

Minnesota Watersheds

Events-Education and Resolutions Committees Meeting

December 6, 2022

Via Zoom

Meeting participants: Sherry Davis White, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District MCWD; Linda Vavra, Bois de Sioux WD; Tina Carstens, Ramsey Washington Metro WD; Jamie Beyer, BWSWD; Ron Roeschlein, Sauk River WD; Mori Maher, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD; Dan Livdahl, Okabena-Ocheda WD; and Maddy Bohn and Jan Voit; MAWD.

Absent: James Wisker, MCWD; Gene Tiedemann, Red Lake WD and David Ziegler, Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek WD

The survey was distributed on December 5. The complete survey results will be sent to all committee members after the results are compiled.

Discussion was held regarding the committee members' experience as attendees at the MAWD Annual Conference.

- Staff development: no issues, went smoothly and was well attended, held attention all day
- Drainage: good, informative sessions, room was large enough, well attended
- Watershed management: new board member from Sauk River WD attended, recommended that all managers attend at least once
- Trade Show:
 - carpet changed the feel, deadened the sound, improved the overall appearance; should consider investing in this every year
 - impressed with number of booths
 - Platinum sponsors were given time to spotlight their organization prior to presentations
- Resolutions:
 - many positive comments that wordsmithing was not allowed; in the past, there was too much discussion and getting off on tangents
 - the process went smoother because work was done by staff working with those submitting resolutions
- Luncheon: speaker was good, though somewhat difficult to hear, distraction with the projector

Difficulties encountered with the pre-conference workshops

- have coffee and snacks available in the rooms upstairs

Suggestions for next year

- MAWA and BOD meeting:
 - MAWA has been inviting state agencies to give updates. This would be valuable for managers, too. Perhaps this could be done so MAWA meet in the morning and the MW board joins them for the state agency updates and then goes into their meeting (that we normally hold on Wednesday)
- MAWA:
 - MAWA identify new administrators and provide an overview of the conference and when and where board members need to be during the event
- Abstracts:
 - Include the following in the request for abstracts: by submitting an abstract, you are committing to attending the event and paying the registration fee

- Program:
 - make a distinction between the Board of Directors Meeting and Annual Business Meeting
 - include a map of the facility
- Trade Show:
 - trade show should go until at least noon or 5 p.m. on Friday to add more time with vendors
 - moving everything a day earlier might encourage more exhibitors
 - announce when the next session is starting to prevent so many people from arriving late
- All sessions:
 - provide large posters outside each room that denotes what sessions will be held
 - have a title slide on the presentation showing at least five minutes before the session
- Pre-conference Workshops:
 - consider the workshops part of the conference to reduce confusion
 - clarification in registration for workshop registration (members, non-members, counties, SWCDs)
- Annual Conference:
 - move the conference one day earlier and end at noon on Friday
 - hold the regional caucuses before the annual business meeting to give members a chance to discuss
- Annual Business Meeting:
 - go back to using a larger room and have delegates sit in the front
 - go back to a two-part resolutions hearing or have the regional meetings earlier so discussion can be done before the hearing

The meeting concluded at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting notes by Jan Voit