

## **Drainage Work Group Meeting Notes**

**January 9, 2012**

12:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Minnesota Farm Bureau Building, Eagan, MN

### **Attendance**

Kurt Deter, Rinke-Noonan; Annalee Garletz, AMC; Harlan Madsen, Kandiyohi Co., AMC; John Thompson, Faribault Co., MACO; Mark Zabel, MASWCD; Chuck Wingert; MNLICA; Craig Austinson, Blue Earth Co.; Dennis Distad, Freeborn Co., MACO; Larry Kuseske, MAWD; Larry Gunderson, MPCA; Rick Moore, MSU-Mankato WRC; Greg Eggers, DNR; Ron Harnack, RRWMB; Bruce Kleven, Ag Groups; Rob Sip, MDA; John Jaschke, BWSR; Warren Formo, MAWRC; Mark Dittrich, MDA; Les Everett, UMN WRC; Wayne Anderson, MPCA; Allan Kuseske, MADI; Alan Perish, MVA, MFU; Greg Knopff, Senate Analyst; Kyle Skov, BWSR; Ray Bohn, MAWD; Jerome Deal, MAWD; Dan Wilkens, RRWMB; Tom Loveall, BWSR Brd.; Ron Ringquist, MVA; Al Kean, BWSR

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

1. DWG – Meeting Logistics and Agenda for 1-9-12
2. DWG – Meeting Notes for 12-12-11
3. DWG – MN Drainage Law Analysis and Evaluation – Summary of Recommended Actions and DWG Discussions, DRAFT, 12-29-11
4. FSA Fact Sheet, Constructed Wetland CP-39, November 2011

### **Introductions and Agenda Overview**

Al Kean introduced Kyle Skov, BWSR Conservation Drainage Engineer, who started working for BWSR on January 3, 2012. Kyle shared that he previously worked for the city of Albert Lea and for private engineering firms. All in attendance introduced themselves. Al Kean provided extra copies and an overview of the agenda.

### **Approval of 12-12-11 Meeting Notes**

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

### **Multipurpose Drainage Presentation**

Al Kean gave the subject presentation, which he first presented at the UMN Water Resources Conference in October 2011 and subsequently presented at the BWSR Academy in October, the MAWD Drainage Workshop on December 1, and the AMC Annual Conference on December 5. The objective was to keep all DWG members informed about the current multiple goals for drainage water management, associated old and new conservation practices, and to discuss. It was suggested that resiliency to climate change is another potential reason for multipurpose drainage management. It was also suggested that tiling can reduce risk of climate variability on ag production.

### **Information about Recent and Upcoming Conferences and Forums Involving Drainage Topics**

The following drainage related forums were briefly discussed or mentioned.

- Near-Channel Sediment Source Management Forum, January 4, 2012, Best Western, North Mankato, MN – Forum sponsored by the MSU – Mankato, Water Resources Center and MN River Board. Interest was high with about 260 in attendance. It was noted that follow-up is needed regarding the different perspectives presented by Dr. David Mulla and Dr. Shawn

Schottler regarding causes and effects of precipitation trends, land management improvements and tile drainage on river flows and erosion.

- MACO Drainage Committee meeting on 1-10-12 at conference in Bloomington, MN – John Thompson and Dennis Distad are co-chairs. Al Kean and Kyle Skov plan to attend and provide an update regarding the DWG topics of discussion and outcomes in 2011.
- Drainage and Wetland Conference, Rinke-Noonan, February 23, 2012, Civic Center, St. Cloud, MN – This has been an annual conference for a number of years.

#### **Status of CP-39 Constructed Wetland Conservation Practice in Minnesota**

Alex Dubish, FSA, was not able to attend the meeting. Al Kean provided an FSA Fact Sheet about this relatively new conservation practice, which has a focus on treatment of agricultural runoff for water quality improvement, increasing water storage and increased wildlife habitat. It was noted that there are currently only 1 or 2 CP-39 sites in Minnesota, but more demonstration sites are being sought. Payment rates may not be enough for many landowners and eligible situations. Al noted that a wetland restoration in Nicollet county several years ago, where 3 tile lines were outletted into the wetland, was monitored for a couple of years and had an average of about 80% reduction of nitrates. EPA Region 5 funded the development of a work plan to develop design and targeting criteria for CP-39 to help meet Minnesota water quality and other objectives. However, funding has not been identified to implement the work plan. NRCS has a national design standard for Constructed Wetland 656 for water treatment that may be tailored to better address CP-39 in Minnesota. A question was asked about removing a constructed wetland after the CRP 10-15 year contract expires. It was expected that this could occur, like for other CRP contracts. A question was asked if this practice could be put on existing CRP land. Al indicated that he didn't think so, but will check with Alex Dubish at FSA.

#### **Continued Discussion of Smith Partners LCCMR Report, MN Drainage Law Analysis and Evaluation**

The previous DWG discussion points for recommendations 1a. – 1.d. summarized in the document titled "Minnesota Drainage Law Analysis and Evaluation, Summary of Recommended Actions and DWG Discussions" dated 12-29-11 were reviewed and further discussed. The DWG also discussed recommendations 1.e. and 2.a. – 2.d. Documentation of those discussions are summarized in the updated Summary of Recommended Actions and DWG Discussions dated 2-9-12.

#### **Next Meeting**

Due to the legislative session schedule, it was agreed that the next DWG meeting would be held on Friday, February 17, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Minnesota Farm Bureau building. BWSR will order pizza for lunch.