

Resolutions and Legislative Committee Recommendations

Item 5E.
BCWMC 8-21-25



The committee's recommendations on resolutions are as follows.

#	Resolution Title	Committee Recommendation
1	Supporting a Legislative Amendment to Expand the Wetland Conservation Act Exemption of Public Drainage System Repairs	Recommends adoption
2	Seeking Revision to MN Statute 383B.79 to Include Watershed Management Organizations	Recommends adoption
3	Seeking Legislative Reform to Increase MDNR and MPCA Efficiency and Define Permit Application Completeness	Recommends adoption

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS

RESOLUTION 2025-01

Resolution Supporting a Legislative Amendment to Expand the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) Exemption for Public Drainage System Repairs

Proposing District: Rice Creek Watershed District
Contact Name: Nicholas Tomczik, Administrator
Phone Number: 763-398-3079
Email Address: ntomczik@ricecreek.org

Background that led to submission of this resolution:

The Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) currently exempts potential impacts to wetlands that have existed for less than 25 years resulting from public drainage system repairs. However, many public drainage systems state-wide at the discretion of the Drainage Authority have been unmaintained or undermaintained for more than 25 years, and repairs determined to be necessary now or at a future date to these systems can trigger the need for extensive investigation to determine the potential for wetland impact and mitigation requirements. Determining the impacts from public drainage system repairs is inexact at best, and as a result the regulatory pathways to accomplish these repairs are often inconsistent and inconclusive. To address these complications, RCWD would like the WCA to be modified to extend this exemption to all public drainage system repairs. This would simplify regulatory engagement for drainage system repairs and reduce costs for drainage authorities and benefiting landowners.

Balancing efficient drainage repairs with wetland preservation is critical, especially as infrastructure needs grow due to increased flood risks and climate impacts. This issue is important to ensure timely repairs while protecting water resources.

Relevant regulatory documents include Minnesota Statute 103G.2241 and MN Rule 8420.0420, detailing the current exemptions and processes under the WCA.

Efforts to solve the problem

The RCWD has had extensive dialog with the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) staff for many years on the topic of evaluating wetland impacts from public drainage system repairs. Recent 2024 legislation attempted to simplify WCA, but did not address this specific issue.

Is legislative action the best means of addressing the matter? If yes, what is the purpose or intent of your proposal? If not, what advocacy steps could be taken with state or local government officials?

Yes, legislative action is the appropriate means. The purpose of the proposal is to amend existing statutes to expand the 25-year wetlands exemption to include all public drainage repair activities.

If legislative action is not pursued, advocacy efforts could focus on engaging with local and state officials to promote administrative modifications or policy adjustments. This might include informing DNR and BWSR of the importance of balancing repair efficiency with wetland preservation, emphasizing the economic and flood mitigation benefits of streamlined repairs.

Potential solutions include

- Advocating for amendments to Minnesota Statutes 103G.2241 and MN Rules 8420.0420 to expand exemptions.
- Developing policies that support expedited drainage repair approvals without compromising wetland protections.

Anticipated support or opposition

Other Watershed Districts that are Drainage Authorities for public drainage systems might support this issue. State agencies such as BWSR or DNR, wetland conservation special interest groups might oppose this effort.

This issue: (check all that apply)

Applies only to our district:		Requires legislative action:	X
Applies only to 1 or 2 regions:		Requires state agency advocacy:	
Applies to the entire state:	X	Impacts MW bylaws or MOPP:	

MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS RESOLUTION 2025-01

Resolution Supporting a Legislative Amendment to Expand the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) Exemption for Public Drainage System Repairs

WHEREAS, the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) currently exempts potential impacts to wetlands that have existed for less than 25 years resulting from public drainage system repairs; and

WHEREAS, many public drainage systems statewide, at the discretion of the Drainage Authority, have been unmaintained or undermaintained for more than 25 years; and

WHEREAS, repairs determined to be necessary now or at a future date to these systems can trigger the need for extensive investigation to determine the potential for wetland impact and mitigation requirements; and

WHEREAS, determining the impacts from public drainage system repairs is inexact at best, and as a result, the regulatory pathways to accomplish these repairs are often inconsistent and inconclusive; and

WHEREAS, to address these complications, RCWD proposes that the WCA be modified to extend this exemption to all public drainage system repairs, which would simplify regulatory engagement for drainage system repairs and reduce costs for drainage authorities and benefiting landowners; and

WHEREAS, balancing efficient drainage repairs with wetland preservation is critical, especially as infrastructure needs grow due to increased flood risks and climate impacts; and

WHEREAS, this issue is important to ensure timely repairs while protecting water resources; and

WHEREAS, relevant regulatory documents include Minnesota Statute 103G.2241 and MN Rule 8420.0420, which detail the current exemptions and processes under the WCA; and

WHEREAS, the Rice Creek Watershed District has had extensive dialog with the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) staff for many years on the topic of evaluating wetland impacts from public drainage system repairs, and recent 2024 legislation attempting to simplify WCA did not address this specific issue; and

WHEREAS, legislative action is the appropriate means of addressing this matter, with the purpose of amending existing statutes to expand the 25-year wetlands exemption to include all public drainage repair activities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports the introduction of new legislation to amend Minnesota Statute 103G.2241 and MN Rule 8420.0420 to expand the WCA exemption to include all public drainage system repairs and commits its staff to further discussion through the Drainage Work Group in 2025 and to promote passage of such legislation in upcoming sessions.

Notes: Committee recommends adoption

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS

RESOLUTION 2025-02

Resolution Seeking Revision to MN Statute 383B.79 to Include Watershed Management Organizations

Proposing District: Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission
Contact Name: Laura Jester, Administrator
Phone Number: 952-270-1990
Email Address: laura.jester@keystonewaters.com

Background that led to the submission of this resolution

[MN Statute 383B.79 Multijurisdictional Program](#) gives Hennepin County the ability to create multijurisdictional reinvestment programs in partnership with certain jurisdictions in the county including watershed districts that are wholly or partially in the county. The statute does not include watershed management organizations in the list of jurisdictions allowed to officially participate in these programs.

The Bassett Creek Valley lies in the lower end of the watershed in the city of Minneapolis and receives stormwater runoff from over 20,000 acres of upstream and surrounding drainage areas. It lies within a natural low area that is plagued by historic contamination, poor soils, and high groundwater. In addition, the 100-year floodplain within the Bassett Creek Valley extends up and beyond the creek's channel and into surrounding neighborhood and commercial areas, negatively impacting existing properties and hindering redevelopment opportunities.

Improved conditions in the Bassett Creek Valley are a high priority for the BCWMC. Since 2019, the BCWMC has been working with the City of Minneapolis, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Hennepin County, and other partners to study the valley and develop plans for regional stormwater and floodplain management, ecological improvements, and community access to the creek. The County has expressed interest in convening a multijurisdictional partnership to implement a Community Works Project that would bring together science, partners, community planning, and funding to realize vast improvements in the Bassett Creek Valley. The BCWMC seeks to be an official partner in this endeavor. However, the statute does not provide authority for joint powers watershed management organizations to participate in such endeavors.

Efforts to solve the problem

No actions have been taken on this issue to date.

Is legislative action the best means of addressing the matter? If yes, what is the purpose or intent of your proposal? If not, what advocacy steps could be taken with state or local government officials?

A change to the statute would require legislative action. BCWMC advocates for a change to the statute language to add "watershed management organizations entirely or partially located in Hennepin County" to the list of political subdivisions contained in MN Statutes 383B.79, Subdivision 1.

Anticipated support or opposition

Hennepin County is likely to support this resolution. No known opposition.

This issue (check all that apply)

Applies only to our district:		Requires legislative action:	X
Applies only to 1 or 2 regions:	X	Requires state agency advocacy:	
Applies to the entire state:		Impacts MW bylaws or MOPP:	

X This would apply to any watershed management organization wholly or partially in Hennepin County.

MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS RESOLUTION 2025-02

Resolution Seeking Revision to MN Statute 383B.79 to Include Watershed Management Organizations

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 383B.79 Multijurisdictional Program gives Hennepin County the ability to create multijurisdictional reinvestment programs in partnership with certain political subdivisions in the county, including watershed districts that are wholly or partially in the county; and

WHEREAS, a high priority goal of the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (a joint powers WMO) is to collaborate on evaluation, sequencing, and implementation of multi-beneficial projects within the Bassett Creek Valley to create regional flood storage, reduce floodplain by at least 8 acres, improve regional stormwater management and improve creek access; and

WHEREAS, Hennepin County has expressed interest in utilizing the multijurisdictional program to implement a Community Works Project that would bring together partners, science, community planning, and funding to realize vast improvements in the Bassett Creek Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission wishes to participate as an official jurisdiction on the Community Works Project; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 383B.79 does not expressly include joint powers watershed management organizations (WMOs) in the list of political subdivisions allowed to officially participate in these programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds seeks a revision to Minnesota Statutes, section 383B.79, Subd 1. to explicitly include “joint powers watershed management organizations entirely or partially located in Hennepin County” to the list of political subdivisions that can participate in the county’s multijurisdictional reinvestment programs.

Notes: Committee recommends adoption

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS

RESOLUTION 2025-03

(which combines several resolutions submitted in 2024 and 2025)

Resolution Seeking Legislative Reform to Increase MDNR and MPCA Permit Efficiency and Define Permit Application Completeness

Proposing District: Resolutions and Legislative Committee
Contact Name: Jan Voit, MW Executive Director
Phone Number: 507-822-0921
Email Address: jvoit@mnwatersheds.com

Background that led to submission of this resolution

In 2024, resolutions from Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District and Shell Rock River Watershed District brought to light permitting issues with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). These included inconsistency in following Minn. Rule 8420.0935 regarding the list of calcareous fens and the exclusion of a timeline in M.S. 15.992 for an application requiring one or more public hearings or an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment worksheet. Again in 2025, resolutions from Coon Creek Watershed District address problems with timely permit issuance, lack of acknowledgement of existing and approved plans, and unclear or nonexistent criteria for determining permit application completeness.

In meetings with MDNR and MPCA leadership, Minnesota Watersheds has learned that MDNR conducts both their review of permit application completeness, and project compliance with state standards, at the same time. The current process has created an environment of potential years-long requests for data, information, and additional costs with no certainty of obtaining approval.

Efforts to solve the problem

In January, February, March, and May, a small group representing Minnesota Watersheds interests met with MDNR and MPCA assistant commissioners, division directors, and lead program staff to review, discuss, and work together on resolving these issues. The meetings and communications have yet to foster any practical or feasible alternatives or clear paths or actions for reducing the risk and uncertainty to a public permit applicant engaged in required water resource management projects potentially involving public funds.

Is legislative action the best means of addressing the matter? If yes, what is the purpose or intent of your proposal? If not, what advocacy steps could be taken with state or local government officials?

We believe that legislation is required to amend Minnesota Statutes 15.992, 84.027, and 116.03 to

- structure the permit review process by separating the determination of a complete application from review of that application's compliance with established standards,
- develop permit submittal standards that the agencies will use to determine permit application completeness for protected waters and threatened and endangered species,
- implement a 60-day permit review limit following a negative declaration on an Environmental Assessment Worksheet,
- provide deference to accept existing approved plans and studies as sufficient evidence and disclosure on the need and reasonableness of local water management projects that are the product of a planning or environmental review process, have been reviewed and generally vetted by local and state agencies, coordinated with local, state, and federal water management efforts, and potentially obtained state and local funding,
- require a state agency to notify an applicant, in writing, whether an application is complete or incomplete within 30 days,
 - if deemed complete, the 90- or 150-day compliance timeline begins,
 - if deemed incomplete, the state agency must specifically enumerate all deficiencies, citing specific provisions of the applicable rules and statutes, and advise the applicant on how the deficiencies can be remedied, and

- require state agencies to attend a preapplication meeting to review site specific restraints, constraints, and problems and identify practical and feasible actions for completing the project

In the end, uncertainty will be reduced by making explicit the requirements for a complete application and the ability to gauge permit review timelines with the goals of ending late-stage surprises, reducing excessive costs that waste taxpayer dollars, lessening the risk to our state’s natural resources, and eliminating adversarial interaction at the local and state level.

Anticipated support or concern

Support

- Association of Minnesota Counties
- Association of County Highway Engineers
- League of Minnesota Cities
- Minnesota City Stormwater Coalition
- Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Concern

- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

This issue (check all that apply)

Applies only to our district:		Requires legislative action:	X
Applies only to 1 or 2 regions:		Requires state agency advocacy:	
Applies to the entire state:	X	Impacts MW bylaws or MOPP:	

MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS RESOLUTION 2025-03

Resolution Seeking Legislative Reform to Increase MDNR and MPCA Permit Efficiency and Define Permit Application Completeness

WHEREAS, the review, findings of permit application completeness, and timelines for review of those permit applications by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) is guided in part by Minnesota Statutes 84.027, subdivisions 14, 14a; and permit applications to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) are guided by Minnesota Statute 116.03, subdivision 2b; and Minnesota Statutes 15.99 for both agencies, and

WHEREAS, under Minnesota Statutes 15.992, state agencies have a 60-day deadline to take final action on a written request, except the statute excludes an application requiring one or more public hearings or an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment worksheet, and

WHEREAS, under Minnesota Rule 8420.0935, the commissioner “must provide technical assistance to landowners or project sponsors in the development of management plans; and the commissioner must provide an updated list of calcareous fens to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for further distribution”, and

WHEREAS, under Minnesota Statutes 84.027, Subd. 14, it is part of the MDNR’s mission that “within the department’s resources the commissioner shall endeavor to: (1) prevent the waste or unnecessary spending of public money;” and,

WHEREAS, watershed projects statewide have had projects delayed and found that the review time period was never started, and

WHEREAS, as an authoritative political subdivision within the State of Minnesota with significant legislative authority and routine vetting and approval of comprehensive watershed management plans within a watershed, with similar goals and authority as the state to protect and preserve the natural resources within the watershed district, watershed district permit applications should be provided deference in the review process and be expedited, and

WHEREAS, implementation of the comprehensive watershed management plan involves a combination of direct and indirect best management practices that may involve construction to build, repair, and/or restore natural features, and

WHEREAS, implementing those practices and projects may require permits from the MPCA and/or the MDNR, and

WHEREAS, projects statewide to implement channel restoration, floodplain reconnection, riparian habitat rehabilitation, dredging, wetland restoration, water quality improvement, and reduce flooding to name a few, have experienced prolonged permitting delays during MPCA and MDNR review processes, with no clear criteria for application completeness, inconsistent communication, and repeated requests for additional information that jeopardizes public funding, project timelines, and environmental outcomes, and

WHEREAS, conversations with the MDNR have indicated that review of application completeness and compliance with state standards is performed simultaneously, resulting in circumventing statutory review timelines, and

WHEREAS, efforts by Minnesota Watersheds with support from the Coon Creek, Shell Rock River, and Valley Branch Watershed Districts to engage with MDNR and MPCA leadership in early 2025 failed to yield clear, feasible alternatives or timelines to resolve these system issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds shall pursue legislation to amend Minnesota Statutes 15.99, 84.027, and 116.03 to:

- separate permit completeness review from compliance standards review so that statutory deadlines for permit decisions are meaningfully triggered.
- require MDNR and MPCA to develop and publish a list of practical, reasonable information and criteria that constitutes a complete permit application.
- mandate that, once submitted by the applicant, the application is deemed complete and allows review timelines to begin.
- require MDNR and MPCA to notify an applicant in writing, within 30 days of receiving a permit application, whether the application is complete or incomplete. If the agency determines the application is incomplete, specific

provisions of applicable rules and statutes must be cited, an explanation of what additional information is needed must be provided, and the agency must advise the applicant how the deficiencies can be remedied. If action on the permit application is not completed within 150 days, the permit is deemed to be granted.

- define the applicant's burden and the agency's expectations in terms of compliance with state standards once completeness is confirmed.
- establish a 60-day permit review limit following a negative declaration on an Environmental Assessment Worksheet.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

- the Board of Water and Soil Resources establish a formal process to distribute, on an annual basis, an accurate and complete list identifying Calcareous Fens to all watershed districts, watershed management organizations, and soil and water conservation districts.
- pre-application meetings shall be required upon request by a qualified local agency with a project identified in state-approved plans, Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies, or other recognized water quality studies. Such meetings shall be scheduled within four weeks of the request.
- local agencies requesting such meetings must provide 10% - 20% design-level plans with sufficient specificity to identify natural resource concerns and constraints.
- failure of either MDNR or MPCA to attend a requested pre-application meeting shall be construed as satisfaction of relevant permitting standards, allowing the project to proceed toward final design and permitting.

Notes: Committee recommends adoption

Active Minnesota Watersheds Resolutions



December 1, 2024

FINANCE

Capacity

2021-01A: Support SWCD Capacity Fund Sources

Minnesota Watersheds supports SWCD capacity funds to come from county and state general funds.

2021-01B: Support Clean Water Funds for Implementation, Not Capacity

Minnesota Watersheds supports Clean Water Funds being used for implementation and not for capacity.

2021-02: Support Capacity Funding for Watershed Districts

Minnesota Watersheds supports capacity base funding resources directed to non-metro watershed district who request this assistance, to implement the activities as outlined in approved watershed district watershed management plans or comprehensive watershed management plans.

Grant Funding

2021-07: Support Metro Watershed-based Implementation Funding (WBIF) for Approved 103B Plans Only

Minnesota Watersheds supports BWSR distribution of metro WBIF among the 23 watershed management organizations with state-approved comprehensive, multi-year 103B watershed management plans. Those plans implement multijurisdictional priorities at a watershed scale and facilitate funding projects of any eligible local government unit (including soil and water conservation districts, counties, cities, and townships).

URBAN STORMWATER

Stormwater Quality Treatment

2022-02 Limited Liability for Certified Commercial Salt Applicators

Minnesota Watersheds supports enactment of state law that provides limited liability protection to commercial salt applicators and property owners using salt applicators who are certified through the established state salt-applicator certification program and follow best management practices.

Water Reuse

2022-01 Creation of a Stormwater Reuse Task Force

Minnesota Watersheds supports administratively or legislatively including at least one Minnesota Watersheds member on the Minnesota Department of Health's workgroup to move forward, prioritize, and implement the recommendations of the interagency report on reuse of stormwater and rainwater in Minnesota.

WATER QUANTITY

Drainage

2022-03: Seek Increased Support and Participation for the Minnesota Drainage Work Group (DWG)

- Minnesota Watersheds communications increase awareness of the DWG (meeting dates and links, topics, minutes, reports) amongst members.

- Minnesota Watersheds training opportunities strongly encourage participation in the DWG by watershed staff and board managers (for watersheds that serve as ditch authorities or work on drainage projects) – for e.g., add agenda space for DWG member updates, host a DWG meeting as part of a regular event.
- In preparation for Minnesota Watersheds member legislative visits, staff add a standing reminder for watershed drainage authorities to inform legislators on the existence, purpose, and outcomes of the DWG, and reinforce the legitimacy of the DWG as a multi-faceted problem-solving body.
- During Minnesota Watersheds staff Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) visits, regularly seek updates on how facilitation of the DWG is leading to improvements for member drainage authorities and convey this information to members.

2023-03: Support New Legislation Modeled after HF2687 and SF2419 (2018) Regarding DNR Regulatory Authority over Public Drainage Maintenance and Repairs

Minnesota Watersheds supports the introduction of new legislation modeled after HF2687 and SF2419 and commits its lobbying efforts toward promoting the passage of the bills in subsequent sessions.

Funding

2022-05: Obtain Stable Funding for Flood Damage Reduction and Natural Resources Enhancement Projects

Minnesota Watersheds supports collaborating with the Red River Watershed Management Board and state agencies to seek funding from the Minnesota Legislature to provide stable sources of funding through existing or potentially new programs that provide flood damage reduction and/or natural resources enhancements. A suggested sustainable level of funding is \$30 million per year for the next 10 years.

Flood Control

2021-05: Support Crop Insurance to Include Crop Losses Within Impoundment Areas

Minnesota Watersheds supports expansion of Federal Multi-Peril Crop Insurance to include crop losses within impoundment areas.

2023-04 Seeking Action for Streamlining the DNR Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Minnesota Watersheds seeks action requiring the DNR to establish transparent scoring, ranking, and funding criteria for the Flood Hazard Mitigation Program (M.S. Chapter 103F) and asking the Minnesota Legislature to fully fund the state's share of eligible projects that are on the DNR's list within each two-year bonding cycle. Information regarding scoring, ranking, and funding should be provided annually to project applicants.

Policy

2024-04: Seeking the Ability to Allow Resale of Acquisition Buyout Property

Minnesota Watersheds seeks federal legislation to allow the conveyance by an LGU of flood acquisition buyout real estate to a public entity or to a qualified conservation organization, or alternatively a resale to a private taxpayer, subject to the FEMA Model Deed Restrictions as stated in Exhibit A.

WATER QUALITY

Lakes

2022-06: Limit Wake Boat Activities

Minnesota Watersheds supports working with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to utilize the research findings from the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory and seek legislation to achieve one or more of the following:

- Limit lakes and areas of lakes in which wake boats may operate;
 - Require new and existing wake boats to be able to completely drain and decontaminate their ballast tanks; and
 - Providing funding for additional research on the effects of wake boats on aquatic systems.
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Policy

2024-01: Regulatory Approaches to Reducing Chloride Contamination

Minnesota Watersheds supports development, adoption, and implementation of regulatory approaches to reducing chloride contamination in waters of the state.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

Duties

2023-05: Support Increased Flexibility in Open Meeting Law

Minnesota Watersheds hereby supports changes to the Open Meeting Law to provide greater flexibility in the use of interactive technology by allowing members to participate remotely in a nonpublic location that is not noticed, without limit on the number of times such remote participation may occur; and allowing public participation from a remote location by interactive technology, or alternatively from the regular meeting location where interactive technology will be made available for each meeting, unless otherwise noticed under Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.021; and that Minnesota Watersheds supports changes to the Open Meeting Law requiring watershed district to prepare and publish procedures for conducting public meetings using interactive technology.

2024-02: Alternative Notice of Watershed District Proceedings by Publication on the District's website

Minnesota Watersheds supports amending Watershed Law to provide for publication on a watershed district's website as an alternative to publication in a legal newspaper.

Watershed Planning

2023-06 Education and Outreach to Encourage Formation of Watershed Districts in Unserved Areas

Minnesota Watersheds, in consultation with its membership, will develop a framework for education and outreach intended to encourage petition and advocacy for the formation of watershed districts in areas of the state not presently served by watershed-based public agencies.

AGENCY RELATIONS

Advocacy

2021-06: Support 60-day Review Required for State Agencies on Policy Changes

Minnesota Watersheds supports requiring state agencies to provide a meaningful, not less than 60-day review and comment period from affected local units of government on new or amended water management policies, programs, or initiatives with a response to those comments required prior to adoption.

Regulation

2023-01 Require Watershed District Permits for all State Agencies

Minnesota Watersheds supports amending Minnesota Statutes § 103D.345, Subd. 5 to read as follows: **Subd. 5. Applicability of permit requirements to state.** A rule adopted by the managers that requires a permit for an activity applies to all state agencies, including the Department of Transportation.

2024-13 Request New Legislation to Set Permit Review Time Limits upon the DNR

Minnesota Watersheds supports amending Minnesota Statutes to implement a 60-day permit review limit following a negative declaration on an EAW.

REGULATIONS

2024-03: Provide for Watershed Management Organization Representation on Wetland Technical Evaluation Panels

Minnesota Watersheds supports amendment of Minnesota Statutes 103G.2242, subdivision 2 to include a watershed management organization representative on TEPs that are convened in cases where the organization is not the WCA LGU.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Policy

2024-5: Seeking the DNR to Establish a “Comprehensive Guideline for Calcareous Fen Management”

Minnesota Watersheds supports DNR establishing a “Comprehensive Guideline for Calcareous Fen Management” as a tool for project proposers to analyze a project’s feasibility or cost effectiveness.

2024-7: Seeking the DNR to Adopt a Program to Incentivize Calcareous Fen Management on Private Lands

Minnesota Watersheds supports the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources adopting a program through which a fee is paid to landowners to incentivize them to manage the quantity and quality of the Calcareous Fens on private lands, which program is made similar to the USDA Conservation Reserve Program or similar to a perpetual easement through the Board of Water and Soil Resources Reinvest in Minnesota.

2024-10: Seeking a Formal Process to Distribute a Complete List of Calcareous Fens Annually

Minnesota Watersheds supports the Board of Water and Soil Resources establishing a formal process to distribute on an annual basis an accurate and complete list identifying Calcareous Fens to all watershed districts, watershed management organizations, and soil and water conservation districts.

2024-12: Seeking the Development of a Calcareous Fen Work Group

Minnesota Watersheds supports the relevant state agencies, together with relevant stakeholders (including watershed districts), convene a work group to develop by consensus clear, objective and measurable criteria for determining the presence and quality of Calcareous Fen, which criteria shall thereafter be used by all state and local units of government.

Resolutions to Sunset

Effective December 31, 2025

All resolutions cease to be active at the end of the fifth year following the resolution’s adoption.

2020-01 Appealing Public Water Designations

Minnesota Watersheds supports legislation that would provide landowners with a more formal process to appeal decisions made by the DNR regarding the designation of public waters including the right to fair representation in a process such as a contested case proceeding which would allow landowners an option to give oral arguments or provide expert witnesses for their case.

2020-03 Soil Health Goal for Metropolitan Watershed Management Plans

Minnesota Watersheds supports amending Minnesota Rule 8410.0080 to include a goal for soil health in watershed management plans and ten-year plan amendments.

2020-04 Temporary Water Storage on DNR Wetlands during Major Flood Events

Minnesota Watersheds supports the temporary storage of water on existing DNR-controlled wetlands in the times of major flood events.
