

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES  
520 LAFAYETTE ROAD NORTH  
LOWER-LEVEL BOARD ROOM  
ST. PAUL, MN 55155  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2025**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Joe Collins, Jill Crafton, Jayne Hager Dee, Mike Runk, Neil Peterson, Rich Sve, Lori Cox, Ted Winter, LeRoy Ose, Todd Holman, Ron Staples, Mark Zabel, Tom Schulz, Glenn Skuta, MPCA; Thom Petersen, MDA; Steve Robertson, MDH; Sarah Strommen, DNR

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Joel Larson, University of Minnesota Extension; Eunice Biel

**STAFF PRESENT:**

John Jaschke, Rachel Mueller, Tom Gile, Travis Germundson, Jenny Gieseke, Mandy Duong, Ed Lenz, Ann Gunness, Rita Weaver, Jared House, Zach Guttormson, John Shea, Don Bajumpaa, Ryan Hughes, Darren Mayers, Marcey Westrick, Mark Hiles, Luke Olson; Denise Lauerman, Chad Severt, Jeff Hrubes, Dave Weirens, Jared House, Craig Engwall, Annie Felix, Sharon Doucette, Suzanne Rhees, Julie Westerlund, Justin Hanson

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Jeff Berg, MDA; Katie Smith, DNR; Brian Martinson, AMC; LeAnn Buck, MASWCD; Sheila Vanney, MASWCD; Ted Suss, Minnesota River Collaborative; Suzanne Jiwani, Minnesota River Collaborative; Dan Cibulka, Sherburne SWCD; Tracy Halstensgard, Roseau River WD; Kerry Netzke, RCRCRA; Dennis Fuchs, Stearns Count SWCD; Jake Shaughnessy, Hubbard County SWCD; Katie Cassidy, Houston Engineering; Matt Gutzmann, Itasca SWCD; Sarah Boser, ISG; Daniel Gackle Beltrami County; Claire Hansen, Beltrami County; Andy Arens

Chair Todd Holman called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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25-01 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** - Moved by Mark Zabel, seconded by Joe Collins, to adopt the agenda as presented. *Motion passed on a roll call vote.*

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25-02 **MINUTES OF DECEMBER 19, 2024 BOARD MEETING** – Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Tom Schulz, to approve the minutes of December 19, 2024, as circulated. *Motion passed on a roll call vote.*

#### PUBLIC ACCESS FORUM

No members of the public provided comments to the board.

#### INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

Jenny Gieseke introduced Mandy Duong, Organizational Development/DEI Coordinator. Ed Lenz introduced Ann Gunness, Board Conservationist.

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

##### Chair Holman read the statement:

*"A conflict of interest, whether actual, potential, or perceived, occurs when someone in a position of trust has competing professional or personal interests, and these competing interests make it difficult to fulfill professional duties impartially. At this time, members are requested to declare conflicts of interest they may have regarding today's business. Any member who declares an actual conflict of interest must not vote on that agenda item. All actual, potential, and perceived conflicts of interest will be announced to the board by members or staff before any vote."*

#### REPORTS

**Chair & Administrative Advisory Committee** – Chair Todd Holman reported the survey for the Executive Director's annual performance review will be sent to board members through email. Stated he attend the Environmental Quality Board meeting.

**Executive Director's Report** - John Jaschke reported he attended the Red River Basin Commission's conference last week. Also attended a staff meeting at Camp Ripley, which is a cost-effective place for business meetings. The legislative session started and had an overview hearing yesterday. John reviewed the Day of Packet that included an updated board order for the Drainage Work Group Policy Recommendation, the amended Minnesota CREP Agreement, and Snapshot articles.

**Audit and Oversight Committee** – Joe Collins reported they met January 15<sup>th</sup> and have an item on the agenda today.

**Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report** – Rich Sve reported they have not met. Travis Germundson reported there are two new appeals filed and three appeals pending.

File 25-1 is an appeal of a WCA restoration order for a property located in Pine County. The appeal regards placement of fill in a wetland within the shoreland district for allegedly expanding the lawn area. The petition claims all work was conducted in compliance with county zoning requirements. No decision has been made on the appeal.

File 24-9 This is an appeal of a WCA notice of decision in Morrison County. The appeal regards the approval of an exemption and no-loss decision for an access road associated with a township cartway.

Morrison SWCD Board of Supervisors affirmed a decision made by staff under a local appeal and now that decision is being appealed. Note this involves the same property and wetland area associated with previous appeals (Files 23-8 and 23-15) of a wetland boundary and type decision. The appeal has been remanded back to the local unit government to develop a record and for an expanded technical review.

Stated the amended APO plan that the board approved last month was placed in the Registry on Tuesday and becomes effective 30-days after. The annual recording and progress tracking was recently completed and the BuffCAT reporting tool has been updated. New compliance maps and data will be coming in the next few months.

Joe Collins thanked Travis for his work.

**Grants Program & Policy Committee** – Mark Zabel reported they met January 13<sup>th</sup> and have items on the agenda for today.

**RIM Reserve Committee** – Jayne Hager Dee reported they have not met.

**Water Management & Strategic Planning Committee** – Joe Collins reported they have not met.

**Wetland Conservation Committee** – Jill Crafton reported they have not met.

**Buffers, Soils & Drainage Committee** – LeRoy Ose reported they met last Friday. Tom Gile reported there are two items on the agenda for today.

**Drainage Work Group (DWG)** – Neil Peterson reported they have met. Tom Gile reported there are two items on the agenda for today. At the last meeting it was asked to see if there was support for a recommendation to the legislature on the repeal of the requirement in the viewers' report under 103E. It requires the report to be identified and laid out with benefits per 40-acre tract. Tom stated there wasn't support to move it forward.

#### **AGENCY REPORTS**

**Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)** – Thom Petersen reported they have an overview today in the Senate Ag committee. The Corn and Soybeans Growers annual meetings are this week. Stated they are building their Weather Network across the state and are adding 70 new stations. Stated they are monitoring the avian influenza.

Lori Cox asked if they have an update on the EPA response from southeast Minnesota. Commissioner Petersen stated they don't have an update; they are waiting to hear from the new administration.

Lori asked about offering mitigation to residents and asked if it was temporary or permanent. Commissioner Petersen stated as long as they have funding it will continue.

**Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)** – Steve Robertson reported in response to the EPA petition in southeast Minnesota, they have started to offer well testing to residents in eight counties. Stated MDA has been providing mitigation support for well owners that have contamination in their wells above threshold values. Steve provided a legislative update, programs with the Clean Water Funds are proceeding. Most of the environmental programs with the general fund have been pulled back in the governor's budget. Stated there are fee increases to support the Well Management Program and the Drinking Water Program.

Lori Cox asked what mitigation means. Steve stated it would be reverse osmosis treatment systems.

**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)** – Katie Smith reported DNR held its annual Roundtable on January 10<sup>th</sup>. DNR gave an overview to the Senate Committee. Noted fee increases to support their groundwater management program.

Jill Crafton stated she attended the Roundtable event and appreciated the work that went into it.

**Minnesota Extension** – No report was provided.

**Minnesota Pollution Control Agency** – Glenn Skuta reported with MDA and MDH they provide quarterly reports to the EPA on their efforts to address nitrate in groundwater in southeast Minnesota. The reports can be found on MDH's website. Stated they finalized the Feedlot General Permits; additional information is available on their website. They'll be looking at their Feedlot Rules next. The Nutrient Reduction Strategy revision is underway and will be presented Monday at the Clean Water Council meeting. Glenn attended the Red River Basin Commission's annual conference.

Lori Cox asked who the outreach group or stakeholders will be for the Nutrient Reduction Strategy revision. Glenn stated there are six committees and that it's not open to the public right now.

#### **ADVISORY COMMENTS**

**Association of Minnesota Counties** – Brian Martinson reported it will be important to pay attention to the budget work this session, stated a small percentage of the general fund budget is spent on environmental & natural resources issues. Brian stated during the Drainage Work Group discussion there was a decision to not advance other ideas beyond the buffer strips reporting repeal proposal at this time.

**Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees** – No report was provided.

**Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD)** – LeAnn Buck thanked those who worked on the water storage and soil health items on the agenda today. Stated they are following the legislative work closely, their key item is SWCD Aid.

Neil Peterson and Joe Collins thanked Minnesota Watersheds and MASWCD for their work.

**Minnesota Association of Townships** – No report was provided.

**Minnesota Watersheds** – No report was provided.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service** – No report was provided.

John Jaschke reported they met yesterday with NRCS staff to get ready to implement various pieces of the soil health efforts.

#### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

##### **Grants Program and Policy Committee**

**Water Quality and Storage Program FY26 Criteria** – Rita Weaver presented Water Quality and Storage Program FY26 Criteria.

This will be the fourth request for proposal under the Water Quality and Storage Program since 2021. While we received significant federal funding to support this program moving forward, we are not able to use the federal funding until the contracts are completed with the NRCS (likely 9-12 months). We

would like to utilize some of the remaining state funds in the meantime to keep up the momentum of the program.

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25-03

Moved by Jayne Hager Dee, seconded by Rich Sve, to approve the Water Quality and Storage Program FY26 Criteria. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

**FY 25 Soil Health Practices Grants Authorization** – Tom Gile and Jared House presented FY 25 Soil Health Practices Grants Authorization.

On November 1, 2023, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) was awarded a \$25 million allocation from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) under the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) to support the implementation of soil health practices. On December 17, 2024, BWSR staff, in collaboration with NRCS, finalized and approved the negotiated agreements. BWSR staff, in coordination with NRCS and Soil and Water Conservation District personnel, developed comprehensive grant guidelines and requirements for this initiative.

Federal agreements mandate that BWSR perform quality assurance assessments on practices funded through the RCPP. The Laws of Minnesota 2021 First Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 6(p) appropriated \$4,000,000 for grants to farmers aimed at enhancing the adoption of cover crops and other soil health practices, with approximately \$197,052 currently unallocated. Furthermore, Section 6(t) authorizes the Board to reallocate funds within this section in order to leverage federal or non-state funds. The reallocation of unobligated funds from the 2021 Clean Water Fund (CWF) Soil Health allocation to the 2021 Accelerated Implementation fund will facilitate the fulfillment of technical oversight responsibilities outlined in RCPP agreement #3053.

Jill Crafton asked what soil resistance means in item number two of the board order. Jared stated its resisting negative impacts such as resiliency. Jill asked if we're getting farmer to farmer help. Tom stated they are doing third party spot checks.

Mark Zabel stated this follows the soil health staffing capacity grant, which has multiple models of delivery. Stated this is focused on the implementation side.

Lori Cox asked who is doing the spot checks. Tom Gile stated they are going through a process with the Department of Admin. and MMB to determine if they need to go out for bid. Lori asked what the recommendation or the requirement is, one year or seasons use. Jared stated for this program, it will be following the local SWCD financial assistance policies.

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25-04

Moved by Rich Sve, seconded by Neil Peterson, to approve the FY 25 Soil Health Practices Grants Authorization. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Chair Holman called a recess at 10:37 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 10:49 a.m.

**Central Region Committee**

**Mississippi River St. Cloud Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan** – Zach Guttormson presented Mississippi River St. Cloud Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

The Mississippi River – St. Cloud Watershed is located in central Minnesota within the Upper Mississippi River Basin. The Mississippi River enters the watershed just upstream of the City of St. Cloud and exits the watershed in Elk River, with the upper reaches designated as Wild & Scenic. The watershed covers 1,080 square miles and varies in land cover. Much of the watershed (54%) is agricultural lands (i.e., cropland and pasture/hayland) but also includes large areas of deciduous forest and emergent wetlands.

Urban areas include the City of St. Cloud, Monticello, and Elk River. The watershed has over 374 lakes and 907 river miles.

The Plan actions generally focus on implementation of best management practices in agricultural and urban areas to address priority issues, development of studies and data collection to better target implementation actions, policy improvements where feasible and timely, and active public outreach and engagement by local partners. The total 10-year estimated cost of Plan implementation is \$102,379,500, of which 82% is budgeted for implementing practices on the ground. Technical Assistance is anticipated to utilize 12% and education/outreach and data, studies, and monitoring will utilize another 4%. The remaining funds will be spent on activities related to policy and regulation and Plan administration.

The Partnership held a 60-day review process that ended on September 6, 2025, and held a public hearing on December 16, 2024, in Becker – a central location within the watershed. The final draft of the updated Plan, all written public comments and responses, and public hearing comments and responses were submitted on December 16, 2024, to the state review agencies and the BWSR Board for the final 90-day review and approval of the Plan.

On January 6, 2025, the Central Region Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. The committee's decision was to recommend approval of the Mississippi River St. Cloud Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan as submitted to the full Board per the attached draft Order.

Jill Crafton thanked them for their work.

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25-05 Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Lori Cox, to approve the Mississippi River St. Cloud Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

#### **Southern Region Committee**

**Approve Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Cottonwood- Middle Minnesota River –**  
Ted Winter and John Shea presented Approve Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Cottonwood- Middle Minnesota River.

The Cottonwood- Middle Minnesota partnership was selected for a 1W1P Planning Grant in August of 2022 and established a Memorandum of Agreement between the planning partners for the purposes of writing a Plan on December 29, 2022. The partners include: The Counties of Brown, Cottonwood, Lyon, Murray, and Redwood and The Brown, Cottonwood, Lyon, Murray and Redwood Soil and Water Conservation Districts, The Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects and Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area Joint Powers Organizations (RCRCA), and the City of Springfield. The 1W1P Planning Grant was executed on February 23, 2023. The Policy Committee was formally established with signing of bylaws on May 17th, 2023. A Request for Proposals (RFP) process was utilized, by invitation from the partnership to contract with a consultant on May 17, 2023. The partnership held a 60-day review process that ended August 30, 2024, and the required public hearing on September 18, 2024. The final draft of the Plan, a record of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments and responses were submitted on October 17, 2024, to the state review agencies. The Southern Committee meet on December 9, 2024 and recommend approval of the Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan to the full BWSR Board.

Joe Collins thought this was a good plan.

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25-06 Moved by Ted Winter, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the Approve Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Cottonwood- Middle Minnesota River. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

### Audit and Oversight Committee

**2024 Performance Review and Assistance Program Legislative Report** – Don Bajumpaa presented 2024 Performance Review and Assistance Program Legislative Report.

BWSR is required to provide a report annually to the legislature on Performance Review and Assistance Program activities as prescribed by Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103B.102, Subdivision 3, effective February 1, 2008. BWSR staff have prepared a report that describes the program activities for 2024, including summaries of the activities of BWSRs local government partners, and goals and objectives for future PRAP activities. The report was presented to and has a recommendation from the BWSR Audit and Oversight Committee for BWSR Board approval.

Joe Collins appreciates Don's PRAP work and its importance.

Jayne Hager Dee would like to see 100% participation.

Lori Cox asked if the audit is yearly for all or biennial for some. Don stated they are annually. Lori asked if the standards for those audits are the same or if they differ. Don stated timelines vary depending on statute.

Mark Zabel stated he would like to see a report of outcomes from the assistance grants in addressing and identifying needs. John Jaschke stated they could put together a summary of what they were for and the outcomes.

Todd Holman thanked Don for his work.

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25-07 Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Ron Staples, to approve the 2024 Performance Review and Assistance Program Legislative Report. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

### Northern Region Committee

**Crow Wing River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan** – Tom Schulz and Ryan Hughes presented Crow Wing River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

The Crow Wing River Watershed (CWRW) is located in north-central Minnesota, where it drains nearly 2,000 square miles with numerous rivers, lakes, and forests. About two-thirds of the watershed is covered in forests or wetlands, which provides water storage, protects surface and groundwater quality, and provides habitat. The other third is productive land used for agriculture. The CWRW has over 400 lakes and 1,600 miles of streams, and many of these support aquatic life and recreation. The watershed includes Becker, Cass, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Morrison, Otter Tail, Todd, and Wadena Counties along with a portion of the White Earth Nation on the northeast corner.

The planning partnership received a grant through the One Watershed, One Plan program in 2021 to begin the process of developing a comprehensive watershed management plan. On December 3, 2024, BWSR received the Plan, a record of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments and responses pertaining to the Plan for final State review. The planning partnership has responded to all comments received during the 60-day review period and incorporated appropriate revisions to the final plan.

BWSR staff completed its review and subsequently found the Plan meets the requirements of Minnesota Statutes and BWSR Policy.

On January 6, 2025, the Northern Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. The Committee's decision was to recommend approval of the Crow Wing River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan as submitted to the full Board per the attached draft Order.

Lori Cox stated in the Executive Summary, the Funding Level 3 description states "Other/Partner funding" and asked if it was to be determined. Ryan stated it is to be determined. Lori asked if there is a timeframe. Ryan stated that is also to be determined.

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25-08 Moved by Thom Petersen, seconded by Tom Schulz, to approve the Crow Wing River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

**Upper Mississippi – Grand Rapids Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan** – Ryan Hughes presented Upper Mississippi – Grand Rapids Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

The Upper Mississippi-Grand Rapids Watershed (UM-GR) is in north-central Minnesota, where it covers 1.3 million acres with numerous rivers, lakes, and forests. It has almost 2,000 miles of rivers and streams, vast amounts of peatlands and wetlands, 625 lakes larger than 10 acres, 79 designated wild rice lakes, and 48 cold water fishery lakes that support fish, like trout and cisco - truly the land of sky-blue waters. It spans five counties: Aitkin, Carlton, Cass, Itasca, and St. Louis. The planning group received a grant through the One Watershed, One Plan program in 2021 to begin the process of developing a comprehensive watershed management plan. On December 2, 2024, BWSR received the Plan, a record of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments and responses pertaining to the Plan for final State review. The planning partnership has responded to all comments received during the 60-day review period and incorporated appropriate revisions to the final plan.

BWSR staff completed its review and subsequently found the Plan meets the requirements of Minnesota Statutes and BWSR Policy.

On January 6, 2025, the Northern Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. The Committee's decision was to recommend approval of the Upper Mississippi – Grand Rapids Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan as submitted to the full Board per the attached draft Order.

Jill Crafton stated she appreciated to see a focus on protection.

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25-09 Moved by Tom Schulz, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the Upper Mississippi – Grand Rapids Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

**Upper/Lower Red Lake Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan** – LeRoy Ose and Ryan Hughes presented Upper/Lower Red Lake Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

The Upper/Lower Red Lake Watershed planning area was approved for a One Watershed, One Plan planning grant at the regularly scheduled meeting of the BWSR on August 16, 2022. The planning partners established a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the purposes of writing a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. The organizations signing the MOA included Beltrami County, Beltrami Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Red Lake Nation, and Red Lake Watershed District. Koochiching County and Koochiching SWCD, Itasca County and Itasca SWCD, and Clearwater County and Clearwater SWCD did not sign the Planning MOA due to the small area of their jurisdiction within the planning area.



The partnership held a 60-day plan review process that ended on September 20, 2024, and held the required public hearing on October 22, 2024. The final draft of the Plan, a record of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments were submitted to the state review agencies on November 26, 2024. The partnership has addressed and documented agency and public comments received throughout the Plan review process.

On January 6, 2025, the Northern Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. The Committee's decision was to recommend approval of the Upper/Lower Red Lake Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan as submitted to the full Board per the attached draft Order.

Jayne Hager Dee stated this plan considered people in this area as a resource with the history and narrative. Stated this stood out and she appreciated it.

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25-10 Moved by LeRoy Ose, seconded by Glenn Skuta, to approve the Upper/Lower Red Lake Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. **Motion passed on a roll call vote.**

**Buffers, Soils, and Drainage Committee**

**Drainage Work Group Recommendation for Minnesota Public Drainage Manual Adoption and Maintenance Plan** – Tom Gile presented Drainage Work Group Recommendation for Minnesota Public Drainage Manual Adoption and Maintenance Plan.

2024 Legislation amended 103B.101 Sub 13 to include BWSR adoption of the Minnesota Public Drainage Manual (MPDM). The original MPDM was created in 1991 and the current web-based version of the MPDM represents the current working version recommended by the Drainage Work Group (DWG) for use. The MPDM does not replace drainage law or create associated rules for public drainage authorities to follow. It does not have legal precedent or authority other than that provided by the drainage law and associated case law. It does attempt to capture current practice, case law, and helpful forms/templates and information that can be utilized by drainage authorities, their key advisors and various stakeholders working with and interested in Chapter 103E public drainage systems. The DWG is a drainage stakeholder group facilitated by BWSR under 103B.101 Subd 13, which fosters mutual understanding and provide recommendations for drainage system management and related water management, including recommendations for updating the drainage law in chapter 103E, the Minnesota Public Drainage Manual, and other related provisions. In October of 2018 the DWG established a process summary which guides its decision-making process which was used to support this recommendation to the BWSR Board.

John Jaschke asked if the word "DRAFT" in the attachment to the board order should be removed. Tom stated the adopted copy will not be a draft and it will be removed.

Jill Crafton asked if this would allow the process to be more efficient and if it's reported to the legislature. Tom stated this piece doesn't have a legislative reporting component to it. It's to ensure there's a process to it.

Ted Winter asked if this will be a tool for people in drainage organizations. Tom stated it is a guidance document and would be utilized by drainage interested parties when it comes to implementation of drainage actions under 103B.

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25-11 Moved by LeRoy Ose, seconded by Glenn Skuta, to approve the Drainage Work Group Recommendation for Minnesota Public Drainage Manual Adoption and Maintenance Plan. **Motion passed on a roll call vote.**

**Drainage Work Group Recommendation for Repeal of 103E.067 (103E Ditch Buffer Annual Reporting)**

– Tom Gile presented Drainage Work Group Recommendation for Repeal of 103E.067 (103E Ditch Buffer Annual Reporting).

The DWG is a drainage stakeholder group facilitated by BWSR under 103B.101 Subd 13 which fosters mutual understanding and provide recommendations for drainage system management and related water management, including recommendations for updating the drainage law in chapter 103E, the Minnesota Public Drainage Manual, and other related provisions. In October of 2018 the DWG established a process summary which guides its decision-making process which was used to support this recommendation to the BWSR Board.

The DWG has reviewed the supporting memo and recommends that the BWSR Board forward it for legislative consideration.

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25-12 Moved by Neil Peterson, seconded by Ron Staples, to approve the Drainage Work Group Recommendation for Repeal of 103E.067 (103E Ditch Buffer Annual Reporting). *Motion passed on a roll call vote.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Minnesota River Collaborative** – Ted Suss and Suzanne Jiwani presented Minnesota River Collaborative.

The Minnesota River Collaborative, now in its eighth year, is made up of individuals and NGOs who come together to support natural resources of the Minnesota River Valley. Their mission is improving and protecting Minnesota’s water and soil resources. They meet weekly where work plans and efforts are coordinated. Members under the umbrella of the Collaborative have formally engaged as intervenors or commenters on several drainage improvement projects and advocated for public policy such as Water Storage funding.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Grants Program and Policy Committee is scheduled for February 10<sup>th</sup> in St. Paul and by MS Teams.
- BWSR Board meeting is scheduled for March 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in St. Paul and by MS Teams.

Chair Holman adjourned the meeting at 12:22 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Todd Holman  
Chair