

# Minnesota Watersheds

## Events-Education Committee Meeting

December 12, 2023

Via Zoom



Committee members present: Region 1 Managers Linda Vavra, Bois de Sioux WD and Gene Tiedemann, Red Lake WD; Region 2 Manager Brad Kramer, Shell Rock River WD; Region 3 Manager Rick Sanders, Capitol Region WD; Region 3 Administrator Tina Carstens, Ramsey Washington Metro WD; and Maddy Bohn and Jan Voit, Minnesota Watersheds

Committee members absent: Region 1 Administrator Mori Maher, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD and Region 2 Administrator Jon Roeschlein, Sauk River WD

### **TASK 1. REVIEW THE WEDNESDAY WORKSHOPS AND ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Tina Carstens opened the meeting at 1:30 p.m. Discussion was held regarding committee members' experiences as attendees, as well as the survey results.

#### Wednesday Workshops

- The comments regarding the workshop presentations were good.
- The rooms were crowded and there weren't enough chairs. It would be good to have extra chairs at the back of the rooms.
- There were a record number of attendees at the workshops. It may be necessary to stagger the timeframe for lunches next year.

#### Annual Conference

- Many positive comments were received.
- Exhibitors did not believe that the extra two hours on Wednesday evening were beneficial for the Trade Show. There were more conference attendees this year than ever before. The extra time probably made it feel less busy.
- Comments were also made about the layout for the Trade Show floor. Based on the comments, next year we will go back to the original schedule of 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. for the Trade Show. A new layout will be configured for the Trade Show floor.
- It was suggested to have something more interactive for attendees at the Trade Show.
- It was suggested to investigate other types of vendors for the Trade Show, as well as to ask the current vendors what services they provide that a board member needs to know compared to a staff person or administrator.
- Discussion was held about the pros and cons of the watershed booths. With a new layout for the Trade Show, the watershed booths will be eliminated.
- In the past, door prizes were given away every hour. Because purchasing those prizes and bringing them to the conference was a cumbersome and time-consuming process, we switched to gift cards. Discussion was held regarding whether vendors could provide prizes.
- It would be helpful to have a facilitator in each education session (either a director or administrator) to introduce speakers and keep the workshops on schedule.
- The luncheon speaker was well received.
- The food was good.
- The added time on the Trade Show floor on Thursday afternoon worked well.
- Concerns were expressed about the facility needing updates, the reservation process, and problems with hotel rooms. Maddy will share this information with the Arrowwood staff.
- We need to make sure there are working microphones and projectors in each room.

- It has been several years since other venue options have been evaluated. Our members want a central location and this venue works the best for that. If Arrowwood plans to upgrade, we will need to look at another location. But for now, the timeframe has been reserved for 2024.
- Rewording the survey question about satisfaction with the venue, food, and lodging is necessary.
- In past years, there was an optional activity for spouses. Because it was expensive and took time to plan that was better spent on planning the conference, that activity was eliminated.

#### **TASK 2. LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING AND DAY AT THE CAPITOL**

Capitol Ridge has been reserved for the Legislative Briefing. A room block has been reserved. It will be necessary to know if MAWA plans to meet at the venue or at Capitol Region WD. Tina will follow up with the MAWA Executive Committee about this. The Events-Education Committee will meet on January 12, 2024 to plan the agenda for the event.

The meeting concluded at 2:35 p.m.

Meeting notes by Jan Voit