

Region III Caucus

Thursday, December 5 @ 7:00 a.m.

Caucus location: Gull Lake Center – Lake Edward

AGENDA

- 7:00 a.m. Welcome and Call to Order (Convener Don Pereira)
- 7:03 a.m. Appointment of a Secretary (Pereira)
- 7:05 a.m. Election of Caucus Chairperson (Pereira)
- 7:10 a.m. Nominations of a Region Director to Minnesota Watersheds Board (Caucus Chair)
Current Region 3 Minnesota Watersheds Board Members:
- Don Pereira – term expires December 2024
 - David Ziegler – term expires December 2025
 - Shaun Kennedy – term expires December 2026
- Vote for one open position, currently held by Don Pereira, for a term to expire in 2027.***
- 7:15 a.m. Candidate Remarks - 5 minutes each (Caucus Chair)
- 7:30 a.m. Voting (Caucus Chair)
Election results should be reported to the Minnesota Watersheds President and Executive Director so they can be presented to the members at the annual business meeting.
- 7:45 a.m. Call for Committee Members (Caucus Chair)
One manager or commissioner is needed for each committee, who is committed to attending meetings and fulfilling responsibilities, no alternates, please. In the past, not all regions have been able to fill the committee positions, let alone designate an alternate. Having alternates also makes representation lopsided, with more representation from one region over another. It is more efficient to designate one individual who is willing to commit to attending meetings. If the person is unable to attend a scheduled meeting, it is his/her responsibility to contact the committee co-chair(s). (See table on page 2.)
- 8:15 a.m. Open Forum (Caucus Chair)
Review delegate checklist
Discussion of proposed resolutions, regional hot topics, etc.
- 9:00 a.m. Adjournment (Caucus Chair)

Region III		
Bassett Creek WMC	Brown's Creek	Capitol Region
Carnelian Marine St. Croix	Comfort Lake-Forest Lake	Coon Creek
Minnehaha Creek	Mississippi WMO	Nine Mile Creek
Ramsey-Washington Metro	Rice Creek	Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek
South Washington	Vadnais Lake Area WMO	Valley Branch

Minnesota Watersheds Committees – Region III

Representatives

December 2024

Committee*	Region	2024 Members	2025	Responsibilities
Legislative	III	Shawn Mazanec, Capitol Region		To provide focus and direction to the lobbyist(s) and Executive Director on annual priority legislative efforts and to keep members informed of the Association's efforts and progress.
Co-Chairs: Gene Tiedemann, Michelle Overholser		Linda Vavra, Bois de Sioux*		
Governance				
<i>Bylaws & MOPP</i>	III	Mike Bradley, Rice Creek		The By-Laws/MOPP committee is responsible for the annual review of these documents to ensure that they meet the needs and operating procedures of the organization.
Co-Chairs: David Ziegler, Jamie Beyer		Linda Vavra, Bois de Sioux*		
<i>Strategic Plan</i>	III	Benjamin Karp, Ramsey Washington Metro		This Strategic Plan Committee is responsible for the review and annual prioritization of the organization's strategic plan.
Co-Chairs: David Ziegler, Andy Henschel		Linda Vavra, Bois de Sioux*		
Resolutions	III	Don Pereira, Valley Branch		The Resolutions/Policy committee is responsible for the annual solicitation and review of resolutions and policy changes to be acted upon at the Annual Meeting and any petitioned special meetings.
Co-Chairs: Linda Vavra, Jamie Beyer		Linda Vavra, Bois de Sioux*		
Finance	III	Jackie Anderson, Comfort Lake Forest Lake		The purpose of the Finance Committee is to make financial recommendations to the Board on items such as the annual budget and dues.
Co-Chairs: David Ziegler, Tera Guetter		Linda Vavra, Bois de Sioux*		
Events/Education	III	Rick Sanders, Capitol Region		The purpose of the Events/Education Committee is to ensure Minnesota Watersheds events provide high quality educational and networking opportunities for members and non-members.
Co-Chairs: Gene Tiedemann, Tina Carstens		Linda Vavra, Bois de Sioux*		
Awards	I	Joe Collins, Capitol Region		The purpose of the Awards Committee is to promote, manage and present the annual Minnesota Watersheds Project and Program of the Year Awards.
Co-Chairs: Dennis Kral, Karen Kill		Linda Vavra, Bois de Sioux*		
				*The Minnesota Watersheds President is a member of all committees.

How Minnesota Watersheds Committees Work

Information about upcoming committee meetings is developed by the Minnesota Watersheds Executive Director and committee co-chairs. The information is distributed to committee members and is available to members upon request. Meeting summaries are created and shared with members through the monthly newsletter, as well as the pertinent committee page on the Minnesota Watersheds website.

In the past, not all regions have been able to fill the committee positions, let alone designate an alternate. Having alternates also makes representation lopsided, with more representation from one region over another. It is more efficient to designate one individual who is willing to commit to attending meetings. If the person is unable to attend a scheduled meeting, it is his/her responsibility to contact the committee co-chair(s).

Executive Governance

The Executive Governance Committee works together to ensure daily operations align with the Bylaws, Manual of Policy and Procedures (MOPP), and Strategic Plan. The committee meets as needed.

By-Laws-MOPP

The purpose of the Bylaws-MOPP Committee is to ensure the Bylaws and MOPP are kept up to date and adequately guide the organization. The committee meets annually or as needed.

Strategic Plan Committee

The purpose of the Strategic Plan Committee is to ensure the Strategic Plan adequately guides the organization. The committee meets annually to prioritize the work plan for the Executive Director and to review the Strategic and Communication Plans.

Executive Finance and Finance Committee

The Executive Finance Committee will handle the day-to-day financial decisions. The Finance Committee will deal with the larger picture issues, such as preparing an annual budget and making recommendations on the annual dues structure.

Events-Education Committee

The purpose of the Events-Education Committee is to ensure Minnesota Watersheds events provide high quality educational and networking opportunities for members and non-members. The committee annually reviews the education work plan, provides input before and after events, and sets the convention presentation schedule, including recommendations for the staff development workshop. This committee is supported by the Executive Director and the Program Manager. The committee meets in January, February, April, June, July, September, and December.

Resolutions Committee

The purpose of the Resolutions Committee is to oversee the resolutions process. The committee meets in October to review and recommend resolutions.

Legislative Committee

The purpose of the Legislative Committee is to provide focus and direction to the Minnesota Watersheds lobbyist and Executive Director. They annually review the legislative program work and make recommendations to the Board of Directors on a legislative platform. The committee meets in June and December.

Awards Committee

The purpose of the Awards Committee is to promote, manage, and present the annual Minnesota Watersheds Project and Program of the Year Awards. The committee conducts its business almost exclusively by email.

Region 3 Caucus Meeting
11-30-2023

Attendees:

Nine Mile Creek: Grace Butler and Peggy Kvam
Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek: Jill Crafton, Tom Duevel, and David Ziegler
Minnehaha Creek: Bill Olson, Sherry White, and Steve Sando
Bassett Creek WMC: Shaun Kennedy, R. J. Wiford, and Michael Welch
Ramsey Washington Metro: Benjamin Karp
Capitol Region: Joe Collins, Shawn Mazanec, and Mary Texer
Valley Branch: Don Pereira
South Washington: Brian Johnson
Comfort Lake Forest Lake: Jackie Anderson
Rice Creek: Mike Bradley and John Waller
Mississippi WMO: Kevin Reich
Brown's Creek: Celia Wirth

The meeting was called to order by David Ziegler at 7:03 a.m. David Ziegler was elected caucus chair. Benjamin Karp volunteered to take notes.

Minnesota Watersheds Board Nominations

Don Pereira was nominated to continue serving in the seat to which he was appointed. The term expires in December 2024. Nominations were made for the open seat that will expire in December 2026. Joe Collins and Shaun Kennedy were nominated. All three candidates introduced themselves and provided background information. The question was called for the seat currently occupied by Don Pereira and passed unanimously. Ballots were cast for the open seat and Shaun Kennedy was elected by majority vote.

Minnesota Watersheds Committees

It was noted that not everyone that volunteers will get to serve on a committee. The Minnesota Watersheds Board of Directors makes the appointments.

Legislative

- Grace Butler was nominated by David Ziegler. Others interested in serving include Don Pereira, Shawn Mazanec, and Benjamin Karp.

Bylaws-Manual of Policy and Procedure

- Mike Bradley

Strategic Plan

- Michael Welch plans to step down from this committee. Benjamin Karp and Jill Crafton volunteered.

Resolutions

- Don Pereira, Joe Collins, and Sherry White volunteered.

Finance

- David Ziegler and Jackie Anderson volunteered.

Events-Education

- Rick Sanders and Don Pereira volunteered.

Awards

- Joe Collins volunteered.

Discussion items:

- Concerns were expressed about One Watershed One Plan funding and whether it should be based on population or land area.
- How voting should occur and what has transpired in the past was discussed.
- Resolutions
 - Resolution #1 asks to require Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to apply for watershed district permits. Consensus was that the language should be all state agencies rather than specifically listing the DNR. Michael Welch plans to address this at the resolutions hearing.
 - Resolution #5 seeks increased flexibility in the open meeting law. Consensus was to process this through the legislative committee.
- Chloride issue
 - Fears were expressed regarding issue fatigue and that this may be the last opportunity for legislative action. It was asked that everyone be aware of this issue as assistance may be necessary during the legislative session.
- Plumbing board ruling
 - The decision by the plumbing board states that stormwater management and infiltration design are illegal. This is a Department of Labor and Industry issue.
- Metro Watersheds meeting
 - The next Metro Watersheds meeting will be held virtually on January 16. Meeting information will be distributed by email.