Drainage Work Group Meeting

**When:** Thursday, August 13, 2020 1 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Where:** [Join Skype Meeting](https://meet.lync.com/mn365/tom.gile/VQBLGPPJ)     

Trouble Joining? [Try Skype Web App](https://meet.lync.com/mn365/tom.gile/VQBLGPPJ?sl=1)

**Attendance:** Due to virtual meetings Keeping Track of attendance with instances of multiple attendees on a single account and man “guest” name takes we will not track attendance until we reconvene in person again.

**Introductions and agenda Overview:** Tom G. provided overview of agenda for the meeting.

**Share information about recent and upcoming drainage related events** – All

* MAWD working on annual convention dates/timelines anticipating Virtual Convention this year. – Emily J. – Drainage workshop and many foundational trainings.
* ISG Agricultural Drainage + Future of Water Quality Virtual Workshop August 13 & 20th.

**103E.227 Drain Tile and Easement/Right of Way discussion/Overview**

* **Tom Wenzel BWSR & Kale Van Bruggen (Rinke Noonan)**

Discussion of a current Easement Examples being discussed and how this has affected easements/impoundment related to tile re-routes. Is a statute change needed, what options exist. This conversation may set the stage for future work on this topic. Allen W.- The Drainage Authority may benefit from a third party agreement in the easement.

**BWSR Draft System Maintenance on Conservation Easements**

* **Sharon Doucette and Tom Wenzel (BWSR)**

BWSR is developing a guidance document intended to clarify Agency roles and responsibilities related to existing drainage infrastructure when a conservation easement is acquired by the agency. An overview of the document will be provided for discussion and overview. BWSR will also solicit feedback and input from DWG membership on the current version of the document to consider as we refine and finalize it. BWSR responsibilities for repair or maintenance to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Future improvements projects will be supported as long as Conservation practice in easement is protected. Landowner conversations are vital to easement success.

Tom G. - Review and comment deadline end of day Sept. 11, send to Tom G.

**DMT update** – **Rita Weaver** – 3-year work plan and altered Hydrology white-paper being reviewed.

**103E Financing follow up and group thoughts from last DWG meeting.**  Tom G. – lead discussion of the potential issue with loss of rural population and bonding towards drainage projects. Continue to consider state funding for future projects. Discussion towards other methods to fund projects.

**Drainage Manual Online Status Update** – Tom G. – site is still not working. Might need to consider a new host for site.

MN Public Drainage Manual documents are on the BWSR website.

**Next DWG meeting, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Thursday, September 10, 2020 SKYPE**