

Drainage Work Group Meeting Notes

December 12, 2013

12:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Minnesota Farm Bureau Building, Eagan, MN

Attendance

Tom Loveall, BWSR Brd.; Craig Austinson, Blue Earth Co.; Mark Ten Eyck, MCEA; Jill Bathke, MCEA; Mark Morriem, MNLICA; Larry Kuseske, MAWD; Michelle Ulrich, CCWD; Wayne Anderson, MPCA; Greg Eggers, MDNR; Larry Gunderson, MPCA; Dave Schad, MDNR; Les Everett, UMN WRC; Kyle Hartnett, MAT; Mark Dittrich, MDA; John Kolb, Rinke-Noonan; Alan Perish, MVA, MFU; Kurt Deter, Rinke-Noonan; Jerome Deal, MAWD; Ray Bohn, MAWD; John Jaschke, BWSR; Laura Nehl-Trueman, MnDOT; Annalee Garletz, AMC; Greg Knopff, Senate Analyst; Tim Gillette, BWSR; Al Kean, BWSR

Handouts prior to or during meeting:

1. DWG – Meeting Logistics and Agenda for 12-12-13
2. DWG – Meeting Notes for 9-12-13
3. Draft Section 103E.015 Discussion Paper and update language
4. IA-MN-SD Drainage Research Forum, November 14, 2013, Agenda
5. MAWD Drainage Workshop, December 5, 2013, Agenda
6. New Ditch Viewer Introductory Training, January 14-17, 2014, Ridgewater College, Willmar, MN, Program Flier
7. Executive Summary, Minnesota Draft Nutrient Reduction Strategy
8. A Guide to Reviewing Minnesota's Draft Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Introductions and agenda overview

All in attendance introduced themselves. Al Kean provided extra copies and an overview of the agenda.

Approval of 9-12-13 Meeting Notes

Extra copies of the meeting notes were distributed. Corrections or additions were requested. None were indicated.

Sharing about recent and upcoming forums involving drainage topics and related topics

- 14th Annual IA-MN-SD Drainage Research Forum, Nov. 14, 2013, Sioux Falls, SD
- MAWD Annual Drainage Workshop, Dec. 5, 2013, Alexandria, MN
- MASWCD Annual Meeting, Dec. 8-10, 2013, Bloomington, MN
- 31st Annual Red River Basin Land and Water Summit Conference, Jan. 14-16, 2014, Fargo, ND
- Lead Viewer training is being piloted by Ridgewater College, Willmar, MN, Jan. 14-17, 2014
- Proposed Water Storage Forum, Jan. 22, 2014, Mankato, MN
- DNR received \$500K appropriation in 2013 for in-lieu funding for Con-Con lands and is meeting with counties to discuss allocation strategy.

Draft Minnesota Nutrient Reduction Strategy

- As a follow up to the presentation in September by Dave Wall, MPCA, about the Nitrogen in Minnesota Surface Waters Report, Wayne Anderson, MPCA, provided an overview of the Draft MN Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

- The driving forces for the strategy are hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico, eutrophication in Lake Winnipeg, protection of Lake Superior, eutrophication in MN lakes and rivers, and water quality standards for nitrogen in MN surface waters directed by the MN Legislature and anticipated to be rolled out in 2015.
- There was much discussion about the sources of nitrogen and phosphorus in MN, trends and proposed reduction strategies.

Section 103E.015 Considerations before drainage work is done

- The DWG 103E.015 Subgroup provided draft recommendations for updating of Section 103E.015 to the full DWG, with goals to update and clarify environmental, land use and water management criteria in drainage law, and to help make connection to 103E.011, Subd. 5 Use of External Sources of Funding (for wetland restoration, water quality or flood control) and other alternative measures (i.e. promote integration of public and private funding for multipurpose water management). Connection with the objectives for 1 Watershed – 1 Plan (1W – 1P) were again mentioned. It was noted that DWG members have had varying exposure to 1W – 1P to date.
- Discussion was robust about recommended revisions and key words, indicating a need for refinement of draft revision language, more information about the existing pertinent provisions and operative words in drainage law and the Minnesota Public Drainage Manual, and further DWG discussion.
- Key concerns were in regard to how best to better enable multipurpose water management, time and costs for drainage project planning and implementation, and best use of existing structure and provisions of drainage law.

Drainage System Assessments to Road Authorities Subgroup Update

- MnDOT and BWSR staff met in Nov. to discuss 103D.729 Water Management District, and associated watershed district authority for drainage system assessments to benefited lands.
- MnDOT, Rice Creek Watershed District and BWSR staff met on Dec. 13, 2013 to discuss the runoff-based method and associated parameters used for recent water management districts in the RCWD.

The next DWG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 9, 2014, 12:30 – 3:30 p.m., location to be determined.