



# Announcement

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September 16, 2014

## **Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Begins Public Drainage Manual Update**

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is pleased to announce that it has begun work on updating the *Minnesota Public Drainage Manual* (MPDM), published in 1991. The MPDM is used by local government drainage authorities and their staff, benefited landowners, drainage engineers, viewers and state agencies to assist in the administration of public drainage systems in accordance with Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103E Drainage. The revised MPDM will continue to be a practical guide for navigating Minnesota's public drainage process. Updates will include drainage law revisions since 1991, a new online interface, modern graphics, updated templates, a new chapter about drainage system best management practices, and links to other references. The result will be a modern web-based document that is more user-friendly and can be readily updated in the future. This project will also involve updating and integrating a supplemental document, *Understanding Minnesota Public Drainage Law - 2002 Overview for Decision-Makers*.

BWSR is updating these documents with the assistance of the team of Houston Engineering, Inc. and Rinke Noonan, Attorneys at Law, which was selected through a competitive process. User focus groups held in greater Minnesota and stakeholder advisory committee(s) will be utilized during the project to help refine the scope and content of the manual. Advisory committee members will include representatives from the stakeholder Drainage Work Group and interagency Drainage Management Team, as well as key user groups.

The updated manual should be available in approximately 18 months.