



MEMORANDUM
Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

Date: February 19, 2026
To: CLFLWD Board of Managers
From: Mike Kinney, District Administrator
Subject: Minnesota Watersheds Legislative Event 2026



Background/Discussion

The Minnesota Watersheds Legislative Event 2026 is scheduled at the Capitol Ridge Radisson Hotel in St. Paul on March 3, 2026. The Legislative Event provides Minnesota Watersheds members with an excellent opportunity to build relationships with key legislators and advance our legislative agenda.

Each watershed district is responsible for scheduling meetings with their local legislators on Wednesday, March 4th. The registration fee is \$100 per person. Please let Tori know if you would like to be registered and if you need hotel accommodation.

Managers and staff each have a budget line item for conferences/events.

Account Code	Description	2026 Budget
1-001-4265	Managers Training/Conferences	\$2,500
1-002-4265	Conferences & Workshops/Staff Training & Education	\$11,000

Recommended Motion

Proposed Motion: Manager _____ moves to authorize payment for managers and staff to attend the Minnesota Watersheds Legislative Event 2026. Seconded by Manager _____.

Attached

Minnesota Watersheds Legislative Briefing and Reception Agenda



2026 Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol
Radisson Hotel - Capitol Ridge
161 Rondo Avenue, St. Paul | March 3 – 4, 2026

Agenda – Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Welcome to the Minnesota Watersheds 2026 Legislative Briefing. The following schedule is approximate. Speakers and times may change as needed to accommodate ever-changing schedules.

3:00 – 4:00 Minnesota Watersheds Legislative Priorities

- 3:00 Welcome and Announcements – Jan Voit, Minnesota Watersheds Executive Director
- 3:05 Capitol Activity Update – Kevin Matzek and Jess Lindeen, Minnesota Watersheds Lobbyists
- 3:20 The Legislative Process and Strategies for Working with the Legislature and State Agencies on Minnesota Watersheds Legislative Priorities
 - Seek legislation reform to increase DNR and MPCA permitting efficiency and define permit application completeness
 - Develop regulatory approaches to reduce chloride contamination
 - Revise M.S. 471.617 to include WDs and WMs as eligible to self-insure for employee health benefits
- Q & A

4:00 – 4:55 Agency Updates*

- 4:00 Glenn Skuta, Watershed Division Director, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- 4:15 Sarah Strommen, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources
- 4:30 Justin Hanson, Assistant Director for Regional Operations, Board of Water and Soil Resources
- 4:45 Q & A

4:55 Closing Remarks/End of Briefing

- 4:55 Jan Voit, Minnesota Watersheds Executive Director

5:00 – 7:00 Legislative Reception: Minnesota Watersheds Members and Legislators

Invitations to this reception and networking event were sent to all legislators. However, individual invitations from members help provide additional encouragement for them to attend.

Take advantage of this opportunity to network with other members and chat with legislators as they arrive. **Please also use this time for informal regional caucus discussion.** There will be a cash bar. Light food options will be served for you to enjoy.

Agenda – Wednesday, March 4, 2026

7:00 am – 8:00 am Networking Event: Minnesota Watersheds Members

Take advantage of this opportunity to have a buffet breakfast with Minnesota Watersheds members at the Capitol Ridge Hotel and discuss our legislative priorities.

8:30 am – 4:00 pm Meet with Legislators

Please use this occasion to visit with legislators in their offices or at the Capitol.

*Speakers and topics may change as schedules evolve.