

Minnesota Watersheds Finance Committee Meeting

October 11, 2023
Via Zoom



Meeting participants: Region 1 Manager Linda Vavra, Minnesota Watersheds (MW) President; Region 1 Manager Dennis Kral, Region 1 Administrator Tera Guetter, Pelican River WD; Region 2 Manager Jeff Gertgen, Middle Fork Crow River WD; Region 2 Administrator Amber Doschadis, Upper Minnesota River WD; Region 3 Manager David Ziegler, Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek WD; Region 3 Administrator Matt Moore, South Washington WD; and Jan Voit, MW

TASK ONE. REVIEW AND DISCUSS FY24 BUDGET

The Finance Committee reviewed the FY24 budget and FY23 financial report line by line. Discussion was held regarding the time commitment and tasks undertaken by the Program Manager for the Minnesota Watersheds events. Discussion was also held regarding the legislative accomplishments and assistance provided to watersheds. An update was given on the lobbyist succession plan and the timeline. David Ziegler made a motion to move the proposed budget to the MW Board of Directors. Dennis Kral seconded the motion and it carried unanimously..

TASK TWO. REVIEW DUES' STRUCTURE

The Finance Committee reviewed the current dues' structure. Discussion was held regarding outreach to non-member WDs and WMOs. The committee did not recommend any changes to the dues' structure for the next fiscal year.

TASK THREE. SUMMER TOUR POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The Finance Committee reviewed the considerations regarding a potential policy for discounted rates for Summer Tour hosts. Discussion included the purpose of the Summer Tour is to showcase the host watershed(s); in the past watersheds with only one staff person did the work and never considered asking for a reduced registration rate; the financial savings to the districts because hotel rooms and travel were not needed; and that if a discount was given, it may be necessary to raise dues or other fees. The committee did not recommend creating a policy for a discounted rate. The committee recommended developing clearly defined tasks for the Program Manager for all Minnesota Watersheds events (Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol, Summer Tour, and Annual Conference), with an estimated time commitment for each event, as well as clearly defined expectations for host watershed(s) for the Summer Tour. The committee also recommends that the Program Manager's contract be sent to legal counsel for review.

TASK FOUR. DISCUSS NON-MEMBER RATES FOR EVENTS AND MAWA MEETINGS

The Finance Committee was given an update on the registration fees for non-member WDs and WMOs for the annual conference. For the annual conference there is an extra charge of \$100 for the whole conference, \$50 for the workshops, \$25 for the banquet, and a \$35 fee for the MAWA meeting. Discussion was held regarding covering expenses, as well as the name change and the need to be inclusive. The committee didn't make any recommendations for future meetings.

Further discussion of this topic will be done with a subcommittee of the administrators and executive director to determine how many non-member WD/WMO administrators/staff have attended the in-person meetings in the last year and actual meeting costs. The subcommittee will develop a recommendation.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Meeting notes submitted by Jan Voit
