Good afternoon, please join us for the **2020 MAWD Legislative Event** taking place on March 18-19. The MAWD Legislative Breakfast and Day at the Capitol provide MAWD members with a great opportunity to build relationships with key legislators and to advance our legislative agenda. Join us for the Wednesday evening reception on March 18 at the DoubleTree Hotel and breakfast at the Capitol on Thursday morning. Each Watershed District is responsible for scheduling meetings with their local legislators on Thursday, March 19th. We encourage you all to attend as we advocate for MAWD’s legislative priorities.

A block of rooms have been reserved at The DoubleTree Hotel located downtown St. Paul. Please make sure you reserve a room before **February 19th** to receive the discounted rate. You may cancel 24 hours prior to arrival without being charged.

[Follow this link to book your hotel.](#)

Hotel Address:
411 Minnesota Street
Saint Paul, MN 55101
Phone Number: 651-291-8800
[Driving Directions](#)

To register for the event, please [follow this link](#). Early bird registration is $100, the rate will increase by $50 on March 11, 2020.

[Schedule of Events.](#)
[2020 Legislative Platform](#)

Let me know if you have any questions and enjoy the rest of your week.

--

Maddy Bohn
**MB Consulting**
651.900.3285
**Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts**
Legislative Briefing & Day at the Capitol

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
The MAWD Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol provide MAWD members with a great opportunity to build relationships with legislators and to advance issues important for maximizing the effectiveness of our local watershed management priorities.

MAWD will formally invite all legislators to join us for the Thursday breakfast, but follow-up invitations from constituents are very helpful.

Wednesday, March 18
9:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.  MN Association of Watershed Administrators Meeting
Location: Capitol Region Watershed District, 595 Aldine St, Saint Paul MN 55104

2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.  MAWD Board of Directors Meeting
Location: The DoubleTree Hotel, 411 Minnesota Street, Saint Paul, MN 55101

6:00 P.M - 8:30 P.M.  MAWD LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING (MAWD Members)
Location: The DoubleTree Hotel, 411 Minnesota Street, Saint Paul, MN 55101
- Overview of the 2020 MAWD legislative platform including talking points
- Presentations by lead agency staff and key legislators
- Training on effective methods of communication with elected officials

Thursday, March 19
(Shuttles between the Double Tree Hotel and the Capitol will be available.)

8:00 – 10:00 A.M.  LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST (MAWD Members and Legislators)
Location: L’Etoile du Nord Vault Room, State Capitol Basement

10:00 A.M. – 4 P.M.  DAY AT THE CAPITOL (On Your Own)
Activities to schedule while you are in St. Paul could include the following:
- Meet with your legislators. YOUR elected officials WANT to hear and connect with you while you are in town. Please call in advance to schedule appointments - the sooner the better! Contact information can be found at [www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/legdir](http://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/legdir). The Senate offices are in the MN Senate Building and offices for the House of Representatives are in the State Office Building.
- Attend legislative committee hearings (schedule to be posted soon)
- Meet with partners and have lunch in the Capitol Café or MnDOT Cafeteria
- Take a free guided tour of the Capitol ([www.mnhs.org/capitol/activities/tour](http://www.mnhs.org/capitol/activities/tour))

REGISTRATION: To register, visit: [www.mnwatershed.org/legislative-breakfast-day-at-the-capitol](http://www.mnwatershed.org/legislative-breakfast-day-at-the-capitol)
2020 Legislative Platform
MN Association of Watershed Districts

PRIORITY A - TOP 2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
The following top priorities have been set by the MAWD Board of Directors for lobbying efforts in 2020.

1. Increase the $250,000 general fund levy limit.
2. Secure a strong bonding allocation for flood hazard mitigation projects.
3. Permit temporary storage of water on DNR land during major flood events.

PRIORITY B - LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS WE SUPPORT (when led by others)
The following issues are supported by MAWD, but legislative efforts are being led by others.

- Provide limited liability protection to certified commercial salt applicators.
- Reinforce existing rights to maintain and repair public drainage systems as originally built.
- Clarify the responsibility of counties to finance public drainage system projects upon request of a watershed district and/or provide authorization to watershed districts to do their own general obligation bonding.
- Allow artificial water courses that serve as public drainage systems to be classified as a Class 7 Limited Resource Value Water rather than a Class 2 Aquatic Life and Recreation Water when implementing the MN Pollution Control Agency's Tiered Aquatic Life Uses (TALU) standard.
- Obtain stable and reliable funding for an ongoing flood damage reduction program.
- Support efforts of the Minnesota River Congress to increase water storage in the Minnesota River Basin.

ISSUES TO HANDLE ADMINISTRATIVELY
MAWD will continue to work with state agencies to address the following issues:

- Increase allocations of Clean Water Funds that focus on local implementation programs and projects identified in comprehensive watershed management plans such as those written under the One Watershed One Plan Program or MN Statute 103B.201 Metropolitan Surface Water Management Program.
- Ensure watershed organizations are given opportunities to provide input on stormwater reuse standards.

ISSUES TO WATCH AND PLAY DEFENSE (if needed)
MAWD will oppose legislation that negatively impacts the ability of watershed organizations to protect and preserve Minnesota’s water resources. Currently, this includes the following bills already in the hopper:

- HF 1887 / SF 1766 – Watershed district provisions modified (a.k.a “Developer’s Bill of Rights”)
- HF 2314 / SF 2372 – Rice Creek watershed district spending and reporting requirements