Drainage Work Group Meeting

**When:** Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. IN PERSON

**Agenda:**

Overview and any updates of agenda for the meeting – Tom G.

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

* 11th International Drainage Symposium, August 30-September 2, 2022, Des Moines, Iowa

[2022 International Drainage Symposium | Soil and Water Conservation Society (swcs.org)](https://www.swcs.org/events/conferences/22ids)

* MN Drainage Inspectors Association Fall meeting, likely the week of August 15-19 (Specific date TBD) Location TBD.

**Drainage Management Practices for Water Quality-Tom**

Group discussion lead by Gile. Brief update of Multipurpose Drainage Management grant program RFP being open and reminder to members of where it can be found.

Gile also shared some background on two meetings held with groups of DWG stakeholders during the spring. Those discussions started as an opening dialog into the ideas of “how do we demonstrate water quality benefit on larger scale drainage system projects. While it can be done it is also challenging and requires a separate modeling assessment which often creates additional cost to the system. The conversations evolved to the effect of “is there a way we can install some BMPs that have known/estimated reduction efficiencies that are sized based on contributing area instead of being dependent on modeling”. Both groups that met discussed the idea of the sizing concept and felt it was worth exploring online facilities (wetlands, water quality pond like features etc) to see if some form of criteria can be created.

**BWSR Position on Drainage Related Legislation –John Jaschke**

Several Drainage Related Bills have come to the Legislature the past couple of years. During those times there are varying perspectives on what “BWSR’s Position Should be”. In particular when things are introduced that have not been brought before the DWG. Conversation was broad ranging and emphasized BWSR’s support for the role of the DWG while also recognizing the obvious freedoms of the legislative process in developing and passing legislation.

**Drainage Registry Bill Possible Modifications - Tom**

Conversation was lead discussing the general level of “need” of a bill around the notification requirements in 103E. There was good conversation considering the existing notice requirements and those do indeed provide some framework for public input for drainage related activities. At the same time, there is opportunity to create some efficiencies and to potentially reduce the amount of “11th hour” comments and feedback on proposed drainage projects. The concepts of early coordination came up regularly while also being clear there isn’t appetite for significant additional “bureaucracy”. Discussion around ability to provide input before preliminary engineering designs are completed seems to have some merit. The question at hand is how best to let folks know a petitioned for a drainage proceeding/project has been received before the notice of preliminary hearing. There is room for improvement. Gile asked the group to review the drafts shared prior to the next meeting.

**Adjourn**