

# Region 3 Caucus

Wednesday, December 3, 2025 @ 4:30 p.m.  
**Caucus location: Gull Lake Center – Lake Margaret**

## AGENDA

- 4:30 p.m. Welcome and Call to Order (Convener Don Pereira)
- 4:33 p.m. Appointment of a Secretary (Pereira)
- 4:35 p.m. Election of Caucus Chairperson (Pereira)
- 4:45 p.m. Nominations of a Region Director to Minnesota Watersheds Board (Caucus Chair)  
*Current Region 3 Minnesota Watersheds Board Members:*
- Tom Duevel – term expires December 2025
  - Shaun Kennedy – term expires December 2026
  - Don Pereira – term expires December 2027 (current MW Treasurer)
- Vote for one open position, currently held by Tom Duevel, for a term to expire in 2028.***
- 5:05 p.m. Candidate Remarks - 5 minutes each (Caucus Chair)
- 5:05 p.m. Voting (Caucus Chair)  
***Election results should be reported to the Minnesota Watersheds President and Executive Director so they can be presented to the members at the annual business meeting.***
- 5:15 p.m. Call for Committee Members (Caucus Chair)  
***Each committee is represented by one manager from each region, except the Resolutions and Legislative Committee (three from each region), who are committed to attending meetings and fulfilling responsibilities, no alternates, please. (Three at-large members are appointed to the Resolutions and Legislative Committee based on the legislative priorities.) In the past, not all regions have been able to fill the committee positions, let alone designate an alternate. Having alternates also makes representation lopsided, with more representation from one region over another. It is more efficient to designate an individual who is willing to commit to attending meetings. If the person is unable to attend a scheduled meeting, it is his/her responsibility to contact the committee co-chair(s). (See table on page 2.)***
- 5:30 p.m. Open Forum (Caucus Chair)  
***Review delegate checklist***  
*Discussion of proposed resolutions, regional hot topics, etc.*
- 6:00 p.m. Adjournment (Caucus Chair)

Region III		
Bassett Creek WMC	Brown's Creek	Capitol Region
Carnelian Marine St. Croix	Comfort Lake-Forest Lake	Coon Creek
Minnehaha Creek	Mississippi WMO	Nine Mile Creek
Prior Lake Spring Lake	Ramsey-Washington Metro	Rice Creek
Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek	South Washington	Vadnais Lake Area WMO
Valley Branch		

# Minnesota Watersheds Committees – Region III

## Representatives

December 2025

Committee*	Region	2025 Members	2026	Responsibilities
<b>Resolutions and Legislative</b>	III	Shawn Mazanec, Capitol Region		The Resolutions and Legislative Committee oversees the resolutions process. It also provides focus and direction to the Minnesota Watersheds lobbying team and the Executive Director. The committee meets in June to review resolutions. It meets again in October to review the legislative program work and makes recommendations to the membership on legislative priorities.
Co-Chairs: Don Pereira, Michelle Overholser		Beverly Burnett, Prior Lake-Spring Lake; Mike Madigan, South Washington; Frank Boyles, Prior Lake Spring Lake and Joan Hauer, Bassett Creek WMC (at large); Val Eisele, Ramsey-Washington Metro and Jill Crafton, Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek (alternates)		
<b>Governance</b>				
<b>Bylaws &amp; MOPP</b>	III	Mike Bradley, Rice Creek		The By-Laws/MOPP committee is responsible for the annual review of these documents to ensure that they meet the needs and operating procedures of the organization.
Co-Chairs: Don Pereira, Kristine Goeden				
<b>Strategic Plan</b>	III	Shaun Kennedy, Bassett Creek WMC		This Strategic Plan Committee is responsible for the review and annual prioritization of the organization's strategic plan.
Co-Chairs: David Ziegler, Andy Henschel		Jill Crafton, Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek (alternate)		
<b>Finance</b>	III	Peggy Kvam, Nine Mile Creek		The purpose of the Finance Committee is to make financial recommendations to the Board on items such as the annual budget and dues.
Co-Chairs: Don Pereira, Tera Guetter				
<b>Events/Education</b>	III	Rick Sanders, Capitol Region		The purpose of the Events/Education Committee is to ensure Minnesota Watersheds events provide high quality educational and networking opportunities for members and non-members.
Co-Chairs: Gene Tiedemann, Tina Carstens		Stephanie Wang, Ramsey-Washington Metro (alternate)		
<b>Awards</b>	III	Joe Collins, Capitol Region		The purpose of the Awards Committee is to promote, manage and present the annual Minnesota Watersheds Project and Program of the Year Awards.
Co-Chairs: Dennis Kral, Karen Kill		Celia Wirth, Brown's Creek (alternate)		

## How Minnesota Watersheds Committees Work

Information about upcoming committee meetings is developed by the Minnesota Watersheds Executive Director and committee co-chairs. The information is distributed to committee members and is available to members upon request. Meeting summaries are created and shared with members through the monthly newsletter, as well as the pertinent committee page on the Minnesota Watersheds website.

### Executive Governance

The Executive Governance Committee, consisting of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the Executive Director, works together to ensure daily operations align with the Bylaws, Manual of Policy and Procedures (MOPP), and Strategic Plan. The committee meets as needed.

### Bylaws-MOPP

The purpose of the Bylaws-MOPP Committee is to ensure the Bylaws and MOPP are kept up to date and adequately guide the organization. The committee meets annually or as needed.

### Strategic Plan Committee

The purpose of the Strategic Plan Committee is to ensure the Strategic Plan adequately guides the organization. The committee meets annually to prioritize the work plan for the Executive Director and to review the Strategic and Communication Plans.

### Executive Finance and Finance Committee

The Executive Finance Committee will handle the day-to-day financial decisions. The Finance Committee will deal with the larger picture issues, such as preparing an annual budget and making recommendations on the annual dues structure.

### Events-Education Committee

The purpose of the Events-Education Committee is to ensure Minnesota Watersheds events provide high quality educational and networking opportunities for members and non-members. The committee annually reviews the education work plan, provides input before and after events, and sets the convention presentation schedule, including recommendations for the staff development workshop. This committee is supported by the Executive Director and the Program Manager. The committee meets in January, February, April, June, July, September, and December.

### Resolutions and Legislative Committee

The purpose of the Resolutions Committee is to oversee the resolutions process. It also provides focus and direction to the Minnesota Watersheds lobbying team and the Executive Director. The committee meets in June to review resolutions. It meets again in October to review the legislative program work and makes recommendations to the membership on legislative priorities.

### Awards Committee

The purpose of the Awards Committee is to promote, manage, and present the annual Minnesota Watersheds Project and Program of the Year Awards. The committee conducts its business almost exclusively by email.

## Region III Caucus Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2004

**Time:** 7:00 am

Location: Gull Lake Center, Lake Hubert room

Attendees:

Nine Mile Creek: Chris-Ann Lauria and Peggy Kvam

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek: Jill Crafton and David Ziegler

Minnehaha Creek: Bill Olson and Sherry White

Bassett Creek WMC: Shaun Kennedy and Joan Hauer

Ramsey Washington Metro: Benjamin Karp and Mark Gernes

Capitol Region: Joe Collins, Shawn Mazanec, and Mary Texer

Valley Branch: Don Pereira

South Washington: Mike Madigan and John Loomis

Comfort Lake Forest Lake: Jackie Anderson

Rice Creek: Mike Bradley, John Waller, and Marcie Weinandt

Mississippi WMO: Kevin Reich

Prior Lake Spring Lake: Ben Burnett and Joni Giese

Brown's Creek: Celia Wirth

**7:02:**

I. Call to Order

Don Pereira called the meeting to order at 7:00 AM.

II. Nominations and Appointments

A. MN Watersheds Board Chair

- Dave Ziegler formally nominated Don Pereira for the position of Caucus Chair. The nomination was unanimously approved by all present.

B. Appointment of Caucus Secretary:

- Don Pereira appointed Chris-Ann Lauria.

C. Board Director Vacancy:

- Mary Texer nominated Don Pereira as Region Director for the MN Watersheds Board, seconded by Dave Ziegler. The motion approved by all present.

**7:10 a.m.**

D. Call for Committee Members

- Several nominations were made for various committees:

1) **Governance Committee**

Nominations:

Shawn Mazanec, Capital Region WD

Mike Madigan, South Washington WD

Joan Hauer, Bassett Creek WMC  
Frank Boyles, Prior Lake Spring Lake WD

**2) Bylaws MOPP Committee**

Member Nomination

Mike Bradley, Rice Creek WD

David Ziegler, Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek WD is committee co-chair

**3) Strategic Planning Committee**

Nominations

Shaun Kennedy, Bassett Creek WMC

Jill Crafton, Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek WD, alternate

**4) Resolutions Committee (Scheduled in October)**

Nominations

Ben Burnett, Prior Lake Spring Lake WD

Val Eisele, Ramsey Washington WD (alternate)

Jill Crafton, Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek WD (alternate)

**5) Finance Committee**

Nominations

Peggy Kvam, Nine Mile Creek WD

Sherry White, Minnehaha Creek WD (alternate)

**6) Events & Education Committee**

Nominations

Rick Sanders, Capitol Region WD

Stephanie Wang, Ramsey Washington Metro WD (alternate)

**7) Awards Committee**

Nominations

Joe Collins, Capital Region WD, will continue

Celia Wirth, Browns Creek WD (alternate)

**7:25 a.m.**

**III. Open Forum**

A. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from the Caucus meeting held on November 30, 2023, were presented.

- Motion to approve by Mary Texer, seconded by Ben Burnett; the motion carried unanimously.

B. Review Delegate Checklist:

Watershed Organization		Delegate #1	Delegate #2	Alternate
Bassett Creek WMC	Region 3	Joan Hauer	Shaun Kennedy	Catherine Cesnik
Brown's Creek	Region 3	Celia Wirth		
Capitol Region	Region 3	Hawona Sullivan Janzer	Shawn Mazanec	Joe Collins
Carnelian Marine St. Croix	Region 3	Paul Richert <i>2.2</i>	Kristin Tuenge ??	Mike White ✓ <i>at m.</i>
Comfort Lake Forest Lake	Region 3	Jackie Anderson ✓	Stephen Schmaltz ✓	Dave Bakke ✓
Coon Creek	Region 3			
Minnehaha Creek	Region 3	Sherry Lunde ✓	Bill Olson ✓	
Mississippi WMO	Region 3	Kevin		
Nine Mile Creek	Region 3	Robert Cutshall <i>att</i>	Larry Olson <i>att</i>	Peggy Kvam <i>att</i>
Prior Lake Spring Lake	Region 3	Ben Burnett	Bruce Loney <i>att</i>	Unlabeled <i>att</i>
Ramsey Washington Metro	Region 3	Val Eisele	Mark Gernes	Benjamin Karp
Rice Creek	Region 3	Mike Bradley	Marcie Weinandt	John Waller
Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek	Region 3	Jill Crafton	David Ziegler	Tom Duevel
South Washington	Region 3	Mike Madigan ✓		
Vadnais Lake Area WMO	Region 3			
Valley Branch	Region 3	Don Pereira ✓	John Brach ✓	Rick Gelbmann

C. Discussion on Resolutions - Facilitated by Don Pereira, the following topics were discussed:

- 1) Calcareous Fen
  - Concerns were raised regarding the cultural significance of calcareous fens to the Mdwakanton Dakota Sioux Tribe.
  - There is a need for comprehensive research due to inconsistencies between statutes and regulations.
  - Don Pereira shared that MN Watersheds doesn't have the resources to work on individual problems in the state. The problem has to have regional significance.
- 2) Wetland Conservation Act:
  - John Waller from Rice Creek expressed concerns regarding the implications of the Act on stormwater management flexibility.
- 3) Focus on Grant Opportunities:
  - Mike Bradley emphasized the necessity for MN Watersheds to create a platform for access to available grants and explore federal funding possibilities under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.
  - Don Pereira will consult with Julie Blackburn from ISG engineering firm.
  - John Waller shared a story about receiving a \$500,000 grant for White Bear Lake.
- 4) Committee Voting Process:
  - Jackie Anderson inquired about the voting process for committee member nominations, and it was clarified that the MN Watersheds Board of Directors would review and vote at the MN Watersheds Board Meeting on Friday, 12/6/2024.
  - A proposal was made for the Caucus to vote on a member for each committee with a vacancy. Their recommendations will be shared with the BOD.
  - Each nominee will share their bio with the MW BOD prior to the 12/6 meeting.

- 5) Chloride Reduction Initiative:
  - Stephanie Wang raised the potential for exploring alternative approaches to address chloride reduction initiatives.
  - NMCWD presented a resolution entitled: Resolution to Develop Regulatory Approaches to Reducing Chloride Contamination.
  - David Ziegler motioned to establish a subcommittee under Region III to focus on chloride reduction issues; it was seconded by Stephanie Wang.
  - Mark Gernes suggested we explore approaches other than limited liability to tackle this problem.
  - Mike Madigan shared that he heard from a reliable source that the trial lawyers have dropped their objection to limited liability.
  - Shawn Mazanec shared that landscapers were not on board.
  - Don Pereira shared that his WD conducted a chloride reduction workshop and that he would be willing to share that content with MN Watersheds. This topic was suggested to be added to the Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> Metro Watersheds quarterly meeting.
  
- 6) Clean Water Council
  - Marcie Weinandt addressed funding for the Clean Water Council. She serves on the council and advocated for no reduction in budget funding for the watershed-based implementation fund.
  - Funding from the Clean Water Council comes from the citizens of Minnesota through an increased sales tax. This funding is inconsistent because it depends on sales tax revenue.
  - The state budget will run out on June 30, 2025. Although the state currently has a surplus, it is generating less revenue than expected, leading to a projected deficit of \$5 billion for fiscal years 2028 and 2029.
  - Marcie encouraged attendance at Clean Water Council meetings.
  - The council is a 20-member council. Six positions are local. Two county commission (urban & rural) positions are vacant. MN Watersheds sent a letter of recommendation when Marcie was appointed.
  - Consider contacting Representative Peter Fischer, Environment Committee Co-Chair in House from Maplewood.
  - Josh Heintzeman is the Republican Environment Committee Co-Chair in the House
  - Five agencies manage water in MN.
  
- 7) Signage
  - It has been resolved that the selection of committee member nominees shall be conducted via a show of hands from Caucus attendees.
  
- 8) Caucus Voting on Governance Committee
  - The decision was made to choose the nominee by a show of hands.

Shawn Mazanec, Capital Region WD: received 15 votes and is therefore nominated by the Caucus as a committee member.

Mike Madigan, South Washington WD: received six votes and is nominated by the Caucus as an alternate

Joan Hauer, Bassett Creek WMC: received one vote.

Frank Boyles, Prior Lake Spring Lake WD: received one vote.

### **1) Governance Committee**

#### Nominations:

Shawn Mazanec, Capital Region WD

Mike Madigan, South Washington WD

Joan Hauer, Bassett Creek WMC

Frank Boyles, Prior Lake Spring Lake WD

- Each nominee shall provide a brief biography to Chris-Ann Lauria and Jan Voit.
- The MN Watershed BOD will vote on committee members at the 12/6/2024 BOD meeting.
- All nominee names will be presented to the MN Watershed BOD, given that candidates possess knowledge and passion that can contribute to the organization in meaningful ways.
- Participation in sub-committee meetings is permitted for individuals who are not appointed members of the MN Watershed committee, provided they are watershed district managers in good standing. It is required that these individuals contact the committee chair in advance to confirm attendance.
- Inquiry should be made with Jan Voit regarding the procedure for board members to ascertain the schedule and location of committee meetings.
- Meeting dates shall be publicly posted on the MN Watersheds web pages.

### **2) Bylaws MOPP Committee**

#### Member Nomination

Mike Bradley, Rice Creek WD

David Ziegler, Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek WD is co-chair

### **3) Strategic Planning Committee**

#### Nominations

Shaun Kennedy, Bassett Creek WMC

Jill Crafton, Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek WD, alternate

### **4) Resolutions Committee (meet in October)**

#### Nominations

Ben Burnett, Prior Lake Spring Lake WD

Val Eisele, Ramsey Washington Metro WD (alternate)

Jill Crafton, Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek WD (alternate)

### **5) Finance Committee**

#### Nominations

Peggy Kvam, Nine Mile Creek WD

Sherry White, Minnehaha Creek WD (alternate)

### **6) Events & Education Committee**

#### Nominations

Rick Sanders, Capitol Region WD

Stephanie Wang, Ramsey Washington Metro WD (alternate)

**7) Awards Committee**

Nominations

Joe Collins, Capitol Region WD

Celia Wirth, Brown's Creek (alternate)

**8:45 a.m.**

**IV. Adjournment**

- A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and seconded by David Ziegler.

Send minutes to:

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