



# Announcement

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## **BWSR Initiates Stakeholder Focus Groups for the Minnesota Public Drainage Manual (MPDM) Update Project**

***Regional meetings scheduled on December 15 and 16***

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will begin work next month to update and modernize the 23-year old *Minnesota Public Drainage Manual* (MPDM). The *MPDM* was created to provide a “user guide” for the establishment, construction, and administration of public drainage systems in Minnesota and is the primary source of information for practitioners working with Minnesota’s extensive public drainage systems.

In accordance with the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the *MPDM*, BWSR and the project contractors (Houston Engineering, Inc. and Rinke Noonan – Attorneys at law (HEI-RN)) are facilitating a stakeholder process to determine how people use the *MPDM* and identify ways to translate the current manual into a more useful, modern electronic publication that can be easily updated in the future.

The first step in that process is holding stakeholder focus groups in key areas of the state. These meetings will draw on diverse user perspectives to help shape improvements to the manual. BWSR and HEI-RN invite County and Watershed District drainage authorities, county auditors, drainage inspectors, viewers, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Watershed Districts, county engineers and private drainage engineers, state agencies, and other stakeholders (e.g. federal agencies, farm groups, and environmental groups) to participate in the following focus groups:

- **December 15, 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**  
Blue Earth County Library, 100 East Main Street, Mankato, MN 56001
- **December 15, 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
Marshall Municipal Utilities Building, Meeting Rooms 1 and 2, 113 S 4th St, Marshall, MN
- **December 16, 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
UM – Crookston, 2900 University Ave, Bede Ballroom, 2nd Floor Sargent Student Center - Parking in Lot A

BWSR and HEI-RN also invite organizations to submit written comments to [mpdmupdate@houstoneng.com](mailto:mpdmupdate@houstoneng.com). **Comments must be received before December 31, 2014.** The Project Advisory Committee and lead writers will receive summaries of focus group feedback and written comments for consideration during the update process.

To learn more about the stakeholder process, please visit the Drainage page on the BWSR website at: [www.bwsr.state.mn.us](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us) or contact Tim Gillette, BWSR Project Manager, [Tim.Gillette@state.mn.us](mailto:Tim.Gillette@state.mn.us), 651-297-8287 or Larry Kramka, HEI-RN Project Manager [lkrangka@houstoneng.com](mailto:lkrangka@houstoneng.com), 763-493-6672.

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