Drainage Work Group Meeting

**When:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 1 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Where:** [Join Skype Meeting](https://meet.lync.com/mn365/tom.gile/VQBLGPPJ)

Trouble Joining? [Try Skype Web App](https://meet.lync.com/mn365/tom.gile/VQBLGPPJ?sl=1)

**Attendance:** Due to virtual meetings Keeping Track of attendance with instances of multiple attendees on a single account and man “guest” name takes we will not track attendance until we reconvene in person again.

**Welcome and Introductions**: Tom G. provided overview of agenda for the meeting.

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

* MADI Annual Meeting October 19, 2020 via Zoom.
* MAWD Annual Conference virtual format & Drainage Workshop December 1, 2020.

**BWSR Draft System Maintenance on Conservation Easements –** Unable to present

 **Shannon Doucette and Tom Wenzel (BWSR) -** waiting for document to have legal reviewed

**DNR update - Drainage Projects: Intro on DNR Roles and Responsibility**

**Randall Doneen (DNR) and Tim Gieseke (DNR):** What has the DNR been up to, what are they working on next and any anticipated timelines as it relates to their Drainage work.

DiscussedDNR involvement for drainage Proposals; 103E, 103G, 103B, 116D. Notable Trends and Efforts of DNR. Guidance Document available.

**Discussion on 103E Technical fix (Inclusion of WD language throughout)**

 **Tom Gile (BWSR) / Others as appropriate.**

A draft update of 103E was provided to a small subset of DWG members for preliminary review and scoping discussions during the beginning of our 2020 meeting cycle. Where is that at in process? Some additional discussions have occurred about next steps and timing which will be discussed with the full DWG.

Tentative plan is to hold off recommendation this year. Looking for comments and feedback on technical updates. Brian M. - potentially put together a bill for next session.

**103E Financing fact sheet**

 **Tom Gile (BWSR)**

Some discussion has come from our recent conversations on 103E financing and it has been requested that a “relatively simple” fact sheet be developed on financing options for Counties and Financing options for WDs when various 103E proceedings lead to construction.

* Overview and Discussion
* Any DWG members uniquely positioned to assist in the development of a fact sheet?
* Emphasis on keeping it simple.
* Provide options and aspects of financing for 103E projects

**Discussion on how to stay involved with DWG: Tom Gile (BWSR)**

Creating a survey looking for topics to bring to the group to undertake or discuss. Topics from general improved understanding to possible statute changes.

Topics:

* DNR deliverable consensus
* Compatibility between storage and drainage

**2020 State Water Plan, what is it, what’s in it, does it include drainage discussion?**

 **Eric Dahl (EQB), Jeff Berg (MDH), Suzanne Rhees (BWSR)**

Met with interagency water team to create *2020 State Water Plan - Climate and Water*

Discussed Goals, strategies and Actions. Do any of these Goals, strategies and Actions fit into the current DWG action plan?

John K. – Compatibility between storage and drainage. If the goal is storage, then we cannot put too many restrictions on storage incentives (i.e. habitat and other environmental functions). Also, restrictions on eminent domain need to be removed from state incentives. If this becomes a landowner-voluntary activity, we will never advance the ball. I believe the DWG needs to be involved in this.

**Next DWG meeting, Time TBD, Thursday, November 12, 2020 SKYPE**

**Adjourn**