

Metro MAWD Meeting Minutes

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

7:00 PM, Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Capitol Region Watershed District

Attending:

Board Members

Joe Collins, Capitol Region
Mary Texer, Capitol Region
Pat Priener, Rice Creek
Jill Crafton, Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek
Sherry Davis-White, Minnehaha Creek
Len Kremer, Lower Minnesota River
Barbara Haake, Rice Creek
Dennis Hanna, South Washington
Jodi Peterson, Nine Mile Creek
Pam Blixt, Minnehaha Creek

Staff and Guests

Jim Haertel, BWSR
Cliff Aichinger, RWMWD
Ray Bohn, MAWD
Mark Doneux, CRWD
Mike Kinney, PLSLWD
Leslie Yetka, MCWD
Steve Klein, Barr Engineering Company
Phil Belfiori, RCWD
Suzanne Jiwani, MN DNR
Judy Sventek, MCES
Glenn Skuta, MPCA
Michael Welch, Smith Partners
Jim Shaver, CMSC WD
Beth Lockwood, MPCA
Eric Evenson, MCWD
Jessica Bromelkamp, RCWD

I. Call to Order

- a. Acting Chair Collins called the meeting to Order at 7:04 PM. Attendance was taken and introductions were made.
- b. The Agenda was accepted with changes. Changes included adding a Met Council update under Agency and Association Updates and including a Blue Thumb overview and update Unfinished Business, Education. Also, Special Reports will be taken up before the Agency Reports on the agenda.
Motion by Jill Crafton, second by Barb Haake, to approve the Agenda as amended.

III. Special Reports –

A. Atlas 14 Update, Steven Klein, Barr Engineering Company

Steve Klein from Barr Engineering Company was present to update group on the new Atlas 14. Mr. Klein provided a TP-40 background, Atlas 14 development, Atlas 14 results, TP-40 and Atlas 14 comparisons, an Atlas 14 peer review, and Atlas 14 implications.

Mr. Klein stated that Atlas 14 gives rainfall data for every county in every state and rainfall frequency or recurrence intervals of 1-year, 2-year, 5-year, 10-year, 25-year, 50-year, and 100-year events. The rainfall durations include 30-minute, 1-hour, 2-hour, 3-hour, 6-hour, 12-hour, 24-hour, 2-day, and 4-day events. Atlas 14 replaces Technical Paper 40 (TP-40) and was prepared by NOAA for U.S. Department of Commerce. Eleven Midwestern states pooled funds to update the old TP-40.

Minnesota's component of the study was funded by: Minnesota Department of Transportation, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources. Data suppliers included Minnesota Department of Transportation, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota State Climatology Office and many others. Minnesota data facts include 1,089 locations with data, 405 data sets used in the analysis, 320 daily observation stations vs. 110 in TP-40, 86 sub sub-daily observation stations versus 30 in TPTP-40.

TP-40/Atlas 14 comparisons for Minnesota include some significant increases. Specifically the percent change in 24 hour/ 100 year depths:

- Minneapolis, MN - 6.0 to 7.9 inches (+32%)
- Ashland, WI - 5.3 to 7.3 inches (+38%)
- Fargo, ND - 5.3 to 6.3 inches (+19%)
- Rapid City, SD - 4.6 to 5.7 inches (+24%)

Atlas 14 variation in Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin included some surprises (large changes over short distances). The difference in 24 hour/ 100 year depths (inches):

- Minneapolis, MN to St. Cloud, MN: 7.9 to 6.1 (1.8" dif)
- Worthington, MN to Sioux Falls, SD: 7.8 to 5.9 (1.9" dif)
- McLeod, ND to Big Stone City, SD: 6.4 to 5.7 (0.7" dif)
- Duluth Airport, MN to Superior, WI: 6.7 to 6.1 (0.6" dif) 3/11/2013

Mr. Klein indicated that NOAA is still planning to publish Atlas in March of 2014. The document has implications for water planners, designers, and regulators. Some questions raised and discussed by the group include who (city, watershed org, state?) will decide which rainfall amounts will be used. Ordinances, policies, and standards will need to be updated and the legal implications of using or not using Atlas 14 results.

Some other implications for water planners, designers, and regulators include newly placed systems that may now appear to be undersized. SCS Type II distributions will change since they are based on storm events. Flood protection, FEMA DFIRM mapping and levee certifications will also have to be reevaluated.

Future design considerations will also have to consider future storm sewer infrastructure sizing, future development possibly held to higher standards, integrating current and future infrastructure capacities for detention ponds and water quality treatment features. The end result of this update may mean possibly switching to risk management approach. This would mean providing a base level of service on rainfall depth rather than event probability. It will also mean taking

advantage of opportunities to mitigate impacts by: providing safe overflow routes, increasing storage and infiltration, provide larger easements and/or increase conveyance.

Suzanne Jiwani, from the Minnesota DNR gave some of her perspectives on Atlas 14 related to FEMA Floodplain maps, possible grant money for Atlas 14 Implementation and recalibration of the Model. Phil Belfiori asked how this would be implemented on a local level with previous flood levels. The group discussed possible scenarios with existing and future conditions for flood levels and flood protection. The group thanked Mr. Klein for his presentation.

B. MCWD's Climate Adaptation Study Update, Leslie Yetka, MCWD

Leslie Yetka, Education Director for the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District gave a presentation on their Stormwater Adaptation Study. Climate research, current weather patterns and projected trends show a significant increase in both the frequency and severity of rain events across Minnesota. Existing stormwater management systems designed to control runoff and protect property when it rains may no longer function as intended. The infrastructure in these systems may prove inadequate, resulting in increased flooding, damage to property, public safety concerns, and impacts to the quality of our lakes, streams and wetlands. Objectives of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed Stormwater Adaptation Study will address some of these challenges for both growing and fully-developed communities. The study will: identify ways to adapt our systems – including costs – to changing precipitation patterns, facilitate a community-led planning process to provide a framework for developing local stormwater adaptation plans

IV. Action Items

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

Motion by Pam Blixt, second by Joe Collins, to approve the April 16, 2013 Metro MAWD minutes as amended. Motion carried.

II. Agency and Association Updates

A. BWSR Update, Jim Haertel

Jim Haertel gave the BWSR Update. BWSR has Watershed District vacancy on the BWSR Board. The Clean Water Fund will be out in early September and due in October. Work continues on the One Water One Plan effort. Doug Thomas is working on that project.

B. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Updates, Glenn Skuta

The Mississippi River, Twin Cities Watershed monitoring and Assessment report will be coming out soon reported Glenn Skuta from the MPCA. The report will be out in early to mid August. The report has some mixed results, some good news some not so good news. The report does not address main water quality issues in the main stem of the Mississippi River but addresses lake & streams results. Glen noted media attention on previous reports and would expect some on this one. Pam Blixt asked if this kind of report has been done before. Mr. Skuta replied that there has been for the St. Cloud area of the Mississippi River.

Beth Lockwood gave some additional updates for the MPCA. Mark Schmidt is the MPCA's new Municipal Division Director. The NPDES MS4 Permit and Construction Stormwater Permits were approved. They were approved in May and June respectively and go into effect on August 1st.

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

No Update was given from the DNR.

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

Ray Bohn gave the MAWD update. He stated Pam Blixt was reappointed to Clean Water Council and noted that there was a remembrance for long time Ramsey Washington Metro Board Member Roger Lake on Saturday, July 13th.

He noted that the legislature did not take the Clean Water Council recommendations for Clean Water Fund allocations. Mr. Bohn also stated that MAWD was setting up a Groundwater Advisory Committee. The committee would include MAWD Board members and he will give an update at a future meeting.

The Summer Tour held in June of this year was in New Ulm and was issues based. The Annual Meeting and Trade Show will be December 5-7 at the Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria. An Awards Committee update was given. Preliminary nominations will be taken that will be shorter and easier to complete. The goal is to increase participation across the state. The Local Government Roundtable is continueing their work. Matt Moore and Diane Radenacher serve on that committee. The MPCA is conducting a Nitrate study and the Drainage Workgroup saw a reduction in their funding. The workgroup is determining how do integrate drainage systems into watershed management plans.

E. Administrator's Update, Kevin Bigalke

No Administrator's Report was given.

F. Met Council, Judy Sveutek

Judy Sventek from the Met Council gave an update on the Councils "Thrive MSP 2040". The plan will be completed in May 2014 and the Water Resources Policy Plan will be complete in July of 2014. Ms. Sventek gave an update on the draft Water Resources Policy Plan and noted several watershed district Administrators on the Water Resources work group.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Education

Jessica Bromelkamp, the Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Rice Creek Watershed District gave an overview of the Blue Thumb Program.

Blue Thumb - Planting for Clean Water™ is an award-winning collaborative program originally developed by Rice Creek Watershed District. Blue Thumb partners are a group of professionals from local governmental units (watershed and conservation districts, cities, counties); non-profit

and community organizations; and nursery and landscape professionals. The Blue Thumb program was featured as the first stop on the "[Blue Legacy Tour](#)" co-sponsored by National Geographic. The Blue Thumb program aims to encourage homeowners to use native plant gardening, raingardens, and shoreline stabilization to reduce runoff from their home landscape in an effort improve water quality. Since we all want clean water, Blue Thumb helps partners present a unified public education message.

Partners may use the attractive Blue Thumb logo on print pieces, purchase promotional materials co-developed by field professionals, and more effectively collaborate with agencies and organizations with shared education goals. A partnership like Blue Thumb minimizes duplication and increases the strength of our reach to watershed residents. Retailers benefit from the increased exposure that results from association with Blue Thumb, and will also receive technical support and opportunities for professional development through trainings and workshops.

One element of the Blue Thumb program is an easy-to-use website for homeowners seeking native plant gardening information. Another key component is a raingarden installation manual for homeowners co-developed by Minnesota landscape ecologists Dan Shaw and Rusty Schmidt.

Ms. Bromelkamp noted that while the program was initiated by the Rice Creek Watershed District, the program now has many sponsoring partners and encouraged other metro watershed districts to become a partner to support Blue Thumb programming in 2014. The group thanked Ms. Bromelkamp for her presentation.

B. Permitting & Regulations

Michael Welch of the firm Smith Partners raised the issue in the Koontz v. St. Johns River Water Management District. He stated this could have potential future implications on regulatory authority depending on its outcome.

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, October 15, 2013, 7:00 – 9:00 PM, CRWD Offices

VIII. Adjournment

Motion by Joe Collins second by Barbara Haake. to adjourn at 8:40 PM. Motion carried.