

Minutes January 26th Meeting and Seminar

Minnesota Drainage Viewers Association

Meeting was called to order by President Joseph Jacobs welcoming all and thanking them for being flexible on meeting schedules and for providing electronic contact information as that makes it easy to notify members of these unforeseen modifications. This sentiment was echoed by both the Secretary and the Treasurer.

There were 24 members in attendance. The meeting had been postponed twice from the set date of January 5th due to weather concerns.

The Secretary's report was part of the notice and was approved as written.

Dan Ruby, Treasurer reported on the status of the checking account which report was also accepted as provided.

The Agenda for the meeting was reviewed and approved.

First discussion item was for all to introduce themselves and viewing teams they typically associated with. Different viewing philosophies were evident dependent on team structure. Some were utilizing the consideration of keeping it simple and others spent more time using technology. All had common goals of making sure to provide a methodology that was explainable to the end user and supportable in the market place.

Next the conversation delved into the use of GIS and technology to generate an appropriate end product and report. Generally it appeared that everyone was using the tools to some extent. Joe explained his process of using a spatial analyst extension to create a depression analysis to help with identifying degrees of impounded water and excess runoff as a method to improve efficiency of the viewing process.

There followed a good discussion on assigning benefits to previously drained areas that have reverted to shrub scrub type wetlands due to lack of livestock on the landscape. This topic may need to be revisited when more members are present to ensure consistency.

Jim Wledeman and John Schueler volunteered to audit the treasurers books prior to the next meeting

Today's Seminar emphasized the various data and technology tools available to enhance the viewing process. This seminar expanded some of the discussion topics from earlier in the morning. Joe Jacobs presented view screens to emphasize some of the digital imagery along with incorporation into the GIS product to match original surveys from the State of Minnesota along with aerial imagery starting with 1939 and geo-referencing these images to today.

Finally a discussion ensued regarding the Drainage Work Group meetings and the proposed legislation developed and supported by certain environmental groups. This legislation surrounded the concept of a registry or clearing house for all drainage related projects. Joe will prepare a letter to emphasize that the MVA recognizes the need for the current notification process but is also of the opinion that this process is adequate in approving maintenance on previously approved drainage systems. One of the main issues is that the environmental groups and DNR want to see the viewers report prior to it being provided to the Drainage Authority. It is anticipated that revisions may still occur to the proposed legislation to offer size criteria as well as differentiate between maintenance and improvements.

Meeting was then adjourned at 12:00 PM with the next meeting set **for April 6th, 2023**

Respectfully Jeff Johnson Secretary

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