

Metro MAWD Meeting Minutes

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

7:00 PM, Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Capitol Region Watershed District

Attending:

Board Members

Paul Ellefson, RWMWD
Bill Olson, Minnehaha Creek
Mike Thienes, Capitol Region
Joe Collins, Capitol Region
Mary Texer, Capitol Region
Pat Priener, RCWD
Jill Crafton, Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek
Sherry Davis-White, MCWD
Len Kremer, Lower MN
Barbara Haake, RCWD
Denni Hanna, SWWD

Staff and Guests

Ryan Anderson, MPCA
Marni Karnowski, MPCA
Terri Yearwood, DNR/Central Region
Jim Haertel, BWSR
John Jaschke, BWSR
Cliff Aichinger, RWMWD
Ray Bohn, MAWD
Mark Doneux, CRWD
Bill Alms, WSB & Associates
Mike Kinney, PLSLWD

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 as presented by consensus

III. Special Reports –

II. Agency and Association Updates

A. BWSR Update, Jim Haertel

Jim Haertel gave the BWSR Update. Doug Thomas was rehired for the One Watershed One Plan project. Jim gave an update on the 8410 Rule revisions. Jim gave a short legislative update noting a possible reduction in BWSR budget.

B. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Updates, Marni Karnowski

Marni Karnowski gave the MPCA Update. She noted some of the MPCA reorganization in the stormwater unit. Ms. Karnowski noted that the MS4 will be on the May 21st MPCA Board meeting agenda for approval and that there were several contested case hearings on the permit. The Stormwater Manual is on a new on-line WIKI format and the MIDS program will be finishing up in June.

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

Terri Yearwood gave the DNR Update. In her staffing update Ms. Yearwood noted that Dale Homuth will be retiring from the DNR on May 3rd. The AIS position has been filled. She also noted that the online permitting will begin in May.

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

Ray Bohn gave the MAWD update. Mr. Bohn noted the Omnibus House Clean Water Bill is a major concern because of a move from surface to groundwater and significant reductions in non-point source pollution funding. BWSR Executive Director, John Jaschke discussed some of the issues at the legislature. He said the key is educating the legislature through communications and dialogue. Cliff Aichinger discussed the idea of a regional approach to education and communication. Mike Kinney discussed that we need to do strategic planning. Mike Thienes pointed out the effectiveness of the various ag producers that use email blasts and similar messaging. He noted how effective it was. Bill Olson asked what we are losing. Ray Bohn replied, momentum due to all of the work by the agencies to develop and support the One Watershed – One Plan concept. Mr. Bohn also noted how local units of government have been ramping up implementation based recent funding patterns. Cliff Aichinger suggested that in response to this possible major shift in funding that MAWD return in July with a proposal or a plan. Ray Bohn discussed tax bills and there effect.

Ray Bohn discussed the upcoming summer tour which will be Thursday – Friday, June 20 – 21 in the Minnesota River Basin. The tour will be based out of New Ulm. The ADA meeting will be Wednesday and Thursday. Instead of the annual summer tour being based on a particular Watershed District and its projects, the focus will be on common watershed management issues.

C. Administrator’s Update

No update was given.

IV. Action Items

A. Approval of the Minutes from January 15, 2013.

Motion by Mary Texer, second by Joe Collins, to approve the January 15, 2013 Metro MAWD minutes as amended. Motion carried.

B. Appoint Metro Watershed District Representatives to Metro GIS Coordinating Committee and Policy Committee

Motion by Denni Hanna, second by Joe Collins, to appoint Mary Texer of the Capitol Region Watershed District as the Metro Watershed District Representative to the Metro GIS Policy Committee. Motion carried.

Motion by Mary Texer, second by Joe Collins to appoint Eric Dahl of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District to the Metro GIS Coordinating Committee. Motion carried.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Education

No updates were given

B. Governance

1. PLSLWD & Scott County SCALE Study Update

No update was given.

2. Hennepin County Water Governance Update

No update was given.

VI. General Information

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

Hennepin County Soil and Water Conservation District. There was discussion of legislation regarding the abolishment of the Hennepin conservation District.

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Metro MAWD will be Tuesday, July 16, 2013.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion by Mike Thienes second by Barbara Haake. to adjourn at 8:40 PM. Motion carried.