

Drainage Work Group Meeting Notes

August 11, 2016

12:30 - 3:30 p.m., Minnesota Farmers Union Building, St. Paul, MN

Attendance

Dan Wilkens, RRWMB; Jerome Deal, MAWD; Todd Miller, MRCC; Ron Harnack, RRWMB; Les Everett, UMN; Kurt Deter, Rinke-Noonan; Gregg Knopff, Senate Analyst; Wayne Anderson, MPCA; Mark Ten Eyck, MCEA; Mark Dittrich, MDA; John Jaschke, BWSR; Anna Boroff, MCGA; Michelle Ulrich, CCWD; Mark Zabel, MASWCD; Doug Dahlen, BDSWD; Linda Vavra, BDSWD; Allen Wold, BDSWD; Rob Sip, MDA; Kale Van Bruggen, Rinke Noonan; John Thompson, Faribault Co., MACATFO; Steve Colvin, DNR; Alan Perish, MFU, MVA; Ron Ringquist, MVA; Mark Morreim, MNLICA; John Kolb, Rinke Noonan; Craig Austinson, Blue Earth Co.; Tom Loveall, BWSR Brd.; Stu Frazeur, MNLICA; Ray Bohn, MAWD; Dan Larson, MRCC; Barb Huberty, LWC; Tim Gillette, BWSR; Al Kean, BWSR

Handouts and links prior to or during the meeting

- 1) DWG Meeting logistics and agenda for 8-11-16
- 2) DWG Meeting Notes for 7-14-16
- 3) DWG Communications Committee Presentation - Rob Sip 7-14-16
- 4) DWG Communications Committee Options - Rob Sip 7-14-16
- 5) DWG Communications Committee Products Table - Rob Sip Draft 7-14-16
- 6) HF-2011 / SF-2029 Draft DWG Discussion Paper, 8-7-16
- 7) HF-2365 / SF-2380 Draft DWG Discussion Paper, 8-7-16

Introductions and agenda overview

All in attendance introduced themselves. Al Kean provided extra copies and an overview of the agenda, noting that it was again very full.

Approval of 7-14-16 meeting notes

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

Share information about recent and upcoming drainage related events

- ISG et al., *Ag Drainage & Future of Water Quality Workshop*, July 14, 2016, Clear Lake, IA
- Faribault County *Multipurpose Drainage + Soil Health Field Day*, August 10, 2016, Blue Earth, MN
- *Collaborative for Sediment Source Reduction in the Greater Blue Earth River Basin*, CWF Lunchtime presentation at MDA, August 9, 2016. Al Kean indicated that he will try to arrange a presentation about this project to the DWG after the National Science Foundation project report is available.
- ASABE - UMN, *10th International Drainage Symposium*, Sep. 7-9, 2016, Mpls., MN
- *Buffer Science and Design Symposium*, Sep. 16, 2016, UMN, St. Paul Campus; *Buffer Field Trip*, Sep. 17th
- RRWMB-FDRWG *Annual Conference* will be on March 22-23, 2017, likely including a drainage seminar

A question was asked about the status of the DNR Public Waters and Drainage policy document. DWG members continue to want DWG subgroup and full DWG review and discussion of the document, and to have the updated Minnesota Public Drainage Manual reflect updated DNR policy. Steve Colvin indicated that DNR is pushing to get a draft completed. John Jaschke will touch base with Dave Schad.

Runoff-Based Drainage Assessments Option

Chuck Fritz and Grit May, IWI, and Zach Herrmann, HEI, were connected via WebEx using PowerPoint, and conference phone. They provided brief background about the prototype project and an overview of how the team has addressed the DWG discussions about wetland storage and runoff curve numbers (RCNs), and MnDOT questions about road right-of-way Runoff Curve Numbers (RCNs).

- Reminder that relative runoff and sediment delivery are the key variables for the GIS prototype option to determine drainage system repair assessments.
- The prototype now includes regression equations developed by Gleason, et al. (2007), based on research about typical wetland storage in the Prairie Pothole Region, to enable RCN adjustment (reduction) for wetland storage on associated parcel(s).
- The team improved the method to determine composite runoff curve numbers for road right-of-way corridors, considering category of road, road surface and 2-lane or divided.
- Question about GIS prototype ability to report by 40-acre tracts, gov. lots and separate ownership. The IWI team will look into adding the capability.
- Discussion about a potential method to reduce runoff curve number and sediment delivery for Best Management Practices as a future refinement of the prototype.
- Comparison of GIS prototype method and viewer reports for 3 pilot drainage systems at September DWG meeting.

Minnesota Public Drainage Manual Update

Larry Kramka, HEI Project Manager, was connected via WebEx using PowerPoint, and conference phone.

- The Project Advisory Committee met on July 19 to discuss review and comment on the full drafts of chapters. There three primary remaining topics of discussion.
- Adequacy of the outlet - scope of requirements in drainage law. Connection to flooding and flow capacity. Concern about effects on erosion and water quality downstream. Substantial discussion.
- Addressing connection of drainage law to TMDLs, WRAPs, 1W1P. Discussion about how and where best to address in MPDM.
- Cutting edge sections/information. Addressing as recommendations, not requirements of drainage law.

Discussion about HF-2365 / SF-2380

- Because three Bois de Sioux Watershed District managers attended and discussion about the prior agenda items ran long, this agenda item was moved ahead on the agenda.
- Discussion about the genesis and need for these bills from the BDSWD, where drainage system repairs / retrofits are needed, major legal problems were experienced for JD-14 redetermination, and drainage system benefits on record are, or will be, limiting for many petitioned repairs.
- Discussion about the history of Sec. 103E.715, Subd. 4 and its differing requirements for petitioned repairs. Chapter 2 of the updated MPDM includes case law reference(s) indicating drainage authorities can use either provision for a repair petition by 26% or more of benefited landowners or lands. Kale V.B. will email Al K. the current applicable draft section, who will forward to all DWG members.
- If drainage system benefits could be indexed forward based on land values or CPI, concern that there would need to be sideboards on the use of such a provision.
- Concern about this as potential to avoid redetermination of benefits that are substantially out of date.
- The JD-14 problem appears to be rooted in Sec. 103E.351. Seems the DWG should review and discuss.

DWG Communications Committee Proposal

- Committee proposal included 3 documents presented at the 7-14-16 meeting and included in meeting materials for 8-11-16.
- Limited DWG discussion to date includes questions about DWG membership and staffing support, and need for definition of committee scope and process.
- Due to very limited remaining agenda time, this will be a priority topic for the September DWG meeting.

Next DWG meeting

Thursday, Sep. 15, 2016 (3rd Thursday, due to Int'l Drainage Symposium on 9-8-16).