

## **Drainage Work Group Meeting Notes**

**June 9, 2011**

12:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Minnesota Farm Bureau Building, Eagan, MN

### **Attendance**

Ray Bohn, MAWD; Dan Wilkens, RRWMB; Jerome Deal, MAWD; Henry VanOffelen, MCEA; Les Everett, UMN WRC; Rob Sip, MDA; Adam Birr, MDA; Alan Perish, MFU, MVA; Allan Kuseske, MADI; Larry Gunderson, MPCA; Larry Kuseske, MAWD; Ron Harnack, RRWMB; Greg Knopff, Senate Analyst; Greg Eggers, DNR; LeAnn Buck, MASWCD; Loren Engelby, Kandiyohi Co.; Harlan Madsen, Kandiyohi Co.; Jerry Amiot, Polk Co., MACO; Ron Ringquist, MVA; Craig Austinson, Blue Earth Co.; Tom Loveall, Faribault Co., BWSR Brd.; Mark Dittrich, MDA; Chuck Holtman, Smith Partners; Louis Smith, Smith Partners; Rep. Paul Torkelson, District 21B; John Jaschke, BWSR; Dave Weirens, BWSR; Al Kean, BWSR

### **Handouts Prior to or During Meeting:**

1. DWG – Meeting Logistics and Agenda for 6-9-11.doc
2. DWG – Meeting Notes for 1-6-11.doc
3. Multipurpose Drainage Synopsis, 4-17-11

### **Introductions and Agenda Overview**

All in attendance introduced themselves. Al Kean provided copies and an overview of the agenda, including the addition of an update regarding the planned FY 2012 Clean Water Fund (CWF) Conservation Drainage Program and related CWF RFPs.

### **Approval of 1-6-11 Meeting Notes**

Extra copies of the subject meeting notes were distributed. Comments or corrections were requested. None were offered.

### **Smith Partners LCCMR Project: “MN Drainage Law Analysis and Evaluation” – Presentation and discussion of draft report and recommendations – Louis Smith, Chuck Holtman and All**

Al Kean noted that the project advisory committee, which involves a number of DWG members, met several times since January 2011 to review and discuss project drafts and associated topics. The project report is to be complete by June 30, 2011. Louis Smith and Chuck Holtman provided an overview of the purpose of the project, the report and the draft recommendations. The report includes 3 drainage system scenarios through which to identify and evaluate key drainage law and related water law issues. Scenario A = Chapter 103E ditch repair in the Red River Basin; B = Chapter 103E drainage tile and ditch system improvement in the MN River Basin involving a TMDL; and C = Developing Metro watershed with an out-of-repair Chapter 103E drainage system involving wetlands. Draft recommendations include 3 involving drainage and drainage law, and 5 involving drainage and wetland law. Each primary recommendation includes recommended actions and some also include options to consider. Discussion and comments included, but were certainly not limited to: connecting recommendations to the

ongoing LGU Roundtable discussions and recommendations; concerns about costs and funding for watershed and drainage system based analyses for multipurpose drainage designs; including more about pertinent standards and policies in the recommendations; coordination of drainage, public waters and wetland conservation authorities; wetland mitigation costs for drainage system impacts.

Because these discussions ran much longer than anticipated, it was agreed by meeting attendees to table Adam Birr's agenda topic about MDA drainage research projects and Al Kean's topic about multipurpose drainage until a future meeting in order to complete the discussions about the Smith Partners project before the report is completed.

### **Draft FY 2012 BWSR Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants Request for Proposals – Dave Weirens, BWSR**

Dave provided a brief overview of the anticipated BWSR Clean Water Fund programs for FY 2012. All BWSR competitive grant programs are expected to have a 25% required local match from any non-state source. LGU applicants must have an approved and locally adopted water/watershed plan by Oct. 1, 2011. Applicants who have previously received a BWSR grant, must be in compliance with requirements for grantee website and eLINK reporting. The Conservation Drainage Program is anticipated to have substantially more funding than when first appropriated by the Legislature for this purpose in 2009 (for FY 2010 and FY 2011). The focus for conservation drainage grants is expected to remain on retrofits to existing drainage systems to improve water quality, in accordance with appropriation language. Applicants who administer public drainage ditches, must have submitted their current Annual Public Drainage Ditch Buffer Strip Report (for CY 2010) to BWSR to be eligible for a Conservation Drainage grant.

### **Agricultural Leadership Dialogue**

Al Kean mentioned that this project is being conducted by the Environmental Initiative (formerly Minnesota Environmental Initiative) with funding from MDA, BWSR, DNR, MPCA and other source(s). One meeting had been held to date, with a number of additional meetings planned for upcoming months. Limited project information is available on the EI website.

### **Next Meeting**

It was agreed that Al Kean would Doodle DWG members to identify the best Thursday for the next DWG meeting in late July or August.