

Drainage Work Group Meeting Notes
June 9, 2016
12:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Minnesota Farmers Union Building, St. Paul, MN

Attendance

Dan Wilkens, RRWMB; Jerome Deal, MAWD; Kurt Deter, Rinke-Noonan; Ron Harnack, RRWMB; Gregg Knopff, Senate Analyst; Todd Miller, MRCC; Wayne Anderson, MPCA; Les Everett, UMN; Thom Peterson, MFU; Alan Perish, MVA, MFU; Mark Ten Eyck, MCEA; Louise Segroves, MCEA; Rob Sip, MDA; Dave Schad, DNR; Jim Sehl, DNR; Tom Loveall, BWSR Brd.; Warren Formo, MAWRC; Mark Morreim, MNLICA; John Kolb, Rinke Noonan; Zach Herrmann, HEI; Chuck Fritz, IWI; Ray Bohn, MAWD; Joe Smentek, MSGA; Craig Austinson, Blue Earth Co.; Mark Zabel, MASWCD; Ron Ringquist, MVA; Barb Huberty, LWC; Michelle Ulrich, CCWD; Linda Vavra, BDSWD; Allen Wold, BDSWD; Beth Wold, Citizen; Jean Wood, Citizen; Sen. Greg Clausen, Dist. 57; Anna Boroff, MCGA; Jennifer Berquam, AMC; John Jaschke, BWSR; Bruce Miller, MFU; Gary Wertish, MFU; Laura Nehl-Trueeman, MnDOT; Tim Gillette, BWSR; Al Kean, BWSR

Handouts and links prior to or during the meeting

- 1) Meeting logistics and agenda for 6-9-16
- 2) Meeting notes for 3-3-16
- 3) Runoff-Based Drainage Assessments Project – Memo 2 5-23-16
- 4) DWG – Summary of 2016 Legislation Involving Drainage 6-3-16
- 5) DWG – Drainage Law, Buffer Law and Ditch Buffer Strips – Updated Draft 6-4-16
- 6) AgBMP Loan Program – Drainage Authority Participation – April 2016 MDA Fact Sheet
- 7) Nordick Farm Field Day, June 23, 2016 Brochure
- 8) Red River Valley Drainage Water Management Project, MDA Fact Sheet
- 9) DNR – Factors to Consider Regarding Public Water Permit vs. Permission – draft 5-26-16

Introductions and agenda overview

Thom Peterson, MFU, welcomed members to the first use of the MFU conference room. All in attendance introduced themselves. Al Kean provided extra copies and an overview of the agenda, noting that it was quite full, so some push will be needed to get through it all. No additions to the agenda were offered.

Approval of 3-3-16 meeting notes

Extra copies of the meeting notes were distributed. Any corrections or additions were invited. None were identified.

Share information about recent and upcoming drainage related events

- ISG and Prinsco, *Ag Drainage Workshop*, March 9, Best Western, Willmar, MN
- MADI semi-annual meeting, Mar. 21, 2016, Willmar, MN
- RRWMB / FDR Work Group Annual Conf., Drainage Seminar, Mar. 23, 2016, Moorhead, MN
- Gorans Discovery Farm, In-field Bioreactor Field Day, June 2, 2016, near Willmar, MN
- Nordick Farm, Controlled Drainage and Saturated Buffer Field Day, June 23, 2016, Rothsay, MN
- ASABE - UMN, International Drainage Symposium, Sep. 7-9, 2016, Mpls., MN (registration open)
- Buffer Science and Design Symposium, Sep. 16, 2016, Northstar Ballroom, UMN, St. Paul Campus
Buffer Field Trip, Saturday, Sep. 17th, 2016

- Congressman Collin Peterson, Nordick Farm Tour, June 5, 2016 and House Ag Committee Listening Session on Tile Drainage and Drainage Management, June 6, 2016, Moorhead, MN

Runoff-Based Drainage Assessments Option Project – Chuck Fritz, IWI; Zach Herrmann, HEI

- The Project Advisory Committee was involved in a webinar and conference call 6-2-16 to review the draft presentation and memo.
- Chuck and Zach provided a presentation about prototype GIS application development to date and addressed a number of DWG member questions and discussion.
- Discussion about GIS data sources and resolution, runoff curve numbers and sediment factors, all of which are key to the draft GIS method.
- Discussed the need to develop a way to adjust runoff curve numbers for wetlands with storage, as well as for other BMPs. The ability to reduce assessments for reduced runoff, erosion and sediment, and for storage were discussed as key desires. Also discussed how to handle pattern tiled land.
- Next step: test with 3 pilot drainage systems in Martin-Watonwan, Kandiyohi, and Clay Counties.

Review Bills from the 2016 Regular Session and Future Discussion

- Four sets of bills involving drainage were introduced during the 2016 session, but did not pass. Three need DWG discussion and follow up, which was added to the DWG priority list. This was seen as a necessary and important role of the DWG.
- Senator Clausen and Joan Wood, a constituent, provided background about SF-2451/HF-3956, which propose requiring a determination of outlet adequacy for private tile. Some history and discussion was offered about the “Reasonable Use Doctrine” in Minnesota, based on case law.
- Other bills to be further discussed by the DWG include HF-2365/SF-2380, which propose a way to index drainage system benefits forward for certain petitioned repairs, based on land value; and HF-2011/SF-2029, which propose a new authority in Section 103E.011, Subd. 5 for drainage systems to accept external sources of funding for watershed planning.

DWG Public Waters and Drainage Subgroup

- The DWG subgroup met on 6-1-16. DNR had provided draft policy document sections about factors to be considered regarding DNR issuing a permit or permission for drainage work in public waters.
- Concern was expressed about the length of time it’s taking for DNR to provide a full draft for DWG discussion.

Drainage Law, Buffer Law and Ditch Buffer Strips

- Reviewed an updated draft DWG discussion paper that reflects buffer law and drainage law revisions passed and signed during the 2016 legislative session. One comment about words on page 1 that could be misinterpreted.
- It was determined that some DWG members were not willing to treat the document as having DWG consensus. Therefore, it will be a BWSR document.

Drainage Management Team Update

- Brief update about DMT meetings on March 17 and May 19, 2016, which included the UMN *Fields to Streams* publication, and research and demos info about bioreactors and saturated buffers.

Minnesota Public Drainage Manual Update

- Brief update about upcoming full draft chapters June 24 to the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) and a PAC meeting on July 19.

Next DWG meeting will be July 14, 2016 at the MFU building in St. Paul.