

Drainage Work Group Meeting Notes

June 8, 2017

12:30 - 3:30 p.m., Minnesota Farmer Union Building, St. Paul, MN

Attendance

Tom Loveall, BWSR Brd.; Craig Austinson, Blue Earth Co., MADI; Ron Ringquist, MVA; Mark Morreim, MNLICA; John Kolb, Rinke Noonan; Alan Perish, MFU, MVA; Rob Sip, MDA; Allen Wold, BDSWD; Goeff Kramer, RESPEC; Les Everett, UMN WRC; Ed Lenz, BWSR; Kale Van Bruggen, Rinke Noonan; Mark Dittrich, MDA; Ruth Simpson, MAT; Barb Huberty, LWC; Chris Otterness, HEI; Ben Stanley, Senate Counsel; Ray Bohn, MAWD; John Jaschke, BWSR; Amanda Bilek, MCGA; Amber Hanson, MFB; Mark Ten Eyck, MCEA; Greg Knopff, Senate Analyst; Kurt Deter, Rinke Noonan; Jerome Deal, MAWD; Darrel Ellefson, LQPYBWD; Dan Wilkens, RRWMB; Bill Thompson, MASWCD; Tim Gillette, BWSR; Al Kean, BWSR

Handouts prior to or during the meeting

- 1) DWG Meeting logistics and agenda for 6-8-17
- 2) DWG Meeting Notes for 1-12-17
- 3) HF-2687 5-18-17
- 4) SF-2419 5-21-17
- 5) Clean Water Council Policy Committee letter request to the DWG dated 11-18-17
- 6) DWG - Prioritized Discussion Topics List - Draft 1-13-17
- 7) Collaborative for Sediment Source Reduction in the Greater Blue Earth River Basin, Summary of Findings, March 2017
- 8) Ditch Buffer Strips and Alternative Practices – Public Drainage System Acquisition, dated 5-19-17
- 9) BWSR FY18 Drainage Work Group coordination funding and legislative directive
- 10) Estimated 2017 Special Session Chapter 1, 2018 Riparian Aid to Counties and Buffer Cost-Share

Introductions and agenda overview

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

Approval of 1-12-17 meeting notes

Extra copies of meeting notes were distributed. Corrections or additions were invited. None were identified.

Share information about recent and upcoming drainage related events

- Rinke Noonan, *Wetlands and Drainage Seminar*, Feb. 13, 2017, St. Cloud
- ISG et al., *Drainage Workshop*, March 27, Willmar, MN
- Minnesota Viewers Assn., *Training Seminar*, 4-6-17 and 7-20-17, Jackpot Junction, Morton, MN
- BWSR, *MPDM Outreach Workshops*, Apr. 27, May 22,23,25, 2017, Willmar, Moorhead, St. Cloud, and New Ulm, MN
- *Field Day for 4R Workshop*, including saturated buffer, July 25, 2017, David Legvold farm
- *4 R Nutrient Stewardship Summit*, The Fertilizer Institute, June 12-13, 2017, Radisson Blu, Minneapolis
- *Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule*, MDA, Public Input period and listening sessions, open until Aug. 11, 2017

Pertinent information and outcomes of the 2017 Legislative Session

- *HF-203/SF-412*: Al Kean indicated that HF-203 was introduced on 1-12-17 by Rep. Backer and SF-412 on 1-25-17 by Sen. Westrom. These bills are the same as HF-2365/SF-2380 about Sec. 103E.715, Subd. 4 that were evaluated by the DWG in 2016 and reported on to the Legislature on 1-13-17. Al, John Jaschke and Angie Becker-Kudelka met with Rep. Backer during session to review the DWG evaluation and report about these bills, which the DWG did not support.
- *HF-2687/SF-2419*: These bills were introduced on 5-18-17 and 5-21-17 by Rep. Fabian and Sen. Westrom regarding Chapter 103E drainage system repairs and public waters. The DWG supported a proposal to direct review of these bills to the Public Waters and Drainage Subgroup.

- *Drainage records modernization match grants:* BWSR received \$500K LCCMR/ENRTF funding as Phase 2 of the ENRTF project that under Phase 1 developed the Drainage Records GIS Database Template, updated Drainage Records Modernization Guidelines, a statewide database for public drainage system hydrographic data and web access for these tools. These match grants will be competitive to drainage authorities, require minimum 1:1 match and require use of Phase 1 tools. BWSR will develop an RFP.
- *BWSR drainage stakeholder coordination biennial appropriation and legislative directive:* The directive is for BWSR to coordinate the DWG to evaluate and make recommendations to accelerate drainage system acquisition and establishment of ditch buffer strips and alternative practices required by the Buffer Law, and report to ag and environment policy committees by Feb. 1, 2018. Reference is Handout 9). The most recent version of the BWSR document about this topic is Handout 8).
- *Buffer Law public waters conditional compliance waiver until 7-1-18, riparian aid for enforcement, buffer cost-share funding:* Information was provided by John Jaschke and discussed about these Buffer Law provisions passed in 2017.

Status of DWG High Priority Discussion Topics and priorities for 2017

The following list was reviewed and , with handout 6) and the information above as reference.

- a) Legislative directive report regarding acceleration of drainage system acquisition of buffer strips *
- b) Clean Water Council Policy Cmte. letter request to the DWG regarding storage and drainage *
- c) DNR Public Waters and Drainage guidance (includes HF-2687/SF-2419 review) *
- d) Runoff and Sediment-based Drainage Charge Option (RSDCO) *
- e) Section 103E.315 Assessing Drainage Benefits and Damages, clarification revisions *
- f) Draft DWG Communications Subgroup / Committee functions *
- g) Section 103E.351 Redetermining Benefits and Damages, revisions to clarify petitioning
- h) Drainage system assessments (or charges) to road authorities
- i) Transfer of drainage authority

Based on brief review and DWG discussion, the highest high priority topics for the year are indicated by an asterisk (*). Concurrent discussion of a few topics at a time is anticipated.

Findings of the Collaborative for Sediment Source Reduction in the Greater Blue Earth River Basin

Professor Karen Gran, UMD Geomorphologist, presented from Duluth via WebEx and phone about the subject study and findings. She discussed the underlying GBERB sediment budget, river flow vs. sediment relationship (hockey stick), and the value of distributed storage and other conservation practices to reduce peak flows, erosion (from fields, ravines, streambanks and bluffs), and sediment transport. A Management Options Simulation Model (MOSM) enables comparison of different scenarios of practices in regard to sediment reduction and cost-effectiveness. The presentation included significant technical information and a summary about the benefits of distributed storage and runoff reduction for peak flow, erosion and sediment reduction.

Drainage Management Team update

The DMT is working on a technical white paper about altered hydrology. At the March DMT meeting, Mark Deutchman, Houston Engineering, Inc., presented a methodology developed for the North Fork Crow River 1W1P to help evaluate altered hydrology and define a storage goal for mitigation.

Drainage system acquisition of ditch buffer strips and alternative practices

Al K. indicated that the most recent version of Handout 8) includes information about redetermination of benefits and damages, as well as repair sections of Chapter 103E that enable use of drainage system funds and external funds for water quality improvements. This document will be updated based on pertinent 2017 legislative provisions.

Next DWG meeting: Thursday, July 13, 2017, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. at the Association of Minnesota Counties building in St. Paul.