



Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point
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MEMO

TO: Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Board of Managers
FROM: Randy Anhorn
DATE: February 10, 2020
RE: MAWD 2020 Legislative Reception and Day at the Capitol

Background

MAWD's 2020 Legislative Reception and Day at the Capitol is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18, 2020 and Thursday, March 19, 2020. The schedule of events and 2020 legislative platform is attached.

Unfortunately, our March regular Board meeting is the evening of March 18th, which is when the MAWD legislative briefing is to be held.

The day at the capitol is a time when meetings can be set up with our legislators to present the MAWD platform or other issues of importance to the District. There is also a schedule of legislative committee hearing that you can attend.

While I will not be able participate in the events on March 19th, I would be happy to set up meetings with legislators if you would like to participate.

Registration for the events are \$100 per person prior to March 11th and \$150 there after.

Request

Discuss and determine if any managers are interested in being registered for the event.



Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts
www.mnwatershed.org | mnwatershed@gmail.com

The MAWD Legislative Reception and Day at the Capitol provide MAWD members with a great opportunity to build relationships with legislators and to advance issues important for maximizing the effectiveness of local watershed management entities.

MAWD will formally invite all legislators to join us for the Wednesday evening reception, but follow-up invitations from constituents are helpful.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Location: The DoubleTree Hotel, 411 Minnesota Street, Saint Paul, MN 55101

Wednesday, March 18

9:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. MN Association of Watershed Administrators Meeting (Capitol Region WD)

2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. MAWD Board of Directors Meeting

6:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. MAWD LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

- Overview of the 2020 MAWD legislative platform including talking points
- Presentations by lead agency staff
- Discussions with key legislators and committee chairs
- Training on “Tips and Tricks for Meeting with Legislators”

Thursday, March 19

8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. DAY AT THE CAPITOL (on your own with shuttles provided)

Breakfast will be served from 8:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M. at the Capitol (L’Etoile du Nord Vault Basement)

- Meet with legislators (www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/legdir)
 - Please call your legislators at least one week in advance to schedule appointments.
 - They want to hear and connect with you while you are in town!
- Take a free guided tour of the Capitol (www.mnhs.org/capitol/activities/tours)
- Attend legislative committee hearings
 - Wednesdays 9:45-11:15 a.m. House Environment Policy
 - Wednesdays 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 Senate Environment and Natural Resource Finance
 - Thursdays 9:45 – 11:15 a.m. House Agriculture Finance
 - Thursdays 12:45 – 2:15 p.m. House Environment Finance
 - House Committee Meetings | Senate Committee Meetings

PRIORITY A - TOP 2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The following top priorities have been set by the MAWD Board of Directors for lobbying efforts in 2020.

- 1. Increase the \$250,000 general fund levy limit.**
- 2. Secure a strong bonding allocation for flood hazard mitigation projects.**
- 3. Permit temporary storage of water on DNR land during major flood events.**

PRIORITY B - LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS WE SUPPORT (when led by others)

The following issues are supported by MAWD, but legislative efforts are being led by others.

- Provide limited liability protection to certified commercial salt applicators.
- Reinforce existing rights to maintain and repair public drainage systems as originally built.
- Clarify the responsibility of counties to finance public drainage system projects upon request of a watershed district and/or provide authorization to watershed districts to do their own general obligation bonding.
- Allow artificial water courses that serve as public drainage systems to be classified as a Class 7 Limited Resource Value Water rather than a Class 2 Aquatic Life and Recreation Water when implementing the MN Pollution Control Agency's Tiered Aquatic Life Uses (TALU) standard.
- Obtain stable and reliable funding for an ongoing flood damage reduction program.
- Support efforts of the Minnesota River Congress to increase water storage in the Minnesota River Basin.

ISSUES TO HANDLE ADMINISTRATIVELY

MAWD will continue to work with state agencies to address the following issues:

- Increase allocations of Clean Water Funds that focus on local implementation programs and projects identified in comprehensive watershed management plans such as those written under the One Watershed One Plan Program or MN Statute 103B.201 Metropolitan Surface Water Management Program.
- Ensure watershed organizations are given opportunities to provide input on stormwater reuse standards.

ISSUES TO WATCH AND PLAY DEFENSE (if needed)

MAWD will oppose legislation that negatively impacts the ability of watershed organizations to protect and preserve Minnesota's water resources. Currently, this includes the following bills already in the hopper:

- HF 1887 / SF 1766 – Watershed district provisions modified (a.k.a. “Developer’s Bill of Rights”)
- HF 2314 / SF 2372 – Rice Creek watershed district spending and reporting requirements