



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

MEMO

To: BCWMC Commissioners
From: Laura Jester, Administrator
Date: January 9, 2019

RE: Updates on Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) and Metro MAWD

I have been in contact with MAWD's Executive Director, Emily Javens, and the coordinator of Metro MAWD, Mark Doneux. I have the following updates and recommendations.

1. Next MAWD event = Legislative Reception (afternoon/evening of Feb 20th), and Day at the Capitol (breakfast and all day Feb 21st). Cost is \$100/participant (increases to \$125 after Feb 13th).
 - a. No agenda yet available
 - b. Afternoon session (Feb 20th) to hear, learn, and review MAWD's legislative priorities
 - c. Evening reception with legislators (Feb 20th) Each organization is encouraged to invite their own representatives.
 - d. Breakfast Feb 21st (coincides with BCWMC meeting day) and meetings with individual legislators. Meetings are arranged by each organization's staff or board members.
 - e. Some additional information is available online and the agenda will be available by the end of January: <https://www.mnwatershed.org/legislative-breakfast-day-at-the-capitol/>.
2. MAWD appoints 4 watershed administrators to represent them on the State's Local Government Water Roundtable's Advisory Committee. The MAWD Board of Directors is inviting the BCWMC Administrator hold one of those positions in 2019. This would entail attending 3 to 4 meetings during the year, which may rotate to different areas of the State. This Advisory Committee has been an influential group in the past, having been tasked with developing white papers to inform State policy on watershed planning, management, and funding. The Commission should determine whether or not to accept this position and send me to the meetings. My time would be covered under the Administrator budget line. There may be travel and lodging costs to attend non-metro meetings. These potential costs are unknown.
3. BCWMC Commissioners will be added to the Metro MAWD email list and can expect emails from coordinator Mark Doneux (Capitol Region Watershed District Administrator).
4. Next Metro MAWD meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 29th at 7:00 p.m. at the Capitol Region Watershed District Office in St. Paul. The meeting is geared for watershed managers and commissioners. I do plan to attend this meeting to learn more about the group. Metro MAWD meetings are typically held on the evening of the third Tuesday once a quarter. (January meeting was delayed a week for various reasons.) Future meeting dates this year = April 16, July 16, October 15. Agendas and past meeting materials are available here: <https://www.mnwatershed.org/metro-mawd/>.
5. An invoice for 2019 MAWD member dues of \$500 will be on the February BCWMC agenda. Dues for 2020 are still unknown but are likely to be around \$5,000.