

Metro MAWD Meeting Minutes

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

7:00 PM, Tuesday, October 15, 2013

Capitol Region Watershed District

Attending:

Board Members

Joe Collins, Capitol Region
Mike Thienes, Capitol Region
Sherry Davis-White, Minnehaha Creek
Bill Olson, Minnehaha Creek
Len Kremer, Lower Minnesota River
Barbara Haake, Rice Creek
Dennis Hanna, South Washington
Pam Blixt, Minnehaha Creek
Brian Johnson, South Washington
Shirley Reider, Capitol Region
Marianne Breitbach, Prior Lake Spring Lake
Curt Hennes, Prior Lake Spring Lake

Staff and Guests

Jim Haertel, BWSR
Ray Bohn, MAWD
Mark Doneux, CRWD
Phil Belfiori, RCWD
Jim Shaver, CMSC WD
Ryan Anderson, MPCA
Terri Yearwood, DNR

I. Call to Order

- a. Chair Thienes called the meeting to Order at 7:04 PM. Attendance was taken and introductions were made.
- b. The Agenda was accepted with changes.
Motion by Barb Haake, second by Sherry White, to approve the Agenda as amended.

II. Agency and Association Updates

A. BWSR Update, Jim Haertel

Jim Haertel gave the BWSR Update. The Clean Water Fund application period ended with October 4th with approximately three times the dollars request as is available. There was a 38% increase in requests and about 50% were from the metro area. Work continues on the One Water One Plan effort. This program will not affect the metro area and will be a voluntary approach to watershed management. Doug Thomas is working on that project. There is a plan to work on 6-12 pilot watershed projects in the next two years. The BWSR Board will approve the request for proposals in October and the application period will end on December 13. Decisions will be made on the selected watersheds by March of 2014.

B. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Updates, Ryan Anderson

Mr. Anderson reported that Beth Lockwood has taken a leave of absence and Marni Karnowski will work in her position. The MS4 permits that were approved in May and June went into effect on August 1st. There is now an on-line application process. The stormwater manual is now in a “wiki” format to allow more frequent updates. The new manual includes sections addressing green roofs and pretreatment.

C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Updates, Terri Yearwood

Ms. Yearwood gave the DNR update and noted that groundwater protection efforts are starting up. There will be three pilot groundwater management areas. Those areas include the North and East Metro, Bonanza and Straight River GMAs. The DNR has also been involved in the Interagency Watershed Restoration Initiative.

D. Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) Updates, Ray Bohn

Ray Bohn gave the MAWD update. He gave an overview of the 2013 Annual Meeting. Mr. Bohn also spoke of 103D revisions that have been developed by Smith Partners. Discussion occurred.

The Environmental Initiative is developing a Strategic 25-Year Roadmap for Clean Water in Minnesota. Mr. Bohn handed out a fact sheet that described the purpose and goal of the Roadmap. November 2013 will mark five years since voters approved Minnesota’s Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. The Clean Water Fund was established through the Legacy Amendment to supplement traditional sources of funding for clean water over the course of its 25-year life. Starting in 2010, 33 percent of the sales tax revenue associated with the Legacy amendment is allocated to the Clean Water Fund (totaling approximately \$100 million in FY 2013). Funds may only be spent to protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation.

Environmental Initiative is convening leaders from the seven state agencies responsible for water management activities under the Clean Water Fund to identify: what water resources outcomes we expect to achieve after 25 years of investments from the Clean Water Fund, the pace of progress required to meet those goals, and what the implications may be for future funding priorities.

This Clean Water Roadmap will articulate the long-term outcomes, expectations of progress and measures of success toward our shared vision of clean, sustainably managed water resources in Minnesota. Clean Water Council members and other key stakeholders will have opportunities to provide meaningful feedback and input throughout the Roadmap development process.

To accompany the roadmap, Environmental Initiative will also work with the state agencies to develop a plan to communicate progress made toward cleaner and more sustainable water to date, as well as the envisioned path to achieving clean, sustainably managed water resources going forward—capitalizing on the five-year anniversary of the Legacy Amendment’s passage as a major opportunity to reach key audiences. Discussion occurred.

E. Administrator’s Update

No Administrator's Report was given.

F. Met Council

There was no Met Council Update.

III. Special Reports –

A. **Legislative Session** – It was reported that the legislative session will run from February 25 through May 20. It was noted that it may be a short session. There was a question if there would be a bonding bill in 2014 and Ray Bohn thought that there would be one. Ray Bohn announced that the legislative breakfast will be March 19th and 20th.

IV. Action Items

A. Approval of the Minutes from July 16, 2013.

Motion by Brain Johnson, second by Barb Haake, to approve the July 16, 2013 Metro MAWD minutes as amended. Motion carried.

B. Allowing Managers to participate in meetings remotely.

Barb Haake introduced the idea of seeking legislation to allow Board Managers to participate in Board meeting remotely via Skype or other electronic technologies. Ms. Haake pointed out the current law is unclear and was asking Metro MAWD to support a resolution to seek this legislative action. Denny Hanna suggested that MAWD request an Attorney General opinion. Much discussion occurred.

Motion by Brian Johnson, second by Barb Haake, to support a resolution seeking MAWD support of legislation allowing remote participation in Board Meetings. Motion carried.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Education

B. Permitting & Regulations

C. Governance

No discussion

VI. General Information

C. Roundtable Discussion – Current Issues, Trends and Topics, All

No discussion

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Metro MAWD will be Tuesday, January 21, 2014, 7:00 – 9:00 PM, CRWD Offices

VIII. Adjournment

Motion by Joe Collins second by Barbara Haake. to adjourn at 9:10 PM. Motion carried.

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