

Drainage Work Group (DWG) Meeting Notes

June 11, 2026

11:00AM – 2:00PM

MN DOT District 3 – St. Cloud Office and Training Center

3725 12th Street North, St. Cloud, MN 56303

w/ Virtual Online Attendance Option

Attendees: *Tom Gile, Chad Hildebrand, Ron Staples, Cory Copo, Rita Weaver – BWSR, Bill Petersen, Greg Holnvik, Rob Sip – RRWMB, Tony Berg – Brown County, Danielle Isaacson – MFV, Andrew Hillman – MCEA, Kale Van Bruggen – Rinke Noonan, Allan Wold – BdSWD, Chad Engels, Jacob Rischmiller – Moore Engineering, Randy Nepsash, John Paulson – MCSC, Randy Kramer – H2O Viewers, Katie Pratt – OCDR, Myron Jesme, Jan Voit – MN Watersheds, LeAnn Buck – MASWCD, Additional attendees virtually online for attendance.*

Agenda

Tom Gile (BWSR) provided an overview of the agenda items and other updates.

Sharing Information about recent and upcoming drainage related events

ISG Drainage Tour (May 20-21) – 90 people attended from 5 different states. Focus on wetlands/stream restorations, projects funded by storage grants.

MN Drainage Inspectors Association Fall Meeting

MN Drainage Program – End of March in Le Sueur County, August 13th at Farm America, Brown County and 4th even TBD.

Mega Tour August 25-27, 2026 – view MN Watershed Website for information.

Nelson Slough Project “Ground Breaking”

Other Group Updates / Information

N/A

2026 DWG Schedule and Meetings

Reviewed the proposed DWG Schedule and Meeting dates and times. No further discussion.

Multipurpose Drainage Management practice sub-group

Overview of the Multipurpose Drainage Management (MDM) grant administered by BWSR with continued discussion expanding from the previous year to include new practices within the MDM program. Focus is to take water quality focus items while acknowledging the benefit of multipurpose towards drainage.

Discussion and support regarding convening a sub-group of stakeholders who have worked with the MDM program to help discuss, share examples and create a list of new practices. Identified ISG, Houston Engineering, Moore Engineering, Tracy H. and Brian Martinson. Tom Gile (BWSR) will lead and initiate the sub-group.

Discussion with support that the MDM program could use additional funding to expand the grant program. Due to LGUs requesting less amount of funding to ensure they have a good chance of being awarded funds.

Session Outcomes

103E Drainage System Abandonment – St. Louis County: presentation by St. Louis County Public Works staff regarding their experience going through the 103E abandonment process and the issues or hurdles they faced. A sub-group of individuals will be convened, and Tom Gile (BWSR) will get it initiated.

Special meeting on the Plumbing Board on June 27th – consider rulemaking to change and adopt Chapter 15 to no longer allow stormwater to be reused. Tom Gile (BWSR) will investigate it more.

DWG Assessment

DWG began in 2026 (review the attached memo) and there will be a complete assessment regarding the status of the DWG and whether changes / improvements are needed or proposed. The assessment will be presented to the BWSR Board.

Katie Pratt gave a brief overview and process to expect during the assessment. Next steps will be to identify individuals to interview and compile the information.

Questions/Comments during the presentation by stakeholders:

1. The people within the DWG room encompasses and represents more than just an individual but instead of a larger group or areas of individuals.
2. To whom will be included in this process. Groups showing interest vs. groups already an active participant.
3. Is there some mechanism to allow stakeholders who may have participated in the past but not recently, to notify them that they want to be participant.

Planning for this year

DWG Tasks:

1. Notice continued work to review “notification” within 103E.
2. Outlet Adequacy – MEDIUM IMPORTANCE
3. Drainage Manual Section Review (Wetlands/404 will need work at a minimum) – LOW IMPORTANCE
4. 103E Drainage Abandonment – HIGH IMPORTANCE
5. Remove the 40-acre tract requirement from the Ditch Reviewer’s report – LOW IMPORTANCE
6. Road Crossings / Tile Crossings (Clarification / Consensus) – HIGH IMPORTANCE

Information

WCA & PWI Update

Develop Guidance – When do you need landowners to sign a contract vs. When it is a drainage system, etc. (Contract Signatory Guidance)

Next DWG Meeting

Date: Thursday, July 9, 2026

Time: 11:00AM – 2:00PM

Location: MN DOT District 3 - St Cloud Office and Training Center (In-Person) or Microsoft Teams (Virtual)

Adjourn

Actual Time of Adjournment = 1:52 PM