Drainage Work Group Meeting

**When:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Where:** Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NDI5ZWRlNzQtYTZhOS00YWJiLTgwYjgtOWRlNWI2MDk5OTg2%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22eb14b046-24c4-4519-8f26-b89c2159828c%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%228c076cd9-0542-48ca-8780-b4e416e3b2f9%22%7d)

**Introductions and agenda Overview:** Tom G. Provided overview of agenda.

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

* Joint meeting of the MVA and the MN Ditch Inspectors on November 4th from 10:00 to 1:00 at Jackpot Junction near Morton MN.
* Minnesota Water Resources Conference: October 19–20, 2021 Virtual Format: Using Zoom for presentations, Slack for networking. Registration Fees: $95 until 9/23 at 11:59 p.m.; $120 starting 9/24.
* MAWD Pre-Drainage Workshop Dec 1 & Annual Convention Dec 2-3.

**Other Group updates/information**–

* Court of Appeals case – Lino Creek public waters determination.
* Case in Big Stone County – Drainage proceedings case

**Township road crossings and discussion (Gary Burdorf Assn of MN Townships) Robert Rupie; Steve Fenske**

* Discussion of the local road authority’s responsibilities under Minn. Stat. § 103E.525, subd. 2, towards drainage improvement projects in light of in the *Matter of Red Lake Watershed Project #19*, 1997 WL 881169. (See Attachment.)
* Debate on improvement vs repair.
  + Brought to as-build – **Doug K.**
  + Discussed improvement vs repair based on culvert placement- **Myron J.**
  + Educate Counties and TWPs on the determination of repair vs improvement -**Steve F.**
  + Dispute of County and TWP on who bares cost of project. – **Robert R**.
  + Important to know the full history of issue before decision can be make- **Kale V.**

**BWSR Soil Health and Storage Program Outreach and Discussion. (Tom Gile/Rita Weaver)**

* Brief Introduction/Overview of new initiatives. – **Dave W.**
* Soil Health – improved soil health can store water. – **Tom G.**
  + Legislation – CWF soil health appropriation and General Fund Soil Health Appropriation
  + General Programmatic Sideboards
  + Questions/Discussion for DWG membership
    - Tile use for soil health – **Allen W.**
    - Cover crops, no-till, strip-till, perennial crops; Cattle on the landscape.
    - Difficulty with equipment requirements, timing restrictions,
* Water Storage – **Rita W.**
  + Legislation – control water volume and rates.
  + General Programmatic Sideboards - Water quality and Storage practices.
  + Questions/Discussion for DWG membership
    - Available science to determine placement - **Carrie J.**
    - Development vs project – **Mark D.**
    - Projects with longest benefit with least cost for maintenance**- Randall D.**
    - Projects that store and decrease sediment, nutrients.
    - Funds to be used to go above drainage project storage. Not to buy down cost. – **Carrie J.**
    - Funds not intended for 103e projects. **-Elise L.**
    - Funds for main stem and tributaries **– Carrie J.**
    - Are funds available for wetland restoration along drainage? **– Ryan H.**
    - “…practices consistent with a plan approved according to chapter 103B, 103C, or 103D”. 103e doesn’t require plan – **Dave W.**
* Public Survey – currently live thru Nov.12 https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CQM5VL9

**What Do we mean by Early Coordination (Randall Doneen/Tim Gieseke)**

* The Early Coordination effort is for interested stakeholders – public and private – to get on the same page as to when ‘things’ happen.
* We will review the early coordination options in 103E relative to the required steps in drainage review process from pre-petition to project completion.
  + DNR has renewed scope of engaging with stakeholders. – **Randall D.**
  + Need for improve public knowledge and engagement. – **Elise L.**

**Next DWG meeting, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., Thursday, Nov 18, 2021, Virtual**

**Adjourn – 3:57p**