Drainage Work Group Meeting

**When:** Thursday, June 16, 2022 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Where:** Virtually

**Agenda:**

**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.
* ISG spoke about a recent SW/SC MN Tour which highlighted a few drainage projects.

**2021 DWG & COVID19- Tom**

Group discussed a few potential meeting locations for future in person meetings. Some emphasis on outside of the Metro if we can swing that in the future. Interest in trying to get back to in person meetings to the extent possible but continuing of some form of virtual option for those unable to attend in person.

**Any other Potential DWG topics and prioritization of topics for this year that are new (This is the list from**

**the discussion at the end of last year)??**

A few minor adjustments to the prioritization list proposed. One specific adjustment would be separating the “Drainage Project Submittals” concept to a standalone item.

Conversation on the drainage Bills (Specifically the registry was of interest) as well as some discussion of BWSRs role in non-DWG sponsored bills.

**Outlet Adequacy (How do you eat an elephant) - Tom**

Included some conversation on how to potentially break the idea of Outlet Adequacy into more manageable pieces. It was apparent some of this conversation would be highly technical in nature and there was interest in the DWG potentially forwarding some specific topics to the DMT to get a more detailed Technical assessment and possibly direction if the conversation continues.

The idea of breaking different “types of outlet interactions” seemed like a potential approach to breaking things out.

**Multipurpose Drainage Management/Water Quality & Storage Program**

Updated MDM RFP language and legislative appropriation. CWF RFP is about to open. By the next DWG meeting the RFP will be out and this can be shared again just so folk have the actual language.

Discussion on past year’s application requests and discussion on future programing options. Storage Program RFP results and Funding Recommendations. Good group discussion on the importance of finding a way to tie the storage effort into drainage but respecting the importance of the existing drainage obligations under 103E for the respective projects.

**Bills introduced during Session**

Tom G. shared an overview of the DWG feedback from the bills introduction during the legislative process. Generally speaking the primary concern noted was associated with Repairs being a part of the legislation as proposed and the 30 day hold on activities. Also a generally improved effort to explain the bill’s expectations and what sort of information would be needed is essential to any movement on the proposal.

Ted Suss spoke about some background on the drainage registry bill introduced last session. Good group discussion on the purpose and intent of the bill and what the supporters hoped it would accomplish. As well as feedback from the DWG members on the call.

Tom G walked through the proposed legislation. The primary purpose was simply to ensure we understood what was actually in the bill vs broader assumptions.

It was made clear that there is no requirement for the originally proposed language to live on but that it may be a good starting place for future discussions on the topic.

Further discussion and possible alternative language is expected in future DWG meetings.

N**ext DWG meeting, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Thursday, July 14, 2022,**

**IN PERSON @ MN Farmers Union**

**Tom will explore a virtual option as well.**

**Adjourn**