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MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS

Connecting People. Protecting Water.

JULY 2026

2026 Summer Tour

The 2026 Summer Tour will kick off with a **networking opportunity** and **pontoon rides** on Detroit Lake. Meet at the Holiday Inn, Lakefront from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday, August 24.

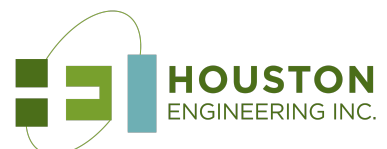
The **Minnesota Association of Watershed Administrators** meets on Tuesday, August 25 from 9 a.m. to noon. An **education workshop** featuring guest speakers Christian Torkelson, League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust and Jen Kader, Clean Water Council will be held from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The day concludes with the customary social hour and dinner followed by a **welcome reception** that features a **tribute to Tera Guetter**, former administrator of the Pelican River Watershed District and a **celebration of the Red River Watershed Management Board's 50th anniversary**.

[This link](#) will take you to the pocket guide for the 2026 Minnesota Watersheds Summer Tour. This guide provides a schedule of events and detailed information about the tour stops. Please check it out!

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

The venue for the tour is the Holiday Inn in Detroit Lakes. Lodging reservations can be made at the Holiday Inn by [following this link](#). [The Country Inn and Suites](#) is also offering a discounted room rate on Tuesday evening, you must call to book: [\(218\) 847-2000](#).

THANK YOU TO OUR SUMMER TOUR SPONSORS!





Tera Guetter Memorial

The Minnesota Association of Watershed Administrators mourns the loss of Tera Guetter, former administrator of the Pelican River Watershed District, who passed away on April 28 after her battle with cancer. Tera was a respected leader whose dedication to watershed management strengthened communities across Minnesota.

MAWA will honor her memory during the reception at the Summer Tour on August 25. As a lasting tribute, MAWA will purchase a memorial bench to be placed at a project site where Tera's work and leadership made a meaningful impact.

To support this effort, MAWA is seeking to raise \$1,500. Contributions may be directed to Jan Voit, who will be collecting funds: **42446 County Road 6, Heron Lake, MN 56137 Venmo: @jrvoit63**

MAWA sincerely appreciates your support in commemorating Tera's legacy and service.



Meet Your New Region 2 Board Director

Andrew Weber, Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District, was appointed to fill the vacancy on the Minnesota Watersheds Board of Directors at the June board meeting. Click on the image below and get to know Andrew!

Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions

The Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions will be held virtually on **Monday, August 31** at 10:00 a.m.

Now accepting Annual Conference Award Nominations

Each year, the MW Awards Committee asks for nominations from each watershed organization. After reviewing the nominations, one winner is selected from each category and is recognized at the Awards Program during the Annual Conference.

The program has two award categories:

- **Capital Improvement Project of the Year** and **Watershed Program of the Year**
 - To submit your nomination, [please fill out this form](#).
 - The deadline is September 4, 2026. [Click here](#) to see the full outline of the program and project nomination timeline.
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In the News

The following stories were either found in the news or submitted by members. The stories feature news related to conservation and the environment and/or the work of Minnesota's watershed organizations.

[New study shows strong lake health across Minnesota](#)

A decade-long effort to monitor fish populations across Minnesota has found that most lakes assessed statewide support healthy aquatic ecosystems, according to a new report released by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. (By WDIO, July 6, 2026)

[To save some trees, one Twin Cities suburb is cutting others down](#)

The [Nine Mile Creek Watershed District](#) has for decades partnered with the city to oversee the area, where erosion gradually packed the stream with sediment and buckthorn spread on the slopes. (By Eva Herscovitz, *The Minnesota Star Tribune*, July 13, 2026)

[Natural river flow restored at former Bucks Mill Dam site](#)

A ribbon-cutting was held July 16 for the modification project in the [Pelican River Watershed District](#) that traded an aging concrete dam for sustainable rock riffles. (By Vicki Gerdes, *Detroit Lakes Tribune*, July 16, 2026)

[Red River Basin habitat restoration returns flood-prone land to more natural state](#)

Across the expansive Red River Basin, multiple projects are underway to restore riparian habitat along rivers, including one in the [Wild Rice Watershed District](#). (By Ingrid Harbo, *INFORUM*, July 21, 2026)

[Research Project Asks How Clean Forest Lake Looks](#)

A new research project that includes Forest Lake is asking a different question: What do people using the lake think? (By Shivam Vashishtha, *The Forest Lake Laker*, July 27, 2026)

[University of Minnesota Extension to Host Minnesota Drainage Program Workshop at Farmamerica on August 13](#)

The University of Minnesota Extension will host a session of the Minnesota Drainage Program on Thursday, August 13, 2026, at Farmamerica (7367 360th Ave, Waseca, MN). The workshop is designed for farmers, agricultural drainage contractors, local government unit (LGU) staff, commissioners, SWCD staff, and drainage engineers. (By Tim Gieseke, UM Extension, July 27, 2026)

[Watershed districts work behind the scenes on housing](#)

Housing developments now under way in Falcon Heights, Lauderdale and St. Anthony Park require coordination with the [Capitol Region Watershed District](#). (By Ann Holzman, *Park Bugle*, July 29, 2026)

Employment Announcements

Watershed Job Openings. Minnesota Watersheds will post job openings for members on its website and promote them on social media. It is one of our most popular pages so email Maddy at mnwatershed@gmail.com to get yours listed today.

- Middle Fork Crow River WD: [Project Coordinator](#)
- Ramsey-Washington Metro WD: [Watershed Engagement Intern](#)
- Rice Creek WD: [Inspector](#)
- Rice Creek WD: [Project Manager](#)

State Agency Advocacy

Partner Meetings

Drainage Work Group. The DWG met in St. Cloud on July 9. Meeting notes can be found [here](#). Highlights include:

- a presentation from St. Louis County staff regarding an abandonment project and the resulting financial and legal implications,
- a discussion about drainage authorities and conservation contracts, and
- a presentation by Chuck Brandel, ISG about road crossings

Clean Water Council. The Council met on July 20. The meeting packet can be found [here](#).

Board of Water and Soil Resources. The BWSR Board did not meet in July.

Education, Grant and Training Opportunities

EDUCATION, GRANT, AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES! Continuing education is a pivotal component to organizational success. Minnesota Watersheds is committed to connecting you with high quality training whether it is offered at our events or through our partners. Check out the Minnesota Watersheds [online training calendar](#) for information regarding upcoming education and training.

[Training Videos by BWSR](#)

- **Who's Who in Minnesota Water Management Video Series.** Learn about Minnesota's multi-layered model for water management in this four part "Who's Who in Minnesota Water" video series, created for members of local government boards and commissions.
- **Watershed Management Video Series.** Learn about watershed management in this nine-part video series, created as an introduction for board/commission members of watershed districts and watershed management organizations/commissioners.

Other Grant and Training Opportunities

- **September 9, 2026:** AIS Detectors webinar: [Restoring our underwater forests: Can native revegetation enhance invasion resistance in lakes?](#) Presented by Abha Panda
- **October 28, 2026:** Save the Date: AIS Research and Management Showcase
- **[Environmental Assistance Loans](#)** are available through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.
- **[Smart Salting Training Program](#)** is ready to work with your organization to schedule and host trainings for your staff and community. Schedule trainings now for your pick of dates throughout the year by emailing smartsalting.pca@state.mn.us.
- **[BWSR Train Tracks](#)**

- BWSR offers a [searchable library](#) of recorded modules, webinars, videos, and other resources to find professional development information on a variety of topics.
- Minnesota Watersheds offers an online library in the [Members Only](#) section of our website.
- Please forward opportunities that would be of value to our members to Jan Voit at jvoit@mnwatersheds.com.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

August Partner Meetings

- Drainage Work Group: August 13
- Clean Water Council: August 24
- BWSR Board: August 27

Key Dates

To assist members with key dates for Minnesota Watersheds Board and committee meetings, as well as information related to dues and events, a schedule is included below. It has been revised based on the new timeline for resolutions and the Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions.

Key Dates	Meetings, Events, and Deadlines
August 4, 2026	Strategic Plan Committee meeting
August 31, 2026	Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions (virtual)
August 31, 2026	Abstract submission deadline
September 28, 2026	Minnesota Watersheds meeting (tentative)
October 6, 2026	Legislative Committee meeting - review and recommend legislative priorities
October 7, 2026	Finance Committee meeting - review and recommend budget and dues
October 12, 2026	Bylaws-MOPP Committee meeting - review MOPP and Bylaws
October 26, 2026	Minnesota Watersheds meeting - review budget, dues, and priorities
October 28, 2026	Distribute dues statements
October 30, 2026	Distribute annual meeting packet to members
December 2-4, 2026	Annual Conference - Grand View Lodge, Nisswa
December 4, 2026	Minnesota Watersheds meeting (election of officers)
December 28, 2026	Minnesota Watersheds meeting (tentative)

Connect with Minnesota Watersheds

Minnesota Watersheds Board members are available to meet with you at one of your future board meetings. They also welcome the opportunity to meet with you one-on-one to hear about your successes and ideas where Minnesota Watersheds could be of assistance. Contact information is on our [website](#). **We greatly appreciate your support!**



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