop on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at CHS Field.

## **IV. Action Items**

- A) Approve October 20, 2015 minutes.

Motion by Perry Forester, seconded by Mary Texer to approve the October 20, 2015 Metro MAWD Minutes as presented. Motion carried.

## **V. Unfinished Business**

- A) Education
- B) Permitting & Regulations
- C) Governance
- D) Stormwater Research

## **VI. General Information**

**Roundtable Discussion – Current Issues, Trends and Topics, All**

## **VII. Next meeting**

Tuesday, July 19, 2016, 7:00 – 9:00 PM, CRWD Offices

**Next Meeting topic: TBD**

## **VIII. Adjournment**

**Motion by Craig Leiser, seconded by Perry Forester to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Doneux, Administrator  
Capitol Region Watershed District