



Item 5B.
BCWMC 12-20-18

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

MEMO

To: BCWMC Commissioners
From: Laura Jester, Administrator
Date: December 12, 2018

RE: Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts Membership Changes

On November 30th, the MN Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) approved a bylaws change that would allow WMOs (like the BCWMC) to join MAWD with full membership rights (see attached). In 2019, the membership dues for WMOs will be \$500. Membership dues are by March 31st.

In future years, the fee will be determined by the MAWD Board of Directors using the same formula that's currently used for watershed districts. In 2018, dues were = 2017 Taxable Market Value x 0.00048 x 0.005, not to exceed \$7,500.

If the Commission becomes a MAWD member, it would need to designate from among commissioners, two delegates to represent the watershed within MAWD. Additionally, members may designate alternate delegates to represent them in the absence of any originally designated delegate. Information on meetings, duties, and activities of MAWD and its members are included in the bylaws attached. A "MAWD benefits" fact sheet is also attached. Further information can be found on their website at: <https://www.mnwatershed.org/>.

The Commission should determine whether or not to become a member of MAWD for 2018 and beyond.

Additionally, there are other groups and organizations that the Commission and/or staff may wish to become involved with including Metro MAWD (a chapter within MAWD) which typically meets on the third Tuesday in January, April, July and October at 7:00 pm at Capitol Region Watershed District in St. Paul; and the Minnesota Association of Watershed Administrators (MAWA) - a professional and educational organization for the administrative executives in local watershed (water management) agencies. MAWA meets quarterly in conjunction with MAWD meetings. There are no membership dues for participation in these organizations.

The Commission should determine if participation in either or both of these groups is warranted or beneficial.

2018 Proposed Changes to MAWD Bylaws

The Governance Committee reviewed both the Bylaws and the Manual of Policies and Procedures (MOPP) during the summer of 2018. In addition to cleaning up the language to make the documents consistent both internally and with each other, the committee recommends adding language to allow for Water Management Organizations (WMOs) to join MAWD with full voting rights. Dues would be set by the Board of Directors and will use the same formula as used for Watershed District Members starting in 2020. For 2019, WMOs will not see an increase in the dues they are charged to be associate members (\$500.)

The MAWD Board of Directors accepted the changes as proposed in the MOPP at the September 21st Board Meeting in Sauk Centre. The MAWD Board further recommends the changes proposed to the Bylaws as shown below.

BYLAWS

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF WATERSHED DISTRICTS, INC.

St. Paul, Minnesota

ARTICLE I.

Offices and Corporate Seal

- 1.1 Official Name. The official name of the corporation is the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts, Inc., hereinafter referred to as MAWD.
- 1.2 Purpose. The purpose of MAWD is to provide educational opportunities, access to information resources, interface with other agencies, facilitate tours, meetings, ~~and other educational opportunities~~ and lobby on behalf of ~~watershed districts members~~. Additionally, MAWD will facilitate the exchange of information to help ~~members Watershed District Managers and Watershed staff~~ better comply with governmental regulations and laws while offering an informed interface with the community or communities being served.
- 1.3 Organized. The corporation is organized as a 501(c)(4) organization. Notwithstanding any provision of the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws which may be interpreted to the contrary, MAWD shall not authorize or undertake any actions which jeopardize its status as a 501(c)(4) organization.
- 1.4 Office. The registered office of the corporation shall be designated by the Board of Directors.
- 1.5 Corporate Seal. The corporation shall have no corporate seal.
- 1.6 Manual of Policy and Procedures. The Board of Directors has established a management document identified as Manual of Policy and Procedures (MOPP) to support the orderly and timely details of regular operation. It may be revised at any time by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE II. Membership

- 2.1 Regular Membership. Each dues-paying watershed district (WD) or water management organization (WMO) duly established and in good standing pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B or 103D, shall be entitled to ~~a regular~~ membership in this corporation.
- 2.2 Delegates. Alternates. When a ~~watershed district~~WD or WMO becomes a ~~regular~~ member of this corporation, it shall designate from among its managers-board members two delegates to represent it in this corporation. In addition, each ~~regular~~ member may designate alternate delegates to represent such member in the absence of any originally designated delegate. Thereafter, each ~~regular~~ member shall annually designate its delegates and alternate delegates so long as it remains a member in good standing of this corporation.
- 2.3 Termination of Membership. Any member that has failed to pay its dues ~~as provided in the Policy and Procedure Manual~~ is not in good standing and shall be stricken from the membership roll.
- 2.4 Resignation of Member. Any member may withdraw from this corporation effective immediately by notifying the secretary in writing. ~~45 days prior to the end of the fiscal year. Regardless of the date of termination, there shall be no refund of the annual dues paid by the member.~~
- 2.5 Associate Membership. The Board of Directors may from time to time extend associate membership to this corporation upon payment of dues as determined by the Board of Directors. An associate member shall not be entitled to submit resolutions, vote, or serve on the Board of Directors, but shall otherwise be afforded all the rights and privileges granted to ~~regular~~ members, their delegates and alternate delegates by law and by the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of this corporation.
- ~~2.6 Members or Memberships. Subject to the corporation's Articles of Incorporation and paragraph 2.5 herein, the terms "member" and "membership," or the plural of either, appearing in these Bylaws shall mean both regular members and associate members and memberships, unless a contrary meaning is clearly indicated.~~

ARTICLE III. Meetings of Membership

- 3.1 Annual Meeting. An annual meeting of this corporation shall be held to vote for the election of the Board of Directors and to transact such other business as shall properly come before them. Notice of the time and place of such annual meeting shall be mailed, either physically or electronically, by the secretary to all members at least thirty (30) days in advance thereof.
- 3.2 Special Meeting. Special meetings of the members of the corporation shall be called by the president upon request of a majority of directors of the Board of Directors or upon the written request of one-third of the ~~regular~~ members of the corporation in good standing. This request shall be in writing addressed to the president or the secretary of the corporation. Within thirty days of receipt of said request, the Board of Directors shall, mail (either physically or electronically) notice of said special meeting to all members. This notice shall state the objective of the meeting and the subjects to be

considered.

- 3.3 Quorum. A majority of the delegates (two per ~~regular~~ member) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- 3.4 Voting. Any action taken by the ~~regular~~ members shall be by majority vote of the delegates present unless otherwise specifically provided by these Bylaws. Each member shall be entitled to one (1) vote for each delegate present.

ARTICLE IV. Board of Directors

- 4.1 General Powers. The business activities of the corporation shall be directed and managed by the Board of Directors. ~~(hereinafter referred to as the board)~~. The Board of Directors shall be authorized to pay officers and directors of the corporation per diem allowances and expenses as may from time to time be submitted to the Board of Directors, and such other expenses as may from time to time be necessary for the furtherance of the corporation's business, consistent with the rate and provisions of watershed ~~manager board member~~ per diem allowances and expense reimbursement provided in state law. The Board of Directors is authorized to hire and/or contract for services needed.
- 4.2 Directors to be Elected by Regions. For the purpose of election of the Board of Directors, ~~the State of Minnesota is divided~~ members are grouped into three regions; three Directors shall be elected from each region, with staggered three-year terms. Members from each region shall elect one director for a three-year term at the annual meeting of the Association. No ~~Watershed District~~ WD or WMO shall have more than one ~~Manager board member~~ elected to be a Director on the Board of Directors of the Corporation. Regional caucuses shall elect a Chairman and Recording Secretary from its delegates for the purpose of its election procedure and report the election results to the Convention at a designated time.
- 4.3 Regions. ~~At the annual meeting, the delegates~~ The Board of Directors may re-align the regions or the ~~watershed districts~~ members contained therein, it being the intent and purpose that each region contain the approximate same number of ~~watershed districts~~ members. Any ~~watershed district~~ WD or WMO in Minnesota not presently a member of this corporation, upon admission to membership, will be assigned to a region by the Board of Directors. Regional membership shall be listed in the Policy and Procedure Manual.
- 4.4 Number. Qualification and Term of Office. The number of directors constituting the board shall be nine. Each director elected at the annual meeting shall be elected for a three-year term. Directors shall be on the board of a watershed member in good standing of this corporation.
- 4.5 Vacancies. If there be a vacancy among the officers of the corporation or among the directors by reason of death, resignation, termination of membership, or removal as provided by law, the Articles of Incorporation, or these Bylaws, or otherwise or for non-excused absences for three consecutive meetings, such vacancy shall be filled by the Board of Directors until the next Annual Meeting of the Association.

4.6 Removal of Directors by Members. At a special meeting of the Board of Directors called solely for that reason, the notice of which meeting shall have been given in writing to members of this board at least thirty days prior thereto and not more than fifty days prior thereto, a majority of the members of this board may remove one or more directors from their term of office without cause.

4.7 Meetings. Actions. The Board of Directors shall hold the annual meeting of the Board of Directors immediately after the annual meeting of the members of this corporation, and at such annual meeting shall elect the officers as above provided for. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at a time and place to be fixed by resolution or adopted by the majority of the Board of Directors.

The majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. Directors may participate and vote in Board of Directors meetings by telephone or other electronic means approved by the Board in the MOPP.

Actions may be taken by a majority vote of those Directors present or participating by telephone or other electronic means approved by the Board in the MOPP. The secretary of the board shall give written or electronic notice to each director at least ten (10) days in advance of any regular or special directors' meeting. Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the President of the board or upon demand in writing to the secretary by three (3) directors of the Board of Directors.

4.8 Conflicts of Interest. Members of the Board of Directors shall act at all times in the best interests of the corporation. This means setting aside personal self-interest and performing their duties in transacting the affairs of the corporation in such a manner that promotes public confidence and trust in the integrity, objectivity and impartiality of the Board. No Director shall directly or indirectly receive any profit from his/her position as such, and Directors shall serve without remuneration other than as provided in Section 4.1 of these Bylaws for the payment for reasonable expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties. The pecuniary interests of immediate family members or close personal or business associates of a Director are considered to also be the pecuniary interest of the Director.

4.9 Indemnification. All directors and officers of the corporation shall be indemnified against any and all claims that may be brought against them as a result of action taken by them on behalf of the corporation as provided for and subject to the requirements of Chapter 317A of Minnesota Statutes as amended.

ARTICLE V.

Board Officers

5.1 Officers and Duties. There shall be four officers of the board, consisting of a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. All officers shall be directors of the corporation. Their terms and duties are as follows:

5.2 President. The president shall serve a term of office of one year and may, upon re-election succeed himself/herself for two additional successive terms. The president shall have the following duties:

- Convene and preside over regularly scheduled board meetings.

- Have general powers and duties of supervision and management usually vested in the office of president.
- Appoint such committees as he/she shall deem necessary with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors.

5.3 Vice-President. The Vice-President shall serve a term of office of one year and may, upon re-election succeed himself/herself for two additional successive terms. The Vice-President shall have the following duties:

- Assume and perform the duties of the president in case of his/her absence or incapacity; and shall chair committees on special subjects as designated by the President.
- Have general powers and duties of supervision and management usually vested in the office of Vice-President.

5.4 Secretary. The Secretary shall serve a term of office of one year and may, upon re-election succeed himself/herself for two additional successive terms.

The Secretary shall be responsible for preparing and keeping all records of board actions, including overseeing the taking of minutes at all board meetings, sending out meeting announcements, distributing copies of minutes and the agenda to each board member, and assuring that corporate records are maintained.

5.5 Treasurer. The Treasurer shall serve a term of office of one year and may, upon re-election succeed himself/herself for two additional successive terms.

The treasurer shall chair the finance committee, maintain account of all funds deposited and disbursed, disburse corporate funds as designated by the Board of Directors, assist in the preparation of the budget, collect membership dues, and make financial information available to board members and the public.

ARTICLE VI.

Fiscal Year, Dues and ~~Audit~~Annual Review of Financial Procedures

6.1 Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the corporation shall end on September 30 each year.

6.2 Membership Dues. Dues will be determined annually by the Board of Directors as specified in the Policies and Procedures Manual.

6.3 Annual Dues. Annual dues shall be payable in ~~advance during the month of~~ January of each year. If a member's dues are not paid on or before April 30 of each year, such member's name shall be stricken from the membership roll. Reinstatement shall be upon such terms and conditions as prescribed by the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors shall have the authority to suspend or defer dues of any newly organized ~~watershed district~~WD or WMO that joins this association until such member ~~watershed district~~WD or WMO is in actual receipt of its first authorized fund. The Board shall send out the annual dues statement with payment directed to the Authorized ~~District~~ Accounting firm. The Board of Directors

may consider deferring, suspending, or reducing dues on an individual case basis when an appeal is made by a ~~Watershed District member~~ because of hardship or funding problems.

- 6.4 ~~Annual~~ Audit Review of Financial Procedures. The Board of Directors of this corporation shall provide for an annual audit review of financial procedures of all its resources and expenditures. A full report of such audit review and financial status shall be furnished at each annual meeting of the members. This audit review will be conducted by an auditing firm selected by the Board of Directors with experience in the field of government and water management. The audit review results shall be furnished to all member ~~s-districts~~ within forty-five days after receipt thereof by the Treasurer.

ARTICLE VII.

Employees

- 7.1 Employees. At the discretion of and under the direction of the Board of Directors, MAWD may choose to hire and administer various employees. Their positions and job expectations shall be individually developed and included in the Policies and Procedures Manual.

ARTICLE VIII.

Resolutions and Petitions

- 8.1 Resolutions: The Chair of the MAWD Resolutions/Policy Committee will send a request for resolutions, along with a form for submission, to the membership at least 3 months prior to the annual MAWD membership meeting. Resolutions and their justification must be submitted to the MAWD Resolutions/Policy Committee in the required format at least 2 months prior to the annual MAWD membership meeting for committee review and recommendation. The committee will present these resolutions and their recommendations to the ~~MAWD~~ Board of Directors and the MAWD membership at least 1 month prior to the start of the annual MAWD membership meeting. The ~~MAWD~~ Board of Directors may make additional recommendations on each proposed resolution through its board meeting process. This same procedure will be used when policy issues are to be considered at any special MAWD membership meeting.
- 8.2 Petitions: Any member or group of members may submit to the Board of Directors at any time a petition requesting action, support for, rejection of, or additional information on any issue of potential importance to the members. Such petitions require signed resolutions from ~~that~~ at least 15 member ~~s watershed districts submit the petition~~ before a Special meeting of the membership will be convened.

ARTICLE IX.

Chapters

- 9.1 Chapters. Member ~~s -Districts~~ may form chapters to further the purposes stated in Article II of the Articles of Incorporation, to carry out policies of the Board of Directors, and to suggest policies for consideration by the Board of Directors. ~~The chapters shall report on their activities at the Annual Meeting of the Association.~~

ARTICLE X.
Rules of Order

- 10.1 Rules. When consistent with its Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of this corporation. For consistency in operation, a copy of Robert's Rules of Order shall be available for consultation if requested at every scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors and Membership meetings.

ARTICLE XI.
Amendments

- 11.1 Amendments. These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the ~~regular~~ members of this corporation only as provided below.
- 11.2 Annual Meeting. At the annual meeting of the ~~regular~~ members of this corporation, the Bylaws may be amended by the majority of the ~~regular~~ members present if there is a quorum at said annual meeting and due notice has been given to the membership of the changes 30 days in advance of the meeting.
- 11.3 Special Meeting. These Bylaws may be amended by the ~~regular~~ members at a special meeting called for that reason but only by a majority vote of the entire ~~regular~~ membership of the corporation, and only if there has been thirty days' written notice to all ~~regular~~ members of such special meeting. Such special meeting may be called upon the request of one-third of the ~~regular~~ members of this corporation by notice in writing to the secretary or president, which notice shall ask for said special meeting and shall state the proposed Bylaws changes, and upon receipt of such request, the secretary or president must send written notice of the meeting to the members of this corporation within thirty days of receipt of such request, which shall be not less than thirty days nor more than fifty days of the date of the written notice.

MEMBER BENEFITS

MN Association of Watershed Districts, 18681 Lake Dr East, Chanhassen MN 55317
(612) 790-0700 office | www.mnwatershed.org | @mnwd46 | facebook.com/mnwd46



Land and Water Shall be Preserved

What is the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts?

The Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) is a non-profit organization that represents the local governments that focus on the management of water on watershed boundaries rather than political boundaries, such as cities and counties. Members benefit from having an organization that provides a **unified voice for watershed management** and works diligently to maximize the availability of the tools and resources that allow members to most effectively and efficiently meet their water management goals. Primary areas of focus include providing education and training opportunities, lobbying and advocacy services, and regular communications.

Education and Training for Watershed Managers and Staff



Every year, MAWD provides members with opportunities to learn from other members, as well as industry experts, at a variety of workshops, a summer tour, and an annual convention and trade show. Training topics typically include the following: watershed planning, permitting, flood control, education and outreach programs, innovative technologies, effective administration, public relations, data collection and assessment, aquatic invasive species, urban and rural best management practices, governance, and leadership.

Lobbying and Advocacy for Effective and Efficient Watershed Management



MAWD lobbies for funding and programs that enhance the restoration and protection of Minnesota's water resources. Members drive the organization's policy issues through an annual resolutions process and the MAWD Board of Directors sets each year's priorities. Although legislative solutions are often needed to maximize resources, sometimes MAWD will find the best solutions by working directly with state agencies and other non-profits such as wildlife groups, lake associations, environmental groups, and farm organizations.

Organizational Support through Regular Communications



MAWD maintains regular communication with its members to ensure they are kept informed on the latest watershed news including trainings they may find useful, changes to legislation that may impact them, and information to help them stay in compliance with governmental regulations and laws. Formats used to distribute information include newsletters, social media (Facebook and Twitter), email updates and alerts, fact sheets, press releases, and the organization's website: www.mnwatershed.org. Check us out today!

For more information, contact Emily Javens, Executive Director, at (612) 790-0700 or exec.mawd@gmail.com.