

Meeting Purpose: As a follow up to our January 24 discussion around Infrastructure Funding that is coming to Minnesota, this meeting was held in an effort to firm up plans for a MN2050 Partner meeting, develop and align our messaging strategy, and establish a timeline to engage the Minnesota Legislative Session.

Meeting Notes

1. Primary goal of discussion was to establish a MN2050 Partner meeting plan. Goal is a virtual Partner meeting the week of 14March, with a desired outcome of unifying our infrastructure messaging. Also discussed a planned, in-person, Partner meeting in the April timeframe, in time to effect and influence legislative session outcomes.
2. Zac Johnson and Sen. Johnson-Stewart discussed the need for follow up with the Legislative Water Commission and more specifically, a follow up meeting with Jon Linc Stine, formerly of MCPA. Zac was to forward e-mail reminder to Sen Johnson-Stewart's senate e-mail for action on part of her Administrative Assistant (Nate).
 - a. Required attendees for that meeting should include Zac Johnson, Sen. Johnson Stewart, and Michelle Stockness, at a minimum.
3. There was lengthy discussion around the need and timing for Legislative engagement.
 - a. Sen. Johnson Stewart indicated that getting representatives from MN2050 Partners in front of both the House and Senate Bonding committees/hearings would be an effective path.
 - b. Suggested that April was not too late to do so, which should influence the timing of our potential in-person Partner meeting.
 - c. Sen. Johnson Stewart also indicated that a meeting with Governor Walz would be possible/beneficial
4. Brad Henry is working with APWA Planning Committee to finalize Spring Conference agenda.
 - a. Possibility to include Sen. Johnson Stewart as a speaker on Friday morning at that conference. Brad Johnson to follow up.
5. MN2050 Website discussion –
 - a. Sen. Johnson Stewart indicated current website is adequate landing page for legislators
 - b. Within APWA members, there is collective agreement that we need to update and improve content and accessibility on that website ASAP.
 - c. We will develop an action plan for the website during Friday's MN2050 meeting.

6. Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC) Discussion
 - a. There is a March 4 meeting of the Subcommittee for Minnesota Water Policy. However, there is not much awareness around the mission and purpose of that group.
 - b. Zac Johnson indicated that there is some history between that subcommittee and LMC that he can investigate further.
 - c. With respect to LCC, there was discussion around the need for establishing some form of a State-wide Infrastructure Commission.
 - i. Should this encompass all infrastructure?
 - ii. Should we develop a group wholly focused upon Water infrastructure?
 - iii. Regardless of the form that 'commission' takes, the opinion was strong that we need Partner representation on that commission.
 7. Brief discussion around the increased budget surplus, now up to \$9B.
 - a. Though not discussed, Stonehouse noted that all attendees with video appeared to express moderate to intense desire for reduced State income taxes. ☺
 8. Friday MN2050 Meeting Expectations
 - a. Firm up a plan for a virtual MN2050 Partner meeting week of 3/14
 - b. Develop unified messaging and talking points for Partners, and create alignment between March, and April follow up partner meetings
 - c. Work with Sen. Johnson Stewart to get in front of House and Senate bonding committees/hearing – GAC Action required
 - d. Work with Joel Schilling to intensify efforts around renewing and updating our MN2050 Website.
-