2016 MAWD Annual Meeting
Resolution Process

August 11, 2016

TO: Watershed Districts
FROM: Larry Kuseske
MAWD Policy/Resolutions Committee Chair

SUBJECT: 2016 Resolution Process and Time Line

Enclosed is your 2016 Resolution packet for the MAWD Annual Meeting. The Policy/Resolutions Committee will work under the following process for the upcoming 2016 MAWD Annual Meeting Dec 1-3, 2016.

* Resolutions passed by the membership at Annual Meetings will remain MAWD policy from year to year unless MAWD members, the Board of Directors, or the Policy/Resolutions Committee brings that policy back to the full membership during the resolutions process for updating and discussion at any regular annual meeting. There will be no need to keep revisiting MAWD standing policy on issues like flood mitigation, problem beaver control, etc. once a policy decision has been made by the membership.

* Proposed resolutions submitted by members will be reviewed by the Policy/Resolutions Committee and policy recommendations will be made to the membership and Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting.

Outlined below is the process and time line for resolutions to be considered at the 2016 Annual Meeting. For resolutions to be considered, you must meet the time line outlined below and they must be submitted in resolution format accompanied by the resolution background information sheet (see sample – we encourage submission in this format via e-mail to the MAWD office), both attached to this memo. All resolutions received by the MAWD office will be acknowledged.
Any resolution proposed after the deadline may only be brought to the floor if considered and forwarded to the membership by the MAWD Board of Directors. No floor resolutions will be considered.

   Districts discuss and approve resolutions.
   Complete background information sheet on each resolution.

2. Forward proposed resolutions
   no later than Friday, October 14th.
   E-mail resolutions to
   raybohnmga@gmail.com or mail to:
   MAWD
   540 Difffley Road
   St. Paul, MN 55123

   Note: Resolutions received after October 14th will not be presented to the membership by the Policy/Resolutions Committee.

3. Resolution Review - Oct. 16
   The Policy/Resolutions Committee will organize and review resolutions, garner further information when necessary, and make recommendations on the proposed resolutions by the end of October.

4. November 1, 2016
   Proposed resolutions with committee recommendations will be mailed to each watershed district by Nov. 1st. Districts should work with their MAWD Regions and MAWD Board concerning education and awareness of their proposed resolutions.

5. December 1-3, 2016
   Consideration of proposed resolutions at MAWD Annual Meeting.

It will be the responsibility of each district to provide their board members with copies of the proposed resolutions.

Please call the MAWD office at 651-452-8506 or email Ray Bohn at raybohnmga@gmail.com if you have any questions. Thank you.

Attachments: Sample resolution and resolution background worksheet.
2016 MAWD Resolutions Background Information

Proposing District:

Contact Name:

Phone Number: (day) (cell) (evening)

Email Address:

Resolution Title (brief subject statement):

Factual points which provide background to, or a basis for, the issue addressed by Resolution:

Based upon the above facts, what is the proposed solution to the problem discussed above:

Likely Reaction by the Public or Other Governmental Units?

This issue is of importance (Check one):

To just our District: _____
To just our Region: _____
To the entire State: ___X___
Resolution
Watershed District Input on MN DNR Buffer Protection Map

Whereas, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) has been tasked with the creation of a buffer protection map that will include public waters subject to the statewide 50' average width buffer requirement and the public drainage system ditches that are subject to the statewide 16.5 minimum width buffer requirement by July 2016, under MN Statutes 103F.48; and

Whereas, local government units, including watershed districts, are conducting activities that improve water quality and assist with water quantity control, on both public & non-public waters; and

Whereas, local government units, including watershed districts, have experience in determining buffer needs for water quality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts call for the MN DNR to offer opportunities for local government units to offer input on the creation of the buffer protection map.

Submitted by the Clearwater River Watershed District
2015 MAWD Resolutions Background Information

Proposing District: Clearwater River Watershed District

Contact Name: Cole Loewen, Administrator

Phone Number:  
(day) 320.274.3935 (cell)  
(evening)

Email Address: cole.loewen@cwd.org

Resolution Title (brief subject statement): Watershed District Input on MN DNR Buffer Protection Map

Factual points which provide background to, or a basis for, the issue addressed by Resolution:

MN Statutes 103F.48 provides for the MN Dept. of Natural Resources (MN DNR) to develop a “buffer protection map” in order to determine where buffers will be required under the law. However, the statute does not require the MN DNR to solicit or provide opportunity for input on the creation of this map from the entities that are mostly intimately involved with buffer, local government units (i.e. counties, soil & water conservation districts, watershed districts). There has been little to no indication that the MN DNR plans to provide these opportunities.

By not providing these opportunities, the state misses out on a deep well of information on public waters and drainage systems from the local level. This also creates opportunities for misunderstandings, especially if the MN DNR makes a determination on what is a public water or drainage system that conflicts with said local knowledge.

Based upon the above facts, what is the proposed solution to the problem discussed above:

By providing ample opportunity for local government units to offer input on the MN DNR’s creation of the buffer protection map, the state gains local knowledge, while providing more transparency to a process that will be subject to scrutiny from a multitude of angles.

Likely Reaction by the Public or Other Governmental Units?

It is expected that local government units will appreciate the opportunity to provide input. The public would likely appreciate having all of their government units providing input. The MN DNR may oppose it on the grounds that they are using existing public waters inventory and public drainage records to create said map, thereby making additional input unnecessary.

This issue is of importance (Check one):

To just our District: _____

To just our Region: _____

To the entire State: __X____