

2022 Legislative Update



Summing up this year's session is quick and easy. Not a lot was accomplished due to the deep divide between the House and the Senate leaving MAWD priorities by the wayside. With that said, the legislature left itself in a good fiscal position for next year. All agency spending was appropriated in 2021 and with the economy heading into a potential recession, the state has a surplus of revenue ensuring spending cuts will not be insurmountable.

Due to the lack of progress at the legislature the following bills supported by MAWD are on hold until next biennium (2022 - 2024).

WD General Fund Levy Increase

SUPPORT

Allow watershed districts to increase their general fund levy for operations within the watershed district.

[HF3029](#)
[SF3046](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PAUL TORKELSON
SENATOR CHRIS EATON

Certified Salt Applicator Program

SUPPORT

This new language would establish a certified salt applicator program to assist in reducing the salt in waterways. The MCEA is the lead on this legislation.

[HF2908](#) REP. PETER FISCHER
[SF2768](#) SEN. CARRIE RUUD

There have been several bills introduced to assist in flood hazard mitigation throughout the state. The Red River Watershed Management Board has taken the lead on the statewide funding bill as well as a bill directed to the Red River Valley.

[HF2882](#) REP. DEBRA KIEL

[SF2795](#) SEN. MARK JOHNSON

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Develop a relationship with your legislator(s) and legislative candidates and ask them to attend an event or meeting to have a conversation about issues.
- Prepare to speak with legislators and candidates about MAWD issues and provide information. Think about the best way to convey our issues to the legislator. Practice discussing the issues with family and/or friends. Keep your conversation brief and ask if they have questions. Your conversation could start with the examples below.
 - General fund levy increase. *“WDs in rural Minnesota are restricted from covering the costs of operations or the increased demands placed on them by the state, such as One Watershed, One Plan because of the statutory cap on the general operating levy. Increasing the cap would provide the ability to match grants and continue the important work toward clean water in Minnesota.”*
 - Certified Salt Applicator Program. *“Legislation is necessary to provide permanency to the Smart Salting training program and offers limited liability protections for those commercial applicators who become certified and use the recommended best management practices when applying deicers.”*
 - Flood Hazard Mitigation. *“Funding through a bonding bill is central to long-term projects to reduce flooding within the Red River Basin.”*
- Provide copies of MAWD’s Legislative Priorities/Talking Points.
- Follow up conversations with a thank you note.