Drainage Work Group Meeting

**When:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 1 p.m. - 3:00 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.

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Overview and any updates of agenda for the meeting – Tom G.**

* Create a survey to come up with topics for next year – **Tom G**.
* Plan on starting next years meeting in a virtual format. – **Tom G.**
* Send to everyone the “Watershed Hydrology: Considerations in Watershed Planning” paper.

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

**Multipurpose Drainage Management Discussion**

* Drainage code allows the use of external funding
* Discussion of if an outlet is not adequate as a reason for dismissal and a cost benefit analysis to determine if project benefits are less than then the total cost. Using Clean Water funds as a supplemental to make these proposals acceptable.
* If a proposed drainage project does not meet the cost benefits or does not have an adequate outlet the project is dismissed. Clean water fund dollars can clearly be used for water quality projects within the provisions of the drainage law and CWF. Can CWF dollars provide for an adequate outlet or to buy down the cost benefits in order to make the project adequate.
* Minn. Const. Art. XI, Sec. 15 " The dedicated money under this section must supplement traditional sources of funding for these purposes and may not be used as a substitute." - **Elise L.**
* Compliance, 114D.50 Subd. 3(5): (5) providing funds to state agencies to carry out their responsibilities, including enhanced compliance and enforcement "CWF supports "enhanced" compliance and enforcement in MS4 and SSTS. **– Paul G.**
* Installed project where CWF were used as supplemental - **Craig A.**
* ROB vs Ditch retrofit examples - **Chad E.**
* Discussion of the Cost Benefit analysis with on-land storage. **– Doug K.**
* When the cost of a project is determined greater than the benefits essentially means ag producers won't recoup the costs of the drainage improvement**. - Tim G.**
* Current policy is that if storage is needed to make a drainage project viable for outlet adequacy or to reduce damages to ensure a benefit cost >1 then CW funds cannot pay for it. **– Henry VO.**
* CWF are available to make Water quality projects better than they would be. - **Paul G., Elise L.**
* CWF are not eligible if they are needed to meet the Cost Benefit analysis. – **Tom G.**
* Flood storage on main channels comes with a lot of channel issues.  Upland storage is the challenge that brings a lot of benefits. – **Tim G.**
* all applications for MDM program have a cost and estimates for water quality benefit (sediment, nutrients). These could be tabulated **– Henry VO.**
* Additional information needs to be brought forward about the Flood Hazard Mitigation (FHM) Program. The most recent list from DNR showing statewide need for community, impoundments, and WD projects is $418,520,900.00 in known need. Only $17 million was allocated statewide for these types of projects in 2020. The FHM program does not have unlimited funding and it pass-through from DNR to LGUs. – **Rob S.**
* MAWD's position is to encourage everyone to keep Clean Water Funds as "pristine" as possible to tell the best story we can for how we spent the money. We don't want reasons for people not to support renewal of the amendment. We need to show the money was spent on great projects and did not use it as a slush fund. **– Emily J.**

 **Altered Hydrology Overview Document. - Rita Weaver/Henry VanOfflen (BWSR)**

* The Drainage Management Team is working on releasing final version possibly winter 2021. The audience is for Watershed planners to think and include hydrology in the goals.
* Henry VO. reviewed the Table of Contents of the Document.
* I think the paper has the potential to fill quite a large void or at least prompt the right questions for water planners when they contemplate all aspects of altered hydrology and subsequent storage needs to address the larger flows. – **Tim G.**
* I think we need to be very careful about setting goals, without tying them to outcome. We also shouldn’t make them complicated, even though it’s a complicated topic. – **Mark D.**

**BWSR Conservation Easement Drainage maintenance document update - Tom Gile (BWSR) / Sharron Doucette (BWSR).**

* Designed to address maintenance of drainage infrastructure within easements.
* Heard back from Attorney General’s office and now are going to finalize responses from comments.
* Will finalize document and put onto the BWSR website.

**Next DWG meeting, June/July 2021 Stay tuned for format information??**

 **If warranted, we may hold a virtual meeting prior to the 2021 series of DWG meetings**

**Adjourn – 2:35p**