

## **Drainage Work Group Meeting Notes**

**October 9, 2014**

12:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust Building, St. Paul, MN

### **Attendance**

Mark Zabel, MASWCD; Andrea Hendrickson, MnDOT; Ron Ringquist, MVA; Kurt Deter, Rinke-Noonan; Jerome Deal, MAWD; Dan Wilkens, RRWMB; Dan Larson, MRCC; Larry Kuseske, MAWD; John Jaschke, BWSR; Thom Peterson, MFU; Janelle Taylor, MN House; Craig Austinson, Blue Earth Co.; Tom Loveall, BWSR Brd.; John Thompson, Faribault Co., MACATFO; Greg Knopff, Senate Staff; Doug Busselman, MFB; Darrell Gerber, FWS; Kyle Hartnett, MAT; Dave Weirens, BWSR; Charles Fritz, IWI; Tim Gillette, BWSR; Al Kean, BWSR

### **Handouts prior to or during meeting**

1. DWG – Meeting Logistics and Agenda for 10-9-14
2. DWG – Meeting Notes for 9-11-14
3. DWG – Prioritized Discussion Topics List, 9-11-14
4. Minnesota Public Drainage Manual List of Chapters and Sections, 9-16-14
5. WCA – Development of Detailed Recommendations for Legislative Consideration in 2015, 8-4-14
6. WCA – Stakeholder Input for Program Changes, October 2014
7. Update of the MPDM, Overview of Stakeholder Input Opportunities, 10-8-14

### **Introductions and agenda overview**

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

### **Approval of 9-11-14 meeting notes**

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

### **Share information about recent and upcoming events involving drainage topics**

- IA-MN-SD Drainage Research Forum, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2014, Iowa State University Alumni Center, Ames, IA. Al K. mentioned that this is the 15<sup>th</sup> annual forum. Dr. Wayne Skaggs, North Carolina State University, who has been an innovator in drainage research, modeling and the environment for decades. Full agenda not yet available.
- MAWD Annual Meeting, Minnesota Drainage Session, Arrowwood Conference Center, Alexandria, MN, Thursday, Dec. 4, 2014. Robust agenda. Agenda available on MAWD website.
- It was noted that the comment period for the EPA proposed rules regarding Waters of the U.S. has been extended again until November 14, 2014.

### **Update regarding status of WCA stakeholder input process for program changes**

Dave Weirens, BWSR Acting Assistant Director, provided an overview of issues and priorities identified through stakeholder sector meetings (Agriculture, Business and Industry, Environment/Conservation, Local Government), which included 31 stakeholder organizations. Driving forces for this effort include the BWSR report, *Supporting and Strengthening the State's Wetland Policy*, Dec. 2012, which was prepared in response to Executive Order 12-04, and the *Siting of Wetland Mitigation in NE MN* team report, March 2014 (both on BWSR website, Wetlands, Plans and Reports). Ag drainage is on the list of issues, but not identified as high priority by most WCA stakeholders. There was some discussion about

regulatory overlap between WCA, Section 404 and Swampbuster, including the unlikelihood of the potential for state assumption of Section 404. It was mentioned that the Ag Wetland Bank is working pretty well, BWSR and USACE plan to share a position to help coordinate Section 404 and WCA, and that SWCDs and BWSR have been working with NRCS to help implement Swampbuster.

#### **DWG Prioritized Discussion Topics List**

Al K. and DWG members identified recent increases in priority for DWG discussion of the topics: Redetermination of benefits and; Transfer of drainage authority from a county to a watershed district (103D.625). It was agreed to make these priority discussion topics at the November meeting. Ray B., Jerome D., Dan W., Larry K., Tom L. and John T. were identified as key DWG members to help define issues for the redetermination of benefits discussion topic. Al will solicit input from DWG members representing MAWD and AMC, Kurt D. and Greg K. for the transfer of drainage authority discussion topic.

#### **Update regarding DWG Subgroup for Public Waters and Drainage**

Al K. indicated that the subgroup had to cancel its first meeting due to member schedule conflicts with a WCA stakeholder meeting. Via email communication, the subgroup has identified several key issues for discussion, including DNR roles and responsibilities for review of public and private ditch projects involving public waters; repair vs. improvement; and information requirements and agency review time for permits or approvals of drainage involving public waters. The subgroup plans to meet in late October and early November. Some concern expressed about inconsistency of DNR area hydrologists.

#### **Red River Basin Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (BTSAC) Briefing Paper #3: Water Management Options for Surface Drainage**

Charles Fritz, International Water Institute, provided a presentation about the subject study and report. The study included a literature review of effects of surface drainage on flood peaks and flooding and a summary of those findings. Recommendations include a goal of “adequate and equitable” drainage. Based on that goal, uniform surface drainage design guidance is provided for a 10-yr. summer storm (rainfall), with distributed short-term detention to provide adequate drainage and more equitable distribution of drainage benefits and flooding risks. It was mentioned that road authorities have separate criteria for culvert sizing, and that drainage engineers have used culvert sizing for flow control in the past. A question was asked if runoff-based assessment could be part of implementation of drainage design and redetermination of benefits.

#### **Update of the Minnesota Public Drainage Manual (MPDM)**

DWG response to Al K.’s request for interest in participation on the project advisory committee and the subcommittees for Chapters 2, 3, 4 and 5 identified a need for more information. Therefore, BWSR and the project Contractor developed an Overview of Stakeholder Input Opportunities, 10-8-14 (handed out), which includes information about about Focus Group meetings and the Project Advisory Committee (PAC). The PAC will include chapter subcommittees for Chapters 2, 3, 4 and 5, based on stakeholder expertise and interest. The overview includes Focus Group purposes and general locations, as well as PAC roles, number of meetings, and timeframe.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next DWG meeting will be on Thursday, November 13, 2014 at the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) building in St. Paul.