Region 3 Caucus

Wednesday, December 2, 2026 @ 3:30 p.m.

Caucus location: Gull Lake Center – Lake Margaret

AGENDA

3:30 p.m. Welcome and Call to Order (Convener Shawn Mazanec)

3:33 p.m. Appointment of a Secretary (Mazanec)

3:35 p.m. Election of Caucus Chairperson (Mazanec)

3:45 p.m. Nominations of a Region Director to Minnesota Watersheds Board (Caucus Chair)

Current Region 3 Minnesota Watersheds Board Members:

- Shaun Kennedy – term expires December 2026
- Don Pereira – term expires December 2027 (current MW Treasurer)
- Shawn Mazanec – term expires December 2028

Vote for one open position, currently held by Shaun Kennedy, for a term to expire in 2029.

3:50 p.m. Candidate Remarks - 5 minutes each (Caucus Chair)

4:05 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.

4:15 p.m. Call for Committee Members (Caucus Chair)

Each committee is represented by one manager or commissioner from each region, except the 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 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.)*

4:30 p.m. Open Forum (Caucus Chair)

Review delegate checklist

Discussion of proposed resolutions, regional hot topics, etc.

5:00 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 2026

Committee*	Region	2026 Members	2027	Responsibilities
Legislative	III			The 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		Don Pereira, Valley Branch; Beverly Burnett, Prior Lake-Spring Lake; Marcie Weinandt, Rice Creek; Bonnie Nelson, Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek; Shawn Mazanec and Joe Collins, Capitol Region – at large		
Governance				
Bylaws & MOPP	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: Vacant, Kristine Goeden				
Strategic Plan	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: Vacant, Andy Henschel				
Finance	III	Sherry White, Minnehaha 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, Terry Jeffery				
Events/Education	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, Amber Doschadis				
Awards	III	Celia Wirth, Brown's Creek		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				

Region III Caucus DRAFT Meeting Minutes 2025

Date: Wednesday, December 3, 2025
Time: 4:30-5:25 pm
Location: Gull Lake Center, Lake Margaret room

Attendees:
Bassett Creek WMC: Shaun Kennedy (D), Catherine Cesnik (D), Jen Leonardson
Brown's Creek WD: Griffin Brod
Capitol Region WD: Joe Collins (D), Shawn Mazanec (D), and Rick Sanders
Carnelian Marine St. Croix WD: Paul Richert (D), Nick Bancks (D), and Pat Gleason
Comfort Lake Forest Lake WD: Jackie Anderson (D) and Jim Schottmuller (D)
Coon Creek WD: Jim Hafner (D), Jason Lund (D), and Mary Campbell
Minnehaha Creek WD: Bill Olson (D) and Sherry White (D)
Mississippi WMO: none
Nine Mile Creek WD: Chris-Ann Lauria (D), Brian Kirk (D), Peggy Kvam
Prior Lake Spring Lake WD: Beverly Burnett (D) and Bruce Loney (D)
Ramsey Washington Metro WD: Stephanie Wang (D), Benjamin Karp (D), and Gabi Grogan
Rice Creek WD: Mike Bradley (D) and Marcie Weinandt (D)
Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek WD: Jill Crafton (D), Tom Duevel (D), and Bonnie Nelson
South Washington WD: Mike Madigan and David Filipiak
Vandals Lake Area WMO: none
Valley Branch WD: Don Pereira, John Brach, and Ed Marchan

4:30 pm
I. Call to Order
Don Pereira called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

II. Nominations and Appointments
A. MN Watersheds Board Chair
- *** 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, NMCWD

C. Vacant Board Member Appointment
- Shawn Mazanec was nominated as MN Watershed Board Director and is running unopposed.
- His nomination was unanimously approved by all present.

C. Call for Committee Members
- Several nominations were made for MN Watersheds committees:

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1) Resolutions & Legislative Committee
Nominations:

a. Beverly Burnett, Prior Lake Spring Lake WD
b. Marcie Weinandt, Rice Creek WD
c. Joe Collins, Capitol Region WD
d. Bonnie Nelson

2) Bylaws MOPP Committee
Nomination: Mike Bradley, Rice Creek WD

3) Strategic Planning Committee
Nomination: Shaun Kennedy, Bassett Creek

4) Finance Committee
Nomination: Sherry White, Minnehaha Creek WD

5) Events & Education Committee
Nomination: Rick Sanders, Capitol Region WD

6) Awards Committee
Nominations:
Joe Collins, Capitol Region WD
Celia Wirth, Brown's Creek WD
Note: Celia Wirth was not present at the caucus. If she wishes to remain on the Awards Committee, Joe Collins said he would step down.

III. Open Forum

A. Approval of Minutes

B. Review Delegate Checklist:
18 delegates needed for a quorum, 25 delegates present

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

1) MN Watersheds passed a resolution to address chloride reduction last year. This initiative highlights the need for action to mitigate chloride impacts on our water resources. Several government entities have resources and policies available for municipalities seeking to implement chloride reduction strategies:
<u>Government Chloride Reduction Resources and Policies</u>

a. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) offers Best Management Practices (BMPs) and has established a Statewide Chloride Management Plan.

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b. The Clean Water Council has developed a chloride policy that encourages Minnesota to adopt measures for reducing chloride levels in surface and groundwater. This policy includes funding for the Smart Salting applicator training and certification program.
c. The Board of Soil and Water Resources (BSWR) provides guidance on chloride reduction practices that municipalities can adopt.
d. Hennepin County is actively working to reduce chloride usage through its Chloride Initiative. This program collaborates with cities and watershed organizations to develop and share resources, such as the "Low Salt, No Salt Minnesota" initiative, which aims to inform residents and property managers about chloride-reduction practices.
e. Future Actions
The committee brainstormed potential actions to enhance chloride reduction efforts, including
    - Municipalities could require building design requirements that reduce chloride use.
    - Cities could implement snow storage plans that are consistent across the metro area.
    - Communities could push for changes in water softener use.
    - Encourage more districts or municipalities to recruit volunteers for the Salt Watch program.

D. Clean Water Fund
- Marcie Weinandt addressed funding for the Clean Water Council. In 2008, the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment was passed, increasing the sales and use tax rate by three-eighths of 1 percent on taxable sales from 2009 through 2034. Marcie advocates for MN Watersheds to support renewal of this amendment and to begin such work by ***.
- Bonnie Nelson, Riley-Purgatory WD (prior MPCA employee and a farmer) volunteered to be on the Resolutions & Legislative Committee.

E. Jackie Anderson, CLFLWD reminded the assembly that a resolution will be presented at the Annual Business Meeting to address an existing inconsistency regarding the deadlines for levy submissions, specifically the dates of September 15th and September 30th. Her district is advocating for the introduction of legislation to amend Minnesota Statute 103D.915, concerning tax levy protocols, to establish a uniform deadline of September 30th.

Motion made to approve the 2024 MN Watershed Caucus Meeting minutes.
100% of members were in favor.

IV. Adjournment 5:15 PM
- Mary Texer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Joe Collins.

Send minutes
jvoit@mnwatersheds.com
dpereira@vbwd.org

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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.

Legislative Committee

The purpose of the Legislative 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.