MAWD LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION, BREAKFAST, AND DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Wednesday, March 7 - Thursday, March 8, 2018
Embassy Suites, 175 10th St. E
St. Paul, MN 55101

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. MAWD will invite all legislators to join us for the Wednesday evening reception and Thursday morning breakfast. Each Watershed District is responsible for scheduling meetings with their local legislators.

Schedule of Events:

Wednesday, March 7
9:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M. Minnesota Association of Watershed Administrators (MAWA) Meeting
2:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. MAWD Board of Directors Meeting
5:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M. MAWD Legislative Reception
7:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. Legislative Briefing

Thursday, March 8
7:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M. Legislative Breakfast
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. Meet with legislators and attend legislative committee hearings at the Capitol

Legislative Priorities:

The following issues have been made a priority by the MAWD Board of Directors for the 2018 legislative session. The number in parentheses behind each item indicates the year a resolution was passed by the general membership on each matter.

Tax and Funding Issues – High Priority
• Modify/increase the general fund levy limit for all non-metro watershed districts to $500,000 (16)
• Advocate for a statutory clarification to allow broader use of levy funds with new state sources of project funding - HF 2456 (16)
• Support increasing the general fund levy limit for the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District (17)
• Support bonding requests from watershed districts for the Flood Hazard Mitigation Program (16)
• Increase per diems for managers to $100 per day (15)
• Monitor and act on any changes to enforcement funding for the Buffer Law
• Monitor and support BWSR bonding legislation

Policy Issues – High Priority
• Amend the Open Meeting Law to allow electronic meeting participation by watershed district managers (16)
• Create a Stormwater Reuse Task Force that consists of local and state officials involved in water management (17)
• Protect the integrity of Clean Water Council appointments from undue influence by state agencies (15)
• Advocate for coordination and integration of state watershed programs with local watershed implementation (17)
• Monitor and act on any Buffer Law updates/changes

Tax and Funding Issues – Second Priority
• Support a $500,000 request for flood water retention engineering in the Lac qui Parle Yellow Bank watershed (13)
• Advocate for allowing more favorable tax treatment of conservations easements (16)
• Support stable funding for the DNR's Flood Damage Reduction Grant Program (17)

Policy Issues – Second Priority
• Support establishment of watershed based water management organizations in the Minnesota River Basin (15)
• Support temporary quarantine authority to control the spread of aquatic invasive species (17)
• Support limited liability protections for certified commercial salt applicators (17)