

## **Drainage Work Group Meeting Notes January 11, 2018**

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Minnesota Farmers Union Building, St. Paul, MN

### **Attendance**

Tom Loveall, BWSR Brd.; Craig Austinson, MADI, Blue Earth Co.; Stu Frazeur, MNLICA; Alan Perish, MFU, MVA; Greg Knopff, Senate Analyst; Jennifer Berquam, AMC; Allen Wold, BDSWD; John Jaschke, BWSR; Les Everett, UMN; Angie Becker Kudelka, BWSR; Amanda Bilek, MCGA; Ben Stanley, Senate Counsel; Darrell Gerber, MCEA; Dave Weirens, BWSR; Dan Larson, MRCC; Mark Dittrich, MDA; Emily Javens, MAWD; Mark Ten Eyck, MCEA; Randy Kramer, AMC; Ron Harnack, RRWMB; Dan Wilkens, RRWMB; Lisa Frenette, RRWMB; Nathan Zacharias, Conservation Strategies, Inc.; Ray Bohn, MAWD; Steve Colvin, DNR; Elise Larson, MCEA; Harlan Madsen, AMC; Ron Ringquist, MVA; Tim Gillette, BWSR; Don Buckhout, BWSR; Al Kean, BWSR

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

- 1) Meeting logistics and agenda for 1-11-18
- 2) Revised meeting notes for 11-9-17
- 3) Meeting notes for 12-14-17
- 4) Runoff and Sediment Delivery Option (RSDO) for Repair Cost Apportionment, Draft Chapter 103E Revisions, 1-7-18
- 5) Recommendations for *Accelerating* Public Drainage System Acquisition of Buffer Strips and Alternative Practices, DWG Final Draft, January 10, 2018

### **Introductions and agenda overview**

All in attendance introduced themselves, including those who participated via conference call. Al K. provided extra copies and an overview of the agenda.

### **Approval of revised 11-9-17 meeting notes and 12-14-17 meeting notes**

Extra copies of both sets of meeting notes were distributed. Al K. indicated that for the 11-9-17 meeting notes he had revised the last sentence on page 2 under Runoff and Sediment Delivery Charge Option for drainage system repairs, regarding conservation lands and repair cost apportionment, to remove the terminology "exemption". Corrections or additions were invited. None were identified.

### **Share information about recent and upcoming drainage related events**

- MNLICA Annual Conference, Jan. 3-5, 2018, Best Western, New Ulm, MN (side inlets)
- MN Viewers Association training seminar, Jan. 10, 2018, Jackpot Junction, Morton, MN (hydrology and hydraulics considerations in mass appraisal)
- Interagency-UMN Drainage Management Team meeting Jan. 18, 2018 (side inlets, bioreactors)
- Drainage Summit, 2018 Red River Basin Commission Annual Conf., Jan. 23, 2018, Winnipeg, MB
- Rinke Noonan, Drainage and Waters Conference, Feb. 15, 2018, River Center, St. Cloud, MN

### **Acceleration of drainage system acquisition of ditch buffer strips and alternative practices**

Don Buckhout, Project Manager, and Al Kean provided background about the work that had been done to date to prepare a report to the Legislature. Don emphasized that this would be the final opportunity for the DWG to review, discuss and reach consensus on the report before the final version goes to the BWSR Buffer, Soils and Drainage Committee on Jan. 23, 2018 and then to the BWSR Board on Jan. 24, 2018 for acceptance and subsequent submittal to the Senate and House of Representatives committees with jurisdiction over agriculture and environment policy by February 1, 2018.

- The 16-member Project Advisory Committee identified and prioritized 15 impediments and developed a total of 16 recommendations in the categories of: Statutory Changes (S1-S7); Funding (F1-F3); Administrative Policy and Procedure Changes (P1-P5); and Outreach, Information and Education (O1), which were presented to the full DWG at its meeting on 12-14-17.
- An electronic version of the DWG Review Draft of the report dated December 14, 2017 was provided by Don B. to DWG members, who were asked to comment to Don by Jan. 2, 2018.
- Don B. received comments on the DWG Review Draft dated December 14, 2017, via email and Survey Monkey from a number of DWG members by 1-2-18.
- A DWG Legislation Subgroup established at the 12-14-17 DWG meeting met on Jan. 4, 2018 to discuss a first draft of 5 statutory changes to Chapter 103E presented by Al Kean. Some draft changes were supported and some were not. An alternative statutory change recommendation emerged, labeled S2.5. It was recommended to not include statutory change language in the report to the Legislature, but to further discuss and coordinate a package of recommended changes through the full DWG.
- Based on DWG member comments on the December 14, 2017 version and input from the Legislation Subgroup meeting on 1-4-18, Don Buckhout and Al Kean revised the DWG Final Draft of the report to the Legislature, dated January 5, 2018, and revised on January 10, 2018.

Don Buckhout facilitated discussion of the then 17 recommendations in the DWG Final Draft, dated January 10, 2018. During the DWG discussions, two statutory change recommendations (S2 and S2.5) were dropped, one funding recommendation (F3) was integrated with the outreach recommendation O1, and the recommendation and explanation language was accepted or revised somewhat for the remaining 14 recommendations. Revised language was developed for the section in the report about the Runoff and Sediment Delivery Option for repair cost apportionment. Another bullet was added under Proposed Next Steps for the Drainage Work Group to advise BWSR and other agencies on the Administrative Policy and Procedure recommendations P1 and P2 and the Outreach, Information and Education recommendation O1.

#### **Runoff and Sediment Delivery Option for drainage system repairs**

A small DWG subgroup met on 1-4-18 to discuss the draft provision regarding conservation lands, for which consensus has not yet been found. There was not time to further discuss the draft Chapter 103E revisions dated 1-7-18. Tabled to the Feb. 1, 2018 DWG meeting.

#### **Next DWG meeting:**

Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the MN Farmers Union, St. Paul.

#### **Additional DWG meeting:**

It was agreed to hold another DWG meeting in February to help develop consensus recommendations for legislation to accelerate drainage system acquisition of ditch buffer strips and alternative practices, and maybe for the Runoff and Sediment Delivery Option for repair cost apportionment.

Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the MN Farmers Union, St. Paul.