

Memo

DATE: July 1, 2019
TO: MAWD Members
FROM: Sherry Davis White, Resolutions Committee Chair
RE: 2019 Request for Resolutions

It is that time of year for MAWD members to submit their policy recommendations through our resolutions process. Here are the next steps and timeline:

July / August	Districts discuss and approve resolutions at their local board meetings
September 1	Deadline to submit resolutions and background information documents to the MAWD office at emily@mnwatershed.org
Mid-October	Resolutions Committee will review resolutions, garner further information when necessary, discuss and make recommendations on them to the membership
November	Resolutions (along with committee feedback) will be emailed to each district by the end of October. Districts should discuss the resolutions at their November meetings and decide who will be voting on their behalf at the annual meeting.
Dec 5 – Dec 6	Discussion and voting to take place at annual meeting
December / January	Legislative Committee will meet to formulate a recommendation to the MAWD Board of Directors for the 2019 legislative platform based on existing and new resolutions
January	MAWD Board of Directors will finalize the 2019 legislative platform

Resolutions passed by the membership at the annual meeting will remain MAWD policy for five years upon which time they will sunset.

See the enclosed lists for resolutions that are active and those that have been archived.

Tips and tricks for writing resolutions and getting them passed can be found on our website at www.mnwatershed.org/s/July17_Resolutions101.pdf

Please feel free to contact me or our Executive Director Emily Javens if you have any questions at emily@mnwatershed.org or (651) 440-9407.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS IN OUR POLICY DEVELOPMENT!

Background Information

2019 MAWD Resolution

Proposing District: _____

Contact Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Resolution Title: _____

Background that led to the submission of this resolution:

Ideas for how this issue could be solved:

Anticipated support or opposition from other governmental units?

This issue is of importance to (Check one)

The entire state _____

Only our region _____

Only our district _____

Active MAWD Resolutions

July 1, 2019



FUNDING ISSUES

2018-02 Increase or Remove the \$250k General Fund Tax Levy Limit

MAWD supports legislation to increase or remove the \$250,000 general fund ad valorem tax levy limit set in MN statute 103D.905 subd. 3. If the limit is raised to a new dollar amount, MAWD supports an inflationary adjustment be added to statute.

2017-05 Increase the General Fund Levy Cap for the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District

MAWD supports the efforts of Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District to draft and advance special legislation affecting a change in its general fund levy cap.

2017-06 Provide Stable Funding for the Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) Program

MAWD support requesting the MN Legislature to provide stable funding for the DNR FDR program. A suggested sustainable level of funding is \$25 million per year for the next 10 years.

2016-03 Tax Law Treatment of Conservation Easements

MAWD pursue a legislative initiative to define “riparian buffer” for purposes of conservation easements in state tax code and to establish an administrative procedure whereby a watershed organization would certify, for purposes of section 273.117, a conservation easement or restriction as meeting the water quantity and quality purposes cited in the tax law and therefore be eligible for a reduction in estimated market value.

2015-02 Road Raises for Cities with Levees

MAWD supports the State of Minnesota providing financial support through the MN DNR Flood Damage Reduction Program to cost share with local, state, and federal road authorities to provide road raises as an additional feature of flood control levee projects.

PERMITTING ISSUES

2018-08 Reinforce Existing Rights to Maintain/Repair 103E Drainage Systems

MAWD supports legislation modeled after House File 2687 and Senate File 2419 of the ninetieth legislature (2017-2018) reinforcing that the DNR cannot restrict existing rights to maintain and repair 103E public drainage systems.

2018-04 Require Watershed District Permits for the DNR

MAWD supports an amendment to the MN Statute § 103D.315, subd. 5, to include the MN Department of Natural Resources as a state agency required to get permits from watershed districts when applicable.

2015-01 Encourage DNR to Permit Storing Water on DNR Land

MAWD should appoint a committee to in turn propose meeting with the DNR to discuss the potential for temporarily storing water on existing wetlands controlled by the DNR in the times of major flood events.

2015-05 Improvements in Process with Permitting Authorities for Water Quality Improvement Projects

MAWD call on all permitting authorities:

1. To identify all regulatory requirements and applicable standards that have been developed, formalized, and codified into applicable laws, statutes, and rules that apply to proposed water quality improvement projects within 30 days of receiving a permit application.
2. To coordinate with permit applicants on proposed water quality improvement projects as part of the technical advisory committee process
3. To consider the development of internal technical advisory/evaluation committees within each authority to review proposed water quality improvement projects
4. To allow permit applicants to address all members of each authority’s organization that are offering comments and concerns on a proposed water quality improvement project early on through the technical advisory committee process, instead of trying to go through one contact person at each authority.

WATER IMPAIRMENTS AND AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

2017-02 Temporary Lake Quarantine Authorization to Control the Spread of AIS

MAWD supports legislation granting to watershed districts, independently or under DNR oversight, the authority, after public hearing and technical findings, to impose a public access quarantine, for a defined period of time in conjunction with determining and instituting an AIS management response to an infestation.

2017-04 Limited Liability for Certified Commercial Salt Applicators

MAWD supports passage and enactment of state law that provides a limited liability exemption to commercial salt applicators and property owners using salt applicators who are certified through the established salt applicator certification program who follow best management practices.

COORDINATED LOCAL AND STATE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLANNING

2018-06 Ensure Timely Updates to Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Plans

MAWD supports that Wildlife Management Area (WMA) operation and maintenance plans and/or management plans are either drafted or brought current in a timely fashion, with input from local governmental entities, to ensure their consideration in future One Watershed One Plan efforts.

2017-07 Creation of a Stormwater Reuse Task Force

MAWD pursue legislation requiring creation of a Stormwater Reuse Task Force with membership from Watershed Districts, Cities, Counties, State Agencies and other Stormwater Reuse implementers; and that the Stormwater Reuse Task Force should be charged with developing recommendations that further clarify and/or replace the information in the Water Reuse Report that relates to stormwater reuse best management practices.

2015-07 Review Commitment to Clean Water Council Process for Recommendations to Governor and Legislature on Spending Priorities of the Clean Water Fund

MAWD undertake a review of our commitment to the present Clean Water Council funding recommendation process and make a recommendation to the membership at our 2016 Annual Meeting on our continued participation in that process.

2015-06 Establishment of Minnesota River Basin Commission

MAWD supports the legislative establishment of a MN River Basin Commission to provide effective and efficient proactive comprehensive basin planning; administration; project development; implementation; construction and maintenance or water resource projects and programs of benefit to the MN River Basin with a focus on water quantity and water quality management.

STATE BOARD AND COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

2018-03 Require Timely Appointments to the BWSR Board

MAWD supports legislation that requires the Governor to make BWSR board appointments within 90 days of a vacancy or board member term expiration.

2018-09 Clean Water Council Appointments

MAWD may ask the representative of the Clean Water Council to resign when they lose their direct association to a watershed district; and that MAWD will recommend to the Governor's office that managers and/or administrators in good standing with MAWD be appointed to the Clean Water Council.

2015-08 Protect the Integrity of the Clean Water Council Appointments

MAWD pursue legislation to protect the integrity of Clean Water Council appointments by supporting legislation similar to the BWSR appointment process for local government appointments, and that any state agency influence on the appointment process for local government representatives or any other specific represented groups on the Clean Water Council not be tolerated.

WATERSHED DISTRICT OPERATIONS

2016-01 Making Human Resources Expertise Available to Districts through MAWD

MAWD research potential options of making human resources expertise available to districts and make every effort to assure districts have access to the expertise they need to effectively manage their organizations.

Archived MAWD Resolutions - July 1, 2019

2013 Approved Resolutions		Reason for Removal and Date of Archiving	
2013-01	Support Funding for Engineer Study on Floodwater Retention Pond for LqP YB WD	Expired via sunset policy	June 2019
2013-02	WD Eligibility under COE's Regional General Permit	Expired via sunset policy	June 2019
2013-03	Restore Consistency and Predictability to WCA & CWA Exempted Activities	Expired via sunset policy	June 2019
2013-04	Consolidate Watershed Boundary Correction	Expired via sunset policy	June 2019
2013-05	Statutory Correction on WD Funds	A more current resolution is on the books (2016-04)	JAN 2019
2013-06	Authorize WD manager participation in electronic meetings	A more current resolution is on the books (2016-05)	JAN 2019
2013-07	Amend Water appropriation law to remove water quality projects	This issue was passed in the environment bill	JAN 2019
2013-08	Support Sales tax exemption for WDs	This issue was passed in the taxes bill	JAN 2019
2014 Approved Resolutions			
2014-01	Repair of Flood Damage in the Prior Lake Outlet Channel	This issue was passed in the bonding bill	JAN 2019
2014-02	Common Carp Mangement, Research, and Removal	A more current resolution is on the books (2018-07)	JAN 2019
2014-03	Development, Adoption and Communication of MAWD Legislative Agenda	Completed. (Core function of the executive director)	JAN 2019
2014-04	Leasing Lands Purchased with State General Obligation Bonds	This passed in the bonding bill	JAN 2019
2014-05	Watershed District Appointments to BWSR	A more current resolution is on the books (2018-03)	JAN 2019
2015 Approved Resolutions			
2015-03	Increase Manager's Per Diem	A more current resolution is on the books (2018-01)	JAN 2019
2015-04	Watershed District Input on MN DNR Buffer Protection Map	Completed.	JAN 2019
2015-09	Proposed Changes to the 2015 Buffers Law	Clarifying buffer legislation was adopted	JAN 2019
2016 Approved Resolutions			
2016-02	Correcting Watershed-Based Wetland Conservation Act Implementation	This passed in environmental finance bill	JAN 2019
2016-04	Amend MN Statute 103D.905 Subd. 9 to Allow a Project Tax for All Types of Grants	Passed 2019 Legislative Session	June 2019
2016-05	WD Manager Meeting Participation via Electronic Means Outside WD Limits	Resolved via Advisory Opinion 18019	June 2019
2016-06	Modify Levy authority for non-metro WDs/Increase levy authority	A more current resolution is on the books (2018-02)	JAN 2019
2016-07	Appropriation for Buffer Enforcement for WD/Counties	This passed in the environmental finance bill	JAN 2019
2017 Approved Resolutions			
2017-01	State Watershed Program Coordination with Local Watershed Implementation	Passed 2019 Legislative Session	June 2019
2017-03	Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Support in the 2018 Federal Farm Bill	Done - Farm Bill passed	June 2019
2018 Approved Resolutions			
2018-01	Allow an Increase to Manager Compensation	Passed 2019 Legislative Session	June 2019
2018-05	Adjust Watershed District Statutory Borrowing Limit	Resolved	June 2019
2018-07	Remove impediments to Common Carp Removal in Lakes	Passed 2019 Legislative Session	June 2019