

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 1, 2020
TO: MAWD Members
FROM: Sherry Davis White, Resolutions Committee Chair
RE: **2020 REQUEST FOR MAWD 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** Members discuss and approve resolutions at their local WD/WMO meetings
- September 1** Administrators submit resolutions and background information documents to the MAWD office at emily@mnwatershed.org by September 1
- September / October** Resolutions Committee will review resolutions, gather further information when deemed necessary, discuss and make recommendations on their passage to the members
- October 31** Resolutions (with committee feedback) will be emailed to each district by Oct. 31
- November** Members should discuss the resolutions at their November meetings and decide who will be voting on their behalf at the annual meeting (2 voting members allowed per watershed organization)
- December** Delegates discuss and vote on resolutions at the annual meeting
- December / January** Legislative Committee will review existing and new resolutions and make a recommendation to the MAWD Board of Directors for the 2021 legislative platform
- January 2021** MAWD Board of Directors will finalize the 2021 legislative platform
- January 5, 2021** First day of the 92nd legislative biennium

Resolutions passed by the membership at the annual meeting will remain MAWD policy for five years. After five years resolutions will sunset and if desired, will need to be resubmitted and passed at the annual meeting to keep those issues active.

See the enclosed lists for resolutions that are active and those that will sunset at the end of the year.

Please feel free to contact me at sherrywhite@mediacombb.net 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

2020 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?

(Check one) This issue is of importance to:

Only our district _____

Only our region _____

The entire state _____

Active MAWD Resolutions

July 1, 2020



FINANCE ISSUES

2018-02 Increase 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 Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District General Operating Levy Adjustment

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.

2019-08: Heron Lake Watershed District General Operating Levy Adjustment

MAWD supports an increase in Heron Lake Watershed District's general operating levy cap from \$250,000 to an amount not to exceed \$500,000.

2019-09: Shell Rock River Watershed District General Operating Levy Adjustment

MAWD supports an increase in Shell Rock River Watershed District's general operating levy cap from \$250,000 to an amount not to exceed \$500,000.

2019-10: Pelican River Watershed District General Operating Levy Adjustment

MAWD supports an increase in Pelican River Watershed District's general operating levy cap from \$250,000 to an amount not to exceed \$500,000.

2019-11: Buffalo Red River Watershed District General Operating Levy Adjustment

MAWD supports an increase in Buffalo Red River Watershed District's general operating levy cap from \$250,000 to an amount not to exceed \$500,000.

2019-06: Oppose Legislation that Forces Spending on Political Boundaries.

MAWD opposes legislation that establishes spending requirements or restricts watershed district spending by political regions or boundaries.

2017-06 Obtain Stable Funding for the Flood Damage Reduction Program

MAWD supports stable funding (as opposed to the current even year bonding process) for the DNR's Flood Damage Reduction 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.

URBAN STORMWATER

017-04 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.

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.

PUBLIC DRAINAGE LAW

2019-04: Clarify County Financing Obligations and/or Authorize Watershed District General Obligation Bonding for Public Drainage Projects.

MAWD supports legislation to achieve one or both of the following:

- a) To clarify that an affected county must finance a watershed district drainage project on project establishment and request of the watershed district; and
- b) To authorize watershed districts to finance drainage project establishment and construction by issuance of bonds payable from assessments and backed by the full faith and credit of the watershed district; and further provide for adequate tax levy authority to assure the watershed district's credit capacity.

2019-02: Add a Classification for Public Drainage Systems that are Artificial Watercourses

MAWD supports removal of the default Class 2 categorization for public drainage systems that are artificial watercourses and supports a default Class 7 categorization for public drainage systems that are artificial watercourses.

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.

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.

2019-07: Chinese Mystery Snail Designation Change and Research Needs.

MAWD supports Chinese Mystery Snail prevention and control research and to change the Chinese Mystery Snail designated status in Minnesota as a regulated species to a prohibited species.

LOCAL and STATE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COORDINATION / REPRESENTATION

2019-01 Streamline the DNR permitting process

MAWD supports legislation, rules, and/or agency policies to streamline the DNR permitting process by increasing responsiveness, decreasing the amount of time it takes to approve permits, providing a detailed fee schedule prior to application, and conducting water level management practices that result in the DNR reacting more quickly to serious, changing climate conditions.

2019-03: Support for Managing Water Flows in the Minnesota River Basin Through Increased Water Storage and Other Strategies and Practices.

MAWD supports efforts to manage the flow of water in the Minnesota River Basin and the Minnesota River Congress in its efforts to increase water storage on the landscape; and

MAWD supports the Minnesota River Congress in its efforts to secure state and federal programs targeted specifically to increase surface water storage in the Minnesota River Watershed.

2019-05: Watershed District Membership on Wetland Technical Evaluation Panels.

MAWD supports legislation to allow technical representatives of watershed districts to be official members of wetland technical evaluation panels (TEPs).

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.

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.

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.

WATERSHED OFFICE 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.

Resolutions to Sunset

Effective December 31, 2020



In accordance with MAWD's Sunset Policy, the following resolutions will be archived at the end of the year and will no longer be considered for future legislative and administrative platforms. The Sunset Policy says that resolutions older than five years old shall be removed from the books. If your watershed feels any of these issues should continue to be actively pursued with MAWD resources, then your watershed board needs to write up a new resolution and the issue will need to be voted on and renewed by the membership at the next annual meeting to be held in December.

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

MAWD supports the temporary storage of water on existing DNR-controlled wetlands in the times of major flood events.

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.

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

MAWD supports all permitting authorities:

1. 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. Coordinate with permit applicants on proposed water quality improvement projects as part of the technical advisory committee process;
3. Consider the development of internal technical advisory/evaluation committees within each authority to review proposed water quality improvement projects; and
4. 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.

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.

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

MAWD supports 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.

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

MAWD supports 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.