

Metro MAWD Meeting Minutes

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

7:00 PM, Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Capitol Region Watershed District

Attending:

Board Members

Mary Texer, Capitol Region
Joe Collins, Capitol Region
Shirley Reider, Capitol Region
Jackie Anderson, Comfort Lake Forrest Lake
Pat Preiner, Rice Creek
John Waller, Rice Creek
Bill Olson, MCWD
Marianne Breitbach, Prior Lake Spring Lake
Anthony Wilder, CCWD
Mike Bradley, RCWD
Cliff Aichinger, RWMWD
Dick Miller, MCWD
Jodi Peterson, NMCWD

Staff and Guests

Emily Javens
Phil Belfiori, RCWD
Mark Doneux, CRWD
Gwen Willems, CRWD /RCD
Carrie Raber, MDH
Daniel Henely, MCES
Doug Thomas, BWSR
Kevin Bigalke, BWSR
Becky Christopher, MCWD
Dan Lais, DNR
Gwen Willems, CRWD CAC
James Wisker, MCWD

I. Call to Order

- a. Mary Texer called the meeting to Order at 7:00 PM. Attendance was taken, and introductions were made.
- b. The Agenda was accepted with no changes.

II. Special Reports

A. Individual Watershed Updates

Mary Texer introduced the Watershed Updates segment by stating that time has been set on the agenda for individual watershed updates. The goal is to provide updates on your watershed district's 2017 successes and projects as well as major plans and initiatives for 2018.

Each member watershed district present reviewed their own 2017 Successes and Projects as well as 2018-Major Plans and Initiatives. A good discussion occurred and the group felt it was very beneficial to take the time to learn more about what other Districts are involved in doing.

B. MAWD Executive Director, Emily Javens

- a. Introduction and Bio/Background

Emily Javens, the new MAWD Executive Director was present and asked to give a little introduction, bio and background on herself.

Ms. Javens stated she holds Bachelor of Science degrees in Civil Engineering and Earth Science & Mathematics Education from Minnesota State University, Mankato. She said she has experience working in the private sector as a consulting engineer, in education as a construction site erosion control certification instructor, and has held various roles in local government. Ms. Javens has served as Board Chair of the Blue Earth Soil and Water Conservation District and on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Conservation Districts. In her new role, she will be able to pull from her experiences working as a licensed engineer for the City of Mankato, the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Prior Lake – Spring Lake Watershed District, and as the Administrator of the Yellow Medicine River Watershed District. Ms. Javens also served as a leader in the facilitation and development of one of the pilot One Watershed One Plans, a statewide effort that aligns local water planning on major watershed boundaries using statewide strategies to develop prioritized, targeted, and measurable implementation plans.

c. Approach and Goals

Ms Javens outlined her approach and goals for MAWD. Some of the goals included working on improving the Resolution Process, updating the Policy Handbook, enhance training opportunities, meet with individual Districts, look in to adding WMO members and enhancing communications.

c. 2018 Legislative Emphasis

Ms. Javens outlined the 2018 Legislative priorities.

d. Questions from Metro MAWD members

Ms. Javens took questions from the members. All the members welcomed Ms. Javens to MAWD and look forward to working with her in the future.

III. Agency and Association Updates

A. BWSR Updates, Kevin Bigalke

Kevin Bigalke gave the BWSR Update.

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is moving towards providing more systematic Clean Water Funding for local water management authorities on a watershed basis. The watershed-based funding model is intended to provide local governments throughout Minnesota with efficient, transparent and stable funding. To achieve this, BWSR envisions transitioning from project by project competitive grants to a coordinated watershed funding approach designed to increase water management outcomes, enhance accountability, and improve consistency and efficiency across the state. This approach will depend on comprehensive watershed management plans developed under the One Watershed, One Plan Program or the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act to provide assurance that actions are prioritized, targeted, and measurable. The efficiencies created by this change will benefit both organizations and landowners by streamlining processes, which will allow more projects to be implemented in a timely manner and ensure limited resources are spent

where they are needed most. Watershed-based funding may also provide greater opportunities for local governments to leverage federal and private funding. The concept of watershed-based funding grew out of the Local Government Water Round table 2016 Fund Policy Paper and is grounded in the Minnesota Water Management Framework, a systematic watershed approach to water management that is now well under way across Minnesota.

The Watershed-based funding pilot in the Seven-County Metropolitan Area is being implemented differently than the rest of the state, recognizing that comprehensive watershed management planning has been taking place in this area since 1982. Funding will be distributed at a county level but decided locally how to further distribute the funding within each county. County, Watershed Districts, SWCDs and Cities are eligible.

Much discussion occurred about the background, reasoning and challenges associated with this approach.

B. MPCA Updates, Marni Karnowski and Teresa McDill

Teresa McDill gave the MPCA Update.

C. DNR Updates, Dan Lais

Dan Lais gave the DNR Update. Mr. Lais stated the DNR is working on a Strategic Plan.

D. MN Department of Health, Carrie Raber

Carrie Raber was not able to attend but provided the group with a written update. Dereck Richter has accepted the position as the new surface water Source Water Protection (SWP) Planner. Dereck's first day is Wednesday, January 24th. Dereck has strong experience in surface water quality monitoring and coordinating field staff activities having worked the past 7 years for the MPCA Monitoring and Assessment Unit. Dereck's primary role as the new surface water planner for the SWP unit is helping MDH develop a new planning process and strategy to help surface water systems protect their source of drinking water.

GRAPS report is being developed for all 1W1P project areas, starting this year. Information is currently being aggregated for the Lower St. Croix watershed with the goal of completing the report toward the end of February.

E. MnDOT Updates

There was no MnDOT update.

F. Met Council Updates, Dan Henely

Dan spoke about the new monitoring group that is getting started and its monitoring website.

G. Administrator's Update

IV. Action Items

- A) Approve October 17, 2017 minutes.

Motion by Mary Texer, seconded by Pat Preiner to approve the October 17, 2017 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

- A. Metro MAWD, Tuesday, July 17, 2018, 7:00 – 9:00 PM, CRWD Offices

VIII. Adjournment

Motion by Marianne Breitbach, seconded by Joe Collins to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Doneux, Administrator
Capitol Region Watershed District