

Drainage Work Group Meeting Notes

September 12, 2013

12:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Minnesota Farm Bureau Building, Eagan, MN

Attendance

Tom Loveall, BWSR Brd.; Anna Bramblett, NRCS; John Thompson, Faribault Co., MACTFO; Nordis Estrem, MNLICA; Andrea Hendrickson, MnDOT; Larry Kuseske, MAWD; Greg Eggers, MDNR; Michelle Ulrich, CCWD; Larry Gunderson, MPCA; LeAnn Buck, MASWCD; Les Everett, UMN WRC; Mark Ten Eyck, MCEA; Rob Sip, MDA; Ray Bohn, MAWD; Dan Wilkens, RRWMB; Dave Wall, MPCA; Ron Ringquist, MVA; Loren Engelby, Kandiyohi Co.; Al Kean, BWSR

Handouts prior to or during meeting:

1. DWG – Meeting Logistics and Agenda for 9-12-13
2. DWG – Meeting Notes for 8-8-13
3. Input from MPCA regarding request for perspectives on the purpose(s) for DWG discussion of Section 103E.015

Introductions and agenda overview

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

Approval of 8-8-13 Meeting Notes

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

Share information about recent and upcoming events involving drainage topics

- Conservation drainage forum and field day, Luverne, MN, September 5, 2013. More than 100 attendees. Forum agenda included information about the Nitrogen in Minnesota Surface Waters Report, June 2013; controlled subsurface drainage practices, programs and landowner experience; woodchip bioreactor design, and saturated buffers. Field demonstration was at a partially constructed woodchip bioreactor, so that participants could see all of the inlet and outlet pipes and control structure, as well as the woodchips.
- Erosion control, controlled subsurface drainage, cover crop field day, Canon River Watershed Project, Freshwater Society, Northfield, MN, 9-12-13.
- North Dakota State University subirrigation field day 9-13-13 near Fargo – Moorhead.
- MDA Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan Listening Sessions, Sep. 2013, at 5 locations statewide. Locations, dates and times list provided by MDA.
- Annual IA-MN-SD Drainage Research Forum is anticipated in November, but not yet announced.

Nitrogen in Minnesota Surface Waters Report, June 2013, MPCA

- Dave Wall, one of the principal authors of the report, provided an overview presentation.
- Drivers for the report include a legislative directive to MPCA to develop surface water N standards (anticipated in 2015), and MN participation in the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force, for which 12 states, including MN, have agreed to develop nutrient reduction strategies.
- Much dialogue about the report and its findings, including nitrate transport via shallow groundwater to surface waters and via subsurface tile systems.
- DWG members would like to have access to the PPT presentation, if possible.

Update from DWG Subgroup regarding drainage system assessments to road authorities

- Al Kean reported that the subgroup met on September 4, 2013.
- Current members include: Laura Nehls-Trueman, MnDOT; Andrea Hendrickson, MnDOT; Beth Neuendorf, MnDOT; Ron Ringquist, MVA; Ron Mortenson, Meeker Co. Engr.; Roger Risser, Watonwan Co. Engr.; Al Kean, BWSR
- The focus was on reviewing how viewers define the benefits of Chapter 103E drainage systems for roads, which has varied over time, but is cost based.
- Also some mention about water management district drainage system assessments in the Metro by watershed districts.
- The subgroup needs and plans to continue discussion about past and present methods for defining drainage system benefits and assessments.

Section 103E.015 Considerations before drainage work is done

- Input provided by MPCA staff in response to the email request by Al K. for perspectives on reasons for updating this section were presented by Larry G. and discussed. Suggestions included broader purposes for drainage management, including water quality and flow concerns.
- Al K. provided information from the Smith Partners LCCMR report about drainage law analysis and the associated DWG discussion points document, which reference previous initial DWG discussions about Section 103E.015, address more flexibility and tools to incorporate multipurpose design and public funding, and express concerns about complicating drainage system repairs.
- Al K. had offered in a recent email communication to DWG members that multipurpose design (agricultural production, flood control, water quality, habitat), and making better connection to drainage system authority to use external sources of funding for multiple purpose water management could be good purposes for this discussion.
- Reference was made to the Project Teams used in the Red River Basin as part of the Mediation Agreement process for multipurpose project design, and the anticipated incorporation of drainage in the 1 Watershed – 1 Plan initiative.
- It was decided to establish a DWG subgroup to further explore and discuss a potential recommendation to the full DWG. Volunteers, recommended members and subsequent volunteers included: Ray Bohn, MAWD; Larry Kuseske, MAWD; Tom Loveall, BWSR Brd. and Faribault Co.; Greg Eggers, DNR; Annalee Garletz, AMC; Mark Ten Eyck, MCEA; Al Kean, BWSR; Kurt Deter, Rinke-Nonan. Other volunteers can contact Al K.

Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next anticipated DWG meeting will be held on Thursday, October 10, 2013 at a location to be determined, because the MN Farm Bureau training room is not available.