

**Drainage Work Group Meeting Notes**  
**January 14, 2016**  
12:30 - 3:30 p.m.  
Minnesota Farm Bureau Building, Eagan, MN

**Attendance**

Tom Loveall, BWSR Brd.; Stu Frazeur, MNLICA; Mark Morreim, MNLICA; Winston Beiser, Freeborn Co.; Craig Austinson, Blue Earth Co.; Ron Ringquist, MVA; Steve Colvin, DNR; Gregg Knopff, Senate Analyst; Mark Dittrich, MDA; Wayne Anderson, MPCA; Ben Baglio, AMC; Barb Huberty, LWC; Chuck Fritz, IWI; Mark Zabel, MASWCD; Les Everett, UMN; Todd Miller, MRCC; Kurt Deter, Rinke Noonan; Jerome Deal, MAWD; Ray Bohn, MAWD; Dan Wilkens, RRWMB; Laura Nehl-Trueman, MnDOT; Andrea Hendrickson, MnDOT; Jennifer Berquam, AMC; Larry Kramka, HEI; Rob Sip, MDA; Tim Gillette, BWSR; Al Kean, BWSR

**Handouts prior to or during the meeting**

- 1) Meeting logistics and agenda for 1-14-16
- 2) Meeting notes for 12-10-15
- 3) Runoff-Based Drainage Assessments Memo, 1-11-16 from Chuck Fritz, IWI
- 4) DMT History regarding BWSR Funding and Authority 1-11-16
- 5) DMT Charter and Membership – Revised Roster 1-11-16
- 6) DMT CY 2016 Work Plan – Draft 12-15-15
- 7) Drainage and Wetland Conference brochure, Rinke Noonan, Feb. 11, 2016, St. Cloud, MN
- 8) ASABE, UMN, International Drainage Symposium information, Sep. 7-9, 2016, Mpls., MN
- 9) DNR Position on Altered Natural Watercourses on Public Waters Inventory Maps (12-30-15)
- 10) DNR Permission vs. Permit slide with draft factors to consider for 103E and 103G provisions

**Introductions and agenda overview**

All in attendance introduced themselves. Al Kean provided extra copies and an overview of the agenda. No additions to the agenda were offered.

**Approval of 12-10-15 meeting notes**

Extra copies of the meeting notes were distributed. Al K. noted that he had revised the notes for the Tiered Aquatic Life Use topic after the meeting materials were sent, based on his review of input from Wayne Anderson, MPCA. Any further corrections or additions were invited. None were identified.

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

- MNLICA *Annual Conference*, Jan. 7-8, 2016, Best Western Hotel, New Ulm, MN
- Rinke-Noonan, *Drainage and Wetlands Conference*, Feb. 11, 2016, River's Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud, MN
- UMN-NDSU Ext., *Drainage Design and Water Management Workshop*, Feb. 17-18, Marshall, MN
- ADMC, *Drainage Water Management Training and TSP Certification*, Feb. 3-4, 2016, Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines, IA
- Heron Lake WD - RCRC, *Findings and Recommendations for Corn Belt Farmers*, Feb. 11, 1-3 p.m., UMN SWROC, Lamberton, MN and via webinar at: [www.sustainablecorn.org](http://www.sustainablecorn.org)
- Governor Dayton's *Water Quality Summit*, Feb. 27, InterContinental Riverfront Hotel, St. Paul, MN
- ISG and Prinsco, *Drainage Workshop*, March 9, Willmar, MN (planning in process)
- ASABE, UMN, *International Drainage Symposium*, Sep. 7-9, 2016, The Commons Hotel, Mpls., MN

### **Runoff-Based Drainage Assessments Option Project**

- Chuck Fritz, Executive Director, International Water Institute, presented an overview of the Task 1 Memo deliverable for the grant project, including project team review of relevant studies and methods, and identification of a framework for development of a prototype GIS application.
- Key variables envisioned are runoff and sediment generation. Discussion about how the prototype could consider different types of tillage and cropping systems. Generally like the idea of an assessment incentive for reduced runoff and sediment.
- Questions and reminders about project purpose to investigate potential of faster and less expensive option for defining drainage system assessments. The project intends to develop a proof of concept option that is not the only potential method, and not to eliminate existing viewing in drainage law.
- Question and discussion about if/how the method could consider drainage system capacity, as well as runoff and sediment correlation to benefits.

### **CWF Multipurpose Drainage Management Program Grants**

- Tim Gillette, BWSR, summarized the grant applications, total funding requested, funding available and that FY16 grants were allocated to 5 projects and 1 project with partial funding.
- Some concern about keeping focus on drainage water mgmt. practices (which are eligible), limited funding available, and reminder that the new program includes eligibility for storage and treatment wetland restorations with a flowage and conservation easement held by the drainage system.

### **MN Public Drainage Manual Update**

- Larry Kramka, Project Mgr., Houston Engineering, Inc., provided an overview of the status of the MPDM update project.
- Schedule has been extended due to chapter drafting delays and multiple commenting cycles with lead writers and chapter subcommittee members on drafted chapter sections.
- Concerns discussed about time to review remaining chapter section drafts and all chapters together. Contractors are putting in extra time to complete drafts and get to PAC subcommittees, which involve a number of DWG members.

### **DWG Public Waters and Drainage Subgroup**

- The subgroup met on Dec. 30, 2015, where DNR provided an overview handout and presentation about its position on Altered Natural Watercourses (heavy dashed lines) on Public Waters Inventory Maps (subject to regulation under Chapter 103E drainage law, unless designated shoreland).
- DNR guidance memo from 1980 is to be updated soon.
- DNR provided draft factors to be considered regarding the potential need for a public waters permit under 103G.245, Subd. 2 (2) and for DNR permission under 103E.011, Subd. 3 for drainage work in public waters.

### **Interagency Drainage Management Team (DMT) Work Plan Coordination**

- Al Kean and Tim Gillette, BWSR, provided an overview of the history, team charter and draft work plan of the DMT for CY 2016.
- The DMT involves state and federal agency and university representatives.
- The focus of the DMT is coordinating technical information and understandings about drainage related research, BMP demonstration, applicable state and federal programs, and associated issues.
- Some DWG member concerns about not duplicating DWG roles regarding policy recommendations.
- Recommended to share DWG and DMT meeting notes and DMT updates on DWG agendas.

**Next meeting** March 3, 2016 at the Minnesota Farm Bureau building in Eagan.