

Drainage Work Group Meeting Notes July 13, 2017

12:30 - 3:30 p.m., Association of Minnesota Counties Building, St. Paul, MN

Attendance

Tom Loveall, BWSR Brd.; Tom Barten, CWC; Steve Colvin, DNR; Ruth Simpson, MAT; Ben Stanley, Senate Counsel; Mark Schnobrich, MASWCD; Greg Knopff, Senate Analyst; Jerome Deal, MAWD; Darrel Ellefson, LQPYBWD; Gloria Johnson, MnDOT; Alan Perish, MFU, MVA; Allen Wold, BDSWD; Amanda Bilek, MCGA; Mark Hiles, BWSR; Ed Lenz, BWSR; Mark Dittrich, MDA; Les Everett, UMN WRC; Dave Weirens, BWSR; Jennifer Berquam, AMC; Stu Frazeur, MNLICA; Ron Harnack, RRWMB; Dan Wilkens, RRWMB; Mark Deutschman, HEI; Dan Larson, MRCC; Ron Ringquist, MVA; Rob Sip, MDA; Ray Bohn, MAWD; Mark Ten Eyck, MCEA; Barb Huberty, LWC; Tim Gillette, BWSR; Al Kean, BWSR

Handouts prior to or during the meeting

- 1) DWG Meeting logistics and agenda for 7-13-17
- 2) DWG Meeting Notes for 6-8-17
- 3) Clean Water Council Policy Committee letter request to the DWG, dated 11-18-17
- 4) Draft Discussion Paper outline for the topic of the CWC Policy Committee request, dated 7-9-17
- 5) Updated DWG Prioritized Discussion Topics List dated 6-9-17
- 6) Updated BWSR document Buffer Strips and Alternative Practices - Public Drainage System Acquisition, dated 7-6-17
- 7) Election of Jurisdiction over Buffer Enforcement map, BWSR, date July 12, 2017

Introductions and agenda overview

All in attendance introduced themselves. Al provided extra copies and an overview of the agenda.

Approval of 6-8-17 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

- *Soil and Water Management Field Day*, July 18, 2017, UMN Southwest Research and Outreach Center, Lamberton, MN
- *Field Day for 4R Workshop*, with saturated buffer, July 25, 2017, David Legvold farm, Northfield, MN
- Minnesota Viewers Assn., *Training Seminar*, July 20, 2017, Jackpot Junction, Morton, MN
- MN Farm Bureau, *6th Annual Agricultural Water Issues Forums*, July 18, 19, and 20, 2017, Badger, Ada, and Dumont, MN
- [Plowville](#) Field Day, September 21, 2017, Co. Rd. 34 near Dodge Center, MN
- Governor Dayton's [25 by 25 Water Quality Town Hall Meetings](#), July 31 - Oct. 5, 2017, statewide

Clean Water Council Policy Committee request to the DWG regarding storage and drainage

John Barten, CWC Policy Committee Chair, provided a verbal overview of the background and reason for the 11-18-16 request letter to the DWG, including concerns about altered hydrology effects on streambank erosion, sediment and nutrient transport, stream biota, and associated priorities for Clean Water Funds. This includes how to better align drainage policy goals with One Watershed One Plan content requirements and goals in 103B.801 for storage to retain water on the land and water quality. Discussion about the benefits of side inlets, impoundments, and other practices to detain water, trap sediment and improve water quality. Yellow Medicine River 1W1P includes a storage goal defined in acre-feet. Many ways to achieve storage in different landscapes. Need watershed and basin focus and goals. It was suggested that if it's a legislative priority, more \$ from the various CWLL funding sources and bonding should be given a focus on storage.

Method to define altered hydrology in a watershed and define a storage goal

Mark Deutchman, Houston Engineering, Inc., provided a PowerPoint presentation about a science-based framework developed in connection with the North Fork Crow River 1W1P to define altered hydrology, identify a benchmark condition, and define a storage goal. Mark invited further discussion of the topic and proposed framework. A relatively recent EPA-USGS report, as well as Minnesota Stressor ID Reports and WRAPS, have identified altered hydrology as a biotic stressor. These and other studies also link altered hydrology to increased erosion and sediment transport, as well as nutrient transport. The framework uses a number of flow statistics of river gage records as metrics to evaluate if, and the extent of, altered hydrology in a watershed where adequate gaged flow records are available. Changes in the 1.5, 2, 5 and 10-yr. flows for an historic time period (benchmark) and modern time period are used to define a watershed storage goal. Structural and management practices are considered for storage on the land, as well as in the soil profile via increased soil organic matter content associated with reduced tillage, cover crops, alfalfa, etc. The Minnesota Soybean Growers Association is funding application of the framework to several watersheds and scales, including the HUC-12 scale. It was noted that this topic relates to the CWC Policy Committee request, as well as to the fourth Information Topic bullet on the DWG Prioritized List regarding impaired waters TMDL/WRAPS processes and 1W1P. A question was posed as to whether the DWG should define a position on this topic. The CWC Policy Committee request is seeking DWG comments on its draft policy update and recommendations regarding better aligning drainage law and water planning objectives in Sec. 103B.801.

Updated DWG Prioritized Discussion Topics List

Al Kean overviewed additions and revisions to the list, based on DWG discussions at the 6-8-17 meeting, noting that an asterisk was added to indicate the highest priorities for 2017 discussion topics. Later in the meeting, there was discussion about numbering and ordering the highest priority topics to help maintain DWG focus and complete discussions and potential consensus recommendations in 2017.

Buffer Law Election of Jurisdiction and Riparian Aid update

Dave Weirens, BWSR, handed out an election of jurisdiction map for counties and watershed districts, noting that 72 counties and 14 watershed districts elected jurisdiction for the Buffer Law. BWSR will be responsible for compliance within all other counties and watershed district areas. Discussion about the associated Riparian Aid funding for 2017 for counties and watershed district that elected jurisdiction. Riparian Aid will be distributed by the Department of Revenue. In response to a question, it was noted that other counties and watershed districts can elect jurisdiction any time in FY 2018, but won't be eligible for Riparian Aid until FY 2019. However, BWSR might be able to provide funding for compliance activities. Discussion about BWSR Model Buffer Ordinance and Model Buffer Rule for counties and watershed districts. Current ordinances and rules can also be amended. County ordinances and watershed district rules should be in place by November 1, 2017, the first Buffer Law compliance date. The [BWSR Buffer Law webpage](#) includes associated Procedure 8 and Procedure 9, as well as Guidance for Buffer Related Ordinances and DNR Guidance for Amending Shoreland Ordinances.

Drainage system acquisition of ditch buffer strips and alternative practices

Al K. indicated that the 7-6-17 version of Handout 6) includes information about the \$5M Buffer Cost-Share funding appropriated by the 2017 Legislature and Governor Dayton for Buffer Law buffer strips or alternative practices. A DWG discussion paper could be helpful for this topic and the associated legislative directive.

Next DWG meeting: Thursday, August 10, 2017, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. at the Minnesota Farmers Union building in St. Paul.