

# **MAWD 2015**

# **Annual Meeting**

# **& Trade Show**

**December 3-5, 2015**

Arrowwood Conference Center  
Alexandria, MN

**MINNESOTA  
ASSOCIATION OF  
WATERSHED  
DISTRICTS, INC**



*Land and Water Shall be Preserved*

# ***Your Invitation!***

**Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts  
2015 Annual Meeting & Trade Show  
Arrowwood Conference Center  
December 3-5, 2015**

## **Introduction**

The MAWD 2015 Annual Meeting & Trade Show offers a strong seminar program to meet the needs of watershed district officials, staff and key watershed district partners.

### **MAWD program includes:**

- ◆ *Four general concurrent sessions*
- ◆ *Two technical seminars*
- ◆ *Total of sixteen different seminars*
- ◆ *Four staff development seminars*
- ◆ *Trade Show with over 40 exhibitors*
- ◆ *Thursday evening Welcome Reception*
- ◆ *Door prizes!*
- ◆ *Three pre-conference workshops Thursday, December 3*

# **MAWD 2015**

## **Annual Meeting**

### **& Trade Show**

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# **Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts**

## **2015 Annual Meeting & Trade Show**

**December 3-5, 2015**

Arrowwood Conference Center, Alexandria, MN

### **Registration**

**MAWD Annual Meeting Registration form on page 17 - due November 20**

**Registration fee - \$185.00 per person includes all conference meals for registrant.**

**There is no registration fee for spouses/guests.**

Meal package or banquet tickets for spouse/guest are available on the registration form - page 18.

**Late registration** (postmarked after November 20) fees are **\$200.00** per person.

\$25 processing fee on all refunds. No refunds after November 27, 2015

Arrowwood Conference Center

2100 Arrowwood Lane

Alexandria, MN 56308

Arrowwood Reservation Form

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Hotel Reservation deadline

November 20

### **NOTICE:**

*The MAWD Board wishes to remind members that watershed districts are not permitted to cover expenses for spouses and guests. This is in accordance with recent State Auditor findings and the Minnesota Constitution which states "taxes shall be uniform . . . and shall be levied and collected for public purposes."*

# MAWD 2015 Annual Meeting & Trade Show

## Program Schedule

### Thursday, December 3, 2015

3:00 p.m. Director's Meeting — Executive Board Room II

6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Registration, Trade Show Floor

6:00 - 9:30 p.m. MAWD Trade Show - Tennis Center

#### **7:15 - 8:00 p.m. Concurrent General Session I**

##### ***Seminar A: Runoff Based Charges for Public Drainage and Basic Water Management Projects***

The Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) has recently utilized runoff-based charges in lieu of traditional viewing and redetermination of benefits to fund their public drainage system repairs. Runoff based charges not only can be less expensive to develop and administer and more timely to implement, but also can be developed to reflect future changes in land use and benefits provided by the system and the project. This presentation will demonstrate case studies of the RCWD's implementation of runoff based charges through a water management district, and describe how this charge system can be applied to other watershed district projects.

Presenters: Phil Belfiori, Administrator, Rice Creek Watershed District  
John C. Kolb, Attorney, Rinke Noonan  
Chris Otterness, P.E., Houston Engineering, Inc.

##### ***Seminar B: Multi-variable stream ranking system designed to focus restoration efforts on the most degraded areas across the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District***

Prioritizing creek restoration projects can be challenging, especially when reaches span multiple, and/or interacting waterbodies. The Creek Restoration Action Strategy (CRAS) is a tool for identifying stream reaches in greatest need of restoration, beginning with consistent assessment of creek conditions. In developing the CRAS, eight important prioritization categories were identified and grouped into two tiers: Tier I - infrastructure risk, channel stability, public education, ecological benefits, and water quality; Tier II - project cost, partnerships, and watershed benefits. Tier I assessment utilizes primarily field data and is applied at all reaches. Priority reaches identified by Tier I assessment then undergo Tier II ranking to collect additional information and rank stream sub-reaches in combination with Tier I results. This tool is being implemented across three creeks within the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District, and will allow the district to focus efforts on high-benefit projects in a cost-effective manner.

Presenters: Joshua Maxwell, District Technician II/Compliance Officer, Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District

##### ***Seminar C: Ravine Erosion, Baseflow and Private Property: An Urban Stormwater Management Trifecta***

With a State Clean Water Fund Grant, Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) stabilized four ravines east of Saint Paul's Highland Park in fall 2014. The Highland Ravine Stabilization Project is located within a 100-foot woodland bluff in Saint Paul that had several incised, eroded ravines as well as baseflow from groundwater seeps. Slope instability caused periodic residential property damage, polluted the Mississippi River, and prompted residents to petition CRWD to address the issues. The stabilization plan used a combination of bioengineering and traditional engineering techniques including rock grade control structures; brush bundles and vegetated rip-rap; pipes on the steepest slopes; revegetation with native plants; and a stormwater basin. CRWD estimates the project reduces annual sediment loads by more than 30 tons and total phosphorus loads by 10 pounds. Project challenges included wet, muddy conditions due to constant groundwater seepage and securing permission from and coordinating with private homeowners.

Presenter: Anna Eleria, Capitol Region Watershed District

(Thursday, December 3 continued)

**Seminar D – Staff Development: Technology, the new BMP: Utilizing real-time automated controls to minimize cost and maximize performance of a flood control BMP**

Through permitting, grants, and capital projects CRWD has participated in the construction of over 1,000 BMPs. As more BMPs are installed, it becomes more challenging to manage the vast amounts of associated information. To address this issue, CRWD created a BMP database that manages project information and streamlines District operations.

The goal of the BMP database is to have one location where staff could access and enter project/BMP information. Since the database is web-based, it can be accessed from anywhere, including mobile devices. Multiple BMPs can be added for each project, and BMP data and types are customized by CRWD. Project search/querying functions allow users to quickly find the project they're looking for, or identify project by program type, year, or location. Relevant documents such as construction plans or legal agreements can be uploaded so they are accessible in the field. The database is also used to quickly generate standard documents like reports or letters that would have required more staff time.

CRWD is able to use the database as an inspection management tool for all permit, grant, and capital projects. Staff can complete electronic inspection forms in the field including photographs and information is automatically synced with the database. A private landscaping company hired to maintain some of CRWD's BMPs uses a mobile device to document issues that require staff attention. The dashboard on the database allows staff to view documented issues (text and photos) so they can quickly respond. By keeping data organized, accessible, and taking advantage of opportunities provided by technology, CRWD's BMP database has greatly improved data management and streamlined staff processes.

Presenter: Nate Zwonitzer, CRWD

# Welcome Reception

8:00 PM Trade Show Floor

## Exhibitors, food and prizes

Friday, December 4, 2015

- 7:30 a.m. Resolutions Committee Meeting
- 8:00 a.m. Registration - Trade Show Floor
- 8:00 a.m. MAWD Trade Show - Tennis Center
- 7:00 - 9:00 a.m. Breakfast Buffet - Tennis Center

**8:00 a.m. Plenary Session – Panel Session**  
***“Presentation and Analysis of Minnesota’s New Buffer Law”***

Moderator: Craig Leiser, MAWD Board  
Panel Members:  
John Jaschke, Director, BWSR,  
Kurt Deter, Rinke Noonan,  
Warren Formo, Executive Director, MN Agriculture Water Resources Center  
Sarah Strommen, Assistant Commissioner, MN DNR

(Friday, December 4 continued)

- 9:15 a.m.      **MAWD Business Meeting**  
Presiding - President Lee Coe  
\* President's Report, Lee Coe  
\* Secretary's Report, Linda Vavra  
\* Treasurer's Report, Craig Leiser  
\* Presentation of 2016 Recommended Budget, Craig Leiser  
\* BWSR Report, John Jaschke, Director

9:15 - 10:00 a.m.    **Concurrent Association of District Administrators Technical Sessions**

***Tech Session I - Application of HSPF Model Results in the Development of Contribution-Based Fees for Water Management Units in the Sauk River Watershed District***

Watershed districts have the authority to fund projects based on benefits or contributions to water quality issues through the development of water management units. In the Sauk River Watershed District, a framework was developed to calculate runoff coefficients with a Hydrological Simulation Program—FORTRAN (HSPF) model that takes into account land use, soils, and slope. Using GIS, coefficients were calculated for each land use within a parcel from the calibrated HSPF model. All coefficients were area weighted to the entire parcel to determine relative contributions to surface water runoff and phosphorus loads within a management unit. Project costs addressing volume or phosphorus loads can be distributed based on this relative contribution. A coefficient generator and fee calculation tool allows the user to develop and customize a fee schedule from calculated coefficients and a series of GIS tools allows parcel and land use changes to be incorporated without rerunning the HSPF model.

Presenter:      Paul W. Senne M.P.A., Geographic Information Specialist, RESPEC Consulting & Services

***Tech Session II Common Misconceptions Regarding the Use of Aluminum Sulfate (Alum) in Lakes***

The use of aluminum sulfate or alum in lakes started in the 1970's to reduce or eliminate internal phosphorus release from sediments that can lead to nuisance algae levels. Over the past four decades, there have been numerous advances in the science of using alum in lakes including more specific dosing calculations, improved understanding of the fate of aluminum in the sediments, and case studies documenting the long term results of the treatments. However, there are still common misconceptions about the use of alum in lakes, its safety, and its long term effectiveness. Some of the more common misconceptions include: 1. Alum treatments are overly expensive and not effective for the long term, 2. Alum treatments are not effective in shallow lakes, 3. Alum treatments should not be considered until the watershed load is addressed, and 4. Alum treatments are not safe for humans or biological organisms. Each of these misconceptions can lead to delays in the appropriate use of alum that prevents short and long term benefits to the lake. With proper planning, these benefits can be realized in the near term to the advantage of lake users. This presentation addresses these misconceptions, summarizes the current science, and offers suggestions on how these issues can be addressed when considering the use of alum in lakes.

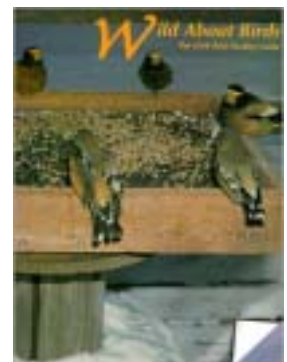
Presenters:      Joe Bischoff, Wenck Associates, Inc.,  
                         Brian Beck, Wenck Associates, Inc.

9:30 a.m.      ***Spouses Seminar:***

***Wild about Birds: The DNR Bird Feeding Guide***

Carrol Henderson, supervisor of the Minnesota Department of Nongame Wildlife, has kindled citizen interest in bird care by authoring five books for the DNR, including "Landscaping for Wildlife," "Woodworking for Wildlife," "Wild About Birds: The DNR Bird Feeding Guide," and "Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality." The session emphasis will be the best food and care to keep the Minnesota bird population healthy and plentiful.

"If you can show people what they can do on their own property, they'll do it," Henderson said. "People say it's changed their lives."





(Friday, December 4 continued)

- 10:00 a.m. Break - MAWD Trade Show Floor - Tennis Center
- 10:30 a.m. 2015 Resolutions Committee Report
- 11:30 a.m. Regional Caucuses  
Administrators Meeting
- 12:15 p.m. Buffet Luncheon - Tennis Center  
Keynote Address - Michael Simpson  
DNR Watershed District of the Year Award  
BWSR Watershed District Employee of the Year

## Keynote address

*Michael Simpson, Center for Climate Preparedness and Community Resilience  
Preparing communities for an Uncertain Future in Light of a Changing Landscape and Climate*

Michael Simpson, Director, Center for Climate Preparedness and Community Resilience; Chair, Environmental Studies Department; Director, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Concentration, ES Master's Degree. Michael has been a senior environmental scientist and partner for two environmental consultant firms in the Northeast. He has also worked for both the NH Dept. of Environmental Services and the MA Dept. of Environmental Protection. He is a licensed wetlands scientist with over twenty-five years experience in wetland and riparian corridor assessments, employing a variety of assessment approaches and data collection procedures. Much of his research has been funded by NOAA and the US EPA; it focuses on working with local stakeholders to identify potential risks from projected climate and land-use change, followed by developing an adaptation strategy for communities to build for projected impacts. Currently, he is the Chair of the Environmental Studies Department at Antioch University New England. He has graduate degrees from Dartmouth College and Antioch University New England.



1:30 p.m. Break - MAWD Trade Show Floor

**2:00 – 2:45 p.m. Concurrent General Session II**

### ***Seminar A – Grand Marais Creek Outlet Restoration Project***

Six miles of natural stream habitat on Grand Marais Creek, were bypassed with a legal drainage ditch in the early 1900s which resulted in the complete loss of six miles of riverine and riparian corridor habitat, and diminished opportunities for fish passage to and from the Red River and Grand Marais Creek. This project restored six miles of natural channel and also restored a range of stream flows with a flow diversion structure that will be operated to sustain aquatic habitat conditions in the channel and nearly 400 acres of wetland and prairie habitat restoration, which were abandoned and mostly farmed for the past 50+ years. This project restored seasonal spawning and juvenile habitat to a variety of fish species, and various species of waterfowl. The \$6 million project involved a cooperative effort from several local, state and federal partners.

Presenter: Myron Jesme, Administrator/Red Lake Watershed District,  
Jeff Langan, PE/Houston Engineering Inc.



(Friday, December 4 continued)

***Seminar B: U2U Decision Tools: Incorporating Climate Information for Cropping Decisions***

Weather and climate patterns are a driving force behind the success or failure of Corn Belt cropping systems. Useful to Usable (U2U) is an integrated research and extension project working to improve farm resilience and profitability in the North Central U.S. by transforming existing climate data into usable products for the agricultural community. Our goal is to help producers make better long-term plans on what, when and where to plant, and also how to manage crops for maximum yields and minimum environmental damage. The presentation will explore the suite of decision tools that have been created in the project and examine the range of decisions that can be impacted by the tools.

Presenters: Chad Hart, Associate Professor of Economics/Extension Economist, Iowa State University

***Seminar C – CHS Field – Hitting a Home Run for Stormwater***

Construction of the new Lowertown Ballpark (CHS Field), home of the St. Paul Saints minor league baseball team, presented unique and challenging opportunities for stormwater management. A partnership between the City of Saint Paul, Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD), and Metropolitan Council resulted in a suite of BMPs that exceed water quality requirements and create educational opportunities for the expected 400,000 annual ballpark visitors. Learn how runoff was managed differently, including installation of the state's first municipal re-use system for indoor use.

A 27,000 gallon cistern collects rainwater runoff for irrigation and flushing toilets. Other BMPs onsite include rain gardens, filtration swales, tree trenches with engineered Stockholm soil, and underground storage/ filtration. BMPs reduce sediment load to the Mississippi River by over 90%. The presenters will review site constraints and how they were addressed, examine design features of the BMPs, highlight lessons learned and discuss what made the project a success.

Presenter: Nate Zwonitzer, Urban BMP Specialist, Capitol Region Watershed District

***Seminar D: Staff Development: Conservation Easement Planning***

Your organization has successfully obtained permanent conservation easements as part of your program. Now what? This presentation will cover the basics of conservation easement stewardship, including the steps involved in annual monitoring of conservation easements and resolution of challenges and violations. A successful easement stewardship program requires good documentation and policies, but also includes good landowner relations and consistency. Come with questions about particular issues or challenges you may have encountered.

Presenter: Maggie Karschnia, Water Resources Projects Manager, Prior Lake-Spring Lake WD

**2:45 - 3:15 p.m. Break - MAWD Trade Show Floor**

**3:15 - 4:00 p.m. Concurrent General Session III**

***Seminar A: Invasive carp deterrence and its effect on lake water quality in SRRWD***

The session covers water quality and invasive fish species. It will describe three electrical deterrence systems in Shell Rock River Watershed and how carp control has led to improved water quality conditions in the Albert Lea chain of lakes. Also discussed would be two new barriers in the watershed that completed construction this past summer, their objectives and innovations.

Presenters: Andy Henschel, Shell Rock River WD  
Jason Kent, Smith-Root, Inc

***Seminar B: Minnesota's New Buffer Law – Drainage Authorities Perspective with Q & A***

Hear what drainage authorities are saying about the new buffer law. Where does this law apply ... who must administer it?? Who pays the cost of implementation? Why is it tied to local plans? How are the public waters maps going to be developed? What is the risk of having our programs and projects defunded by the State?? Who enforces this new law ..... believe it or not, these are just some of the questions local governments are faced with under this new law. You will be interested in the answers to these questions and many more!

Presenter: Kurt Deter, Rinke-Noonan  
Myron Jesme, Red Lake Watershed District  
Ray Bohn, MAWD

(Friday, December 4 continued)

***Seminar C: Brown's Creek State Trail: A Partnership in Restoration, Protection and Stewardship***

Brown's Creek State Trail, is a newly constructed 5.9 mile trail connecting the Gateway State Trail in the City of Grant to the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway in downtown Stillwater. Situated on a former railroad grade which abuts portions of Brown's Creek, a designated trout stream, the conversion to a paved trail system posed unique challenges for both the DNR and the Brown's Creek Watershed District. Over the course of the project a relationship developed which focused on clear and effective communication, trust and collaboration. This relationship facilitated improvements to the quality of water being discharged to Brown's Creek, increased habitat along the corridor, resulted in a more efficient expenditure of public funds and broadened appreciation for the State's natural resources by a greater audience.

Presenters: Karen Kill, BCWD District Administrator  
Kevin Biehn, Emmons & Olivier Resources  
Derek Lash, Emmons & Olivier Resources

***Seminar D: Staff Development: SAM V2 targeting tool leverages statewide HSPF models for efficient watershed planning***

Last year the beta-version of Scenario Application Manager (SAM) was demonstrated. SAM v2 greatly increases functionality, has an enhanced user interface, and allows for the tool to be applied to HSPF modeled watersheds statewide. SAM v2 includes the ability to manipulate land-use, greatly enhancing protection planning efforts. SAM uses the results of calibrated HSPF models, which the MPCA is currently developing throughout Minnesota. Therefore the reduction estimates tie directly into many current watershed implementation efforts. SAM's newly updated, user-friendly interface allows resource managers to select BMPs and develop implementation plans that optimize measurable pollutant reductions and include associated, customizable costs. BMP scenarios can be evaluated for effectiveness and the results used to support funding requests. SAM consists of an ArcGIS map interface for site selection, Hydrologic Simulation Program – Fortran (HSPF) model application to simulate the transport and fate of pollutants, and a BMP database to estimate pollutant removals and costs.

Presenters: Julie Blackburn, Minnesota Area Manager, RESPEC  
Emily Javens, Project Manager, RESPEC  
Kerry Netzke, Area II

4:00 – 4:15 Break – Downstairs Lobby

**4:15- 5:00 p.m. - Concurrent General Session IV**

***Session A: Sequential watershed monitoring for targeted BMP implementation***

Sequential watershed monitoring was used to focus BMP implementation efforts on phosphorus hotspots in the Moody Lake watershed in the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District, Minnesota. Flow, phosphorus, and iron were monitored and modeled using FLUX along two main tributaries of Moody Lake. Results indicated that two-thirds of the total phosphorus load originated from just 25% of the total watershed area. In addition, the phosphorus from this small area of the watershed was more bioavailable for algae growth as shown by low iron to phosphorus ratios and high fractions of reactive phosphorus. This monitoring data was used to select locations of four wetland rehabilitation BMPs that will treat 66% of the total watershed load and target the reduction of reactive phosphorus unlike buffer and sedimentation basin BMPs. Understanding the distribution of phosphorus quality and quantity throughout the Moody lake watershed improved BMP cost-effectiveness by focusing implementation efforts on phosphorus hotspots.

Presenters: Meghan Funke, PhD – Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc.

(Friday, December 4 continued)

***Seminar B: The Case for a Minnesota River Basin Commission***

Minnesota's "watershed approach" fails to link implementation to water quality/quantity goals for major rivers. The lower Minnesota River is a case in point. River flows and sediment loads have doubled over the past 65 years. The Lower Minnesota River Watershed District needs to coordinate with upstream watersheds to meet its responsibilities for the lower 33 miles of the river. The District has developed a proposal for a Minnesota River Basin Commission. Key functions include: · Establish basin-level priorities for water management and project funding · Solicit and review biennial budget requests from the 13 major watershed in the basin · Submit a 5-year plan, including funding requirements to the Minnesota Legislature; A funding mechanism such as a levy or tax is key to the success of the basin commission. Local governments would have "skin in the game"; commission funds would match long-term funding from Lessard-Sams, the Clean Water Fund and potentially other sources.

Presenters: District Managers - Len Kremer, Yvonne Shirk and Michael Murphy

***Seminar C: Addressing Low Dissolved Oxygen in Minnesota Streams***

Many of Minnesota's streams ditched and straightened streams are impaired because of low dissolved oxygen (DO) which can reduce habitat for fish and macroinvertebrates. The only streams to be de-listed for DO in Minnesota have been the result of waste water treatment plant alterations or dam removals. Addressing low DO in these systems without point sources or obstructions is not well understood. Lessons learned about the drivers of DO impairment from DO TMDL's across Minnesota are explored as well as a restoration case study to illustrate causes and solutions. The case study is restoration of the Clearwater River and an adjacent 465-acre wetland complex.

Presenters: Rebecca Kluckhohn- Wenck Associates, Inc.  
Wes Boll- Wenck Associates, Inc.  
Cole Loewen – Clearwater River Watershed District

***Session D: Staff Development: "Data" Is Not a Four-Letter Word***

Watershed district managers and employees know the state Data Practices Act makes most of their reports, emails, notes and other documents available to the public. State law also requires compilation and preservation of a record of public work. The confluence of these legal drivers often leads to overflowing in-boxes and desks stacks with feasibility study drafts and old inspection notes. This session will provide practical advice on managing data in the public realm, providing much coveted freedom to delete.

Presenters: Michael Welch – Smith Partners  
Erica Sniegowski, Nine Mile Creek WD, Education/Outreach Coordinator

6:00 p.m. Social Hour (Cash Bar)

7:00 p.m. Association Banquet  
MAWD Awards  
Entertainment

## Saturday, December 5, 2015

7:00- 9:00 a.m. Breakfast Buffet

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Plenary Session:

### *One Watershed / One Plan --- Lessons Learned*

This session will include an update from BWSR on the One Watershed/One Plan legislation and pilot programs taking place around the state. In addition, you will hear from WD administrators who have been involved in One Watershed/One Plan from its inception. Also hear about the lessons learned in the ongoing One Watershed/One Plan pilot programs.

BWSR was awarded an additional \$4 million dollars this past session to continue to work with local governments to make the One Watershed/One Plan program a reality.

#### **A Panel Discussion:**

Barb Haake, MAWD Board, Moderator

#### **Panel Members:**

Melissa Lewis, BWSR

Matt Moore, Administrator, South Washington County WD

Myron Jesme, Adminstrator, Red Lake WD

Tara Ostendorf, Administrator, North Fork Crow River WD

### 10:15 a.m. **MAWD Business Meeting (Continued)**

Presiding – President Lee Coe

- \* MAWD Administrative Report – Ray Bohn, MAWD Coordinator
- \* MAWD 2016 Budget Approval
- \* Region Reports
- \* Watershed District Administrators Report – Kevin Bigalke
- \* Final Report on Attendance – Ray Bohn
- \* Audit Committee Report – Craig Leiser, Treasurer
- \* MAWD 2016 Annual Meeting

# 2015 MAWD PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Arrowwood Conference Center - Alexandria  
Thursday, December 3 - 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

*For Managers, Administrators, Staff, Key Partners and local and state government officials*

Name/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Pre-Conference Seminar Registration - Please return this form before November 20.

Please select one seminar

Includes workshop, registration packet, coffee breaks and lunch.

- |                          |  |       |
|--------------------------|--|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Minnesota Drainage Workshop                            | \$85  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Basic Watershed Board Management Workshop              | \$85  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Community Response to Changing Landscapes and Climate: | \$100 |

**Total Due** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Credit card registration at [mnwatershed.org](http://mnwatershed.org)

**Advanced Registration** is recommended - on-site registration subject to availability.

**Lodging:** Rooms reserved (one night \$95.57 with tax) for Wednesday, December 2, 2015 at Arrowwood  
Phone: 320-762-1124 for reservations. Please reference the MAWD Pre-Conference Sessions.

**Cancellations:** Refund only if cancellation received by November 27, 2015. Substitutes may be sent.

Registration questions please call 651-452-8506 or email: [pegbohn@gmail.com](mailto:pegbohn@gmail.com).

# 2015 MAWD Pre-Conference Session

Arrowwood Conference Center - Alexandria  
Thursday, December 3 - 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

## ***Community Response to Changing Landscapes and Climate: Identifying Barriers and Opportunities for Adaptation Planning in our Watersheds***

### Summary

The Midwest region is experiencing more frequent and intense rainfall events, and climate models predict this trend will continue in the future. Understanding tools and techniques that facilitate adaptation planning at a community level is the first step towards increasing resilience to changing landscapes and climate. This interactive workshop will provide practical information on how to,

- a) assess vulnerability under both existing and future precipitation conditions,
- b) identify adaptation strategies to mitigate impacts and risk,
- c) manage uncertainty associated with modeling future conditions, and
- d) effectively communicate technical information to local stakeholders and decision-makers to promote adaptation planning.

Attendees will leave with a better understanding of the need for action, the knowledge and resources required to act, and skills for empowering decision-makers in their community.

### Who should attend:

Participants in this workshop include those involved in watershed management, stormwater management, community development and redevelopment, municipal operations, design professionals, developers, contractors, policy makers, and others concerned about local adaptation planning.

### Presenters:

**Michael Simpson** - Director, Center for Climate Preparedness and Community Resilience; Chair, Environmental Studies Department; Director, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Concentration, Antioch University New England.

**Leslie Yetka** – Education Manager and Extension Educator, University of Minnesota Extension and the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

***NOTE: Space is limited to 30 participants - register now***

**Register on page 13**

# 2015 MAWD Pre-Conference Session

Arrowwood Conference Center - Alexandria  
Thursday, December 3 - 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

## Basic Watershed Board Management Workshop

Watershed Districts are an interesting blend of missions and authorities. Understanding how they fit into the big picture is critical to new managers. Your organization has broad powers to tackle issues the citizenry has determined other governments either cannot, or will not, address.

It's a big deal...and as a new manager, it is now your responsibility.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

(Kevin Bigalke)

### **Watershed Districts, BWSR, and the World**

(Melissa Lewis)

Your WD is just one organization in a world full of state, federal, non-profit, citizen, and municipal interests with their own mandate to work for the public good.

### **Watershed Districts' Legal Powers and Purposes**

(Louis Smith)

Managers have their own compact chapter of law - MN Statutes Ch. 103D. This overview of the structure and content will demystify the nuances it contains. Whether or not your WD regulates, you'll hear some specifics about your powers to compel individuals or other government to do things.

### **Government Basics – the Open Meeting Law, Data Practices Act** (Louis Smith)

The public and private sectors operate differently. (Hold secret strategy meetings if you want to learn the hard way...) Ethics, open meeting laws, and other board responsibilities will be explored.

### **Your Role as Leader**

(Melissa Lewis)

Your county appointed you to the Board and probably expects you to make sure the organization does more than just exist. There are a few skills that will help you make your organization excel.

### **Watershed District and Consultant Relationships**

(Kevin Bigalke & Matt Moore)

Relationships between watershed district's and consultants will be discussed. Topics will include consultant selection process, project management, and consultant management.

### **The Value of Your Watershed Management Plan**

(Bob Fossum)

Every organization on the planet from the Cub Scouts to the US Army has some sort of strategic plan to guide them. WD plans set priorities, outline tactics, and explain where the tax money will come from.

### **What Haven't We Covered?**

We have covered many required topic areas. There are still others that contribute to the art of "boardsmanship". Any remaining time before we adjourn will be used to address questions you still have and to share a few stories from the trenches...

*Melissa Lewis* Water Plan and Policy Coordinator, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

*Louis Smith* Attorney, Smith Partners, a firm offering water law and policy expertise

*Kevin Bigalke* Administrator, Nine Mile Creek Watershed District

*Matt Moore* Administrator, South Washington Watershed District

*Bob Fossum* Program Manager, Capitol Region Watershed District

**Register on page 13**



# 2015 MAWD Pre-Conference Session

Arrowwood Conference Center - Alexandria  
Thursday, December 3 - 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

## Minnesota Drainage Workshop

8:00 a.m. **Registration**

9:00 a.m. **Current Drainage Law Practice Issues**

*Presenter: Kurt Deter, Rinke Noonan, Attorneys at Law*

Recent trends and issues from a drainage attorney perspective, including EPA definition of waters of the U.S. and the Minnesota buffer law.

10:00 **Break**

10:15 a.m. **Buffer Law Panel Discussion with Perspective Summaries and Q & A**

*Panelists: John Jaschke, BWSR; Sarah Strommen, DNR; Warren Formo, MAWRC; Kurt Deter, R-N*

An overview and discussion about the new Minnesota buffer law, including key provisions, implementation status and topics of discussion by agencies, landowners, producer groups and drainage authorities. (e.g. Buffer Protection Maps, financial assistance, roles)

12 Noon **Lunch**

1:00 p.m. **Update of the Minnesota Public Drainage Manual**

*Presenters: Tim Gillette, BWSR; Larry Kramka, Houston Engineering, Inc.*

The team of Houston Engineering, Inc. and Rinke Noonan, Attorneys at Law are leading the update project with BWSR. Overview of project advisory committee and subcommittee input during update development, as well as current status and next steps.

1:30 p.m. **CWF Multipurpose Drainage Management Grants Program**

*Presenters: Tim Gillette, BWSR; Al Kean, BWSR*

BWSR rolled out this new Clean Water Fund program in FY 2015 with several unique aspects. Brief overview of the program, unique aspects, applications received and next steps.

1:45 p.m. **Current Drainage Work Group Discussion Topics**

*Presenter: Al Kean, BWSR*

Brief summary of the current topics of discussion and direction.

2:00 p.m. **Break**

2:15 p.m. **Terrain Analysis and Potential Application to Runoff-based Drainage Assessments**

*Presenter: Charles Fritz, Director, International Water Institute*

Overview and discussion of GIS terrain analysis methods developed by or through the IWI and Houston Engineering, Inc. for various applications in the Red River Basin and Minnesota, including potential application to runoff-based option(s) for redetermination of benefits.

3:15 p.m. **Current Conservation Drainage Practices Research and Demonstration**

*Presenters: Mark Dittrich, MDA; Heidi Peterson, MDA*

An overview of current research, demonstration and results to date for saturated buffers, woodchip bioreactors, and controlled subsurface drainage practices in Minnesota and the Midwest regarding denitrification and other water quality effects.

4:00 p.m. **Conclusion**

**Register on page 13**

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts  
**2015 Annual Meeting & Trade Show**

**Registration & Meal Form**

**DUE: NOVEMBER 20, 2015** Please use one form per party:  
 Copy as needed. Names of all attendees must be submitted.

- Skip the mailman and register online at [www.mnwatershed.org](http://www.mnwatershed.org)

**December 3-5, 2015**

**Arrowwood Conference Center**

2100 Arrowwood Lane, Alexandria, MN 56308

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title (manager, commissioner, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name of spouse/guest (no registration fee) \_\_\_\_\_

**2015**  
 ■■■■■■■■  
 All meals are included in registration fee!  
 Spouse meal package for purchase

- ADA Meeting (Administrators Only) = \$ 25.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Registration \$185.00 per person = \$185 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 this includes all meals for the registrant
  - Spouse meal package - all conference meals = \$ 85.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Banquet only = \$ 35.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - (Late registrations postmarked after Nov. 20, 2015 = \$200.00 per person)
  - \$25 refund processing fee before Nov. 27. No refunds after November 27, 2015.
- Registration and spouse meal total \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

- Register online at [www.mnwatershed.org](http://www.mnwatershed.org)

Please make check payable to Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts and return with this form by November 20 to:

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts  
 540 Diffley Road  
 St. Paul, MN 55123

Questions: phone: 651-452-8506 or email [pegbohn@gmail.com](mailto:pegbohn@gmail.com)

# Hotel Reservation Form

December 3-5, 2015 - Arrowwood Conference Center

**Please note:** Please register for the MAWD Annual Meeting on the Registration Form.  
**This form does not register you for the MAWD Annual Meeting.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send completed form to Arrowwood by November 20, 2015.**

(Phone reservations not accepted - fax or mail only.)

Send to: 2100 Arrowwood Lane, Alexandria, MN 56308 Fax: 320-762-0133 Phone: 866-386-5263

**Lodging** - deadline November 20, 2015 • One form per party please - copy as needed.

- Please select **one room plan per party**.
- The room rates are for 1-4 persons
- All guest rooms are now non-smoking
- Big Splash Indoor Water Park discount tickets at \$10 per person per day are available for MAWD.

**Lodging I** Thursday and Friday - December 3-4 \$191.14

**Lodging II** One night only \$95.57

**Townhouse units:** per bedroom/night plus tax \$95.57

Select Unit Type desired:  3 bedroom/3bath  4 bedroom/3bath  
(No elevators. Specify a first floor unit)

**Guaranteed Payment:** \_\_\_ Visa/MasterCard \_\_\_ American Express \_\_\_ Other

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

All rooms must be guaranteed. Individual reservations cancelled within 72 hours of the scheduled arrival date will be charged one night lodging on the date of cancellation. Check-in time is 4:00 PM. Checkout time is 12:00 noon.





*Land and Water Shall be Preserved*

540 Diffley Road

St. Paul, MN 55123-1601

# **Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts**

## **2015 Annual Meeting & Trade Show**

### **December 3-5, 2015**

#### **2015 MAWD Pre-Conference Sessions - December 3, 2015**

- **Minnesota Drainage Workshop**
- **Basic Watershed Board Management Workshop**
- **Community Response to Changing Landscapes and Climate: Identifying Barriers and Opportunities for Adaptation Planning in our Watersheds**