



# COUNCIL OF METROPOLITAN AREA LEAGUES

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MARCH 2023

## Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues

Established in 1962 as an ILO and composed of the members of local LWVs in the seven metro counties Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington

CMAL  
Board of Directors

Officers  
Karen Schaffer, Chair  
Wes Volkenant, Vice Chair  
Peg DuBord,  
Secretary/Treasurer

Directors  
Joann Ellis  
Thana Ross

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

### Greetings to Metro Area League Members & Friends

The Board of Directors is excited to welcome you to the first in person Annual Meeting since 2000. We are looking forward to seeing each other and working to set CMALs path going forward.

**Annual Meeting**  
Wednesday, April 30  
Capitol Region Watershed District  
595 Aldine Street - near Hamline University  
St. Paul

Anna Eleria, CRWS Administrator, will provide a tour of the renovated building that houses the Capitol Region Watershed District. They converted the building using green building principles. CRWS is tucked away in a quaint St. Paul neighborhood.

**Voting Delegates**  
CMAL is comprised of 18 local leagues. Each league has one voting delegate, and an additional delegate every 50 members.

Please identify your voting delegates by emailing their names to [LWVCMAL@lwvmn.org](mailto:LWVCMAL@lwvmn.org) by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Who Knew We Would Find Out Such Interesting Information?

Our Watershed Study continues to reveal valuable insights and

connections.

We thank our members for their contributions and ongoing support of this ambitious project to study the 33 watersheds in the metro area.

Even in progress, the study is making a positive impact. Several LWV chapters have hosted watershed management programs, emphasizing the importance of understanding how these organizations manage and preserve our water resources.

If you have questions about the watershed study, ask Peg DuBord. For questions about the annual meeting, please contact me.

Karen,

Chair of the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues

**CMAL 63<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2025**

### All League Members are invited

The Annual Convention will be held at the beautifully restored building housing the Capitol Region Watershed District Headquarters 595 Aldine Street St. Paul 55104, which is near Hamline University.

### Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Refreshments & Appetizers will be provided

- 5:30-6:30 Guided tour of CRWD
- 6:30-7:15 Keynote Speaker
- 7:15-7:45 Business meeting

### Keynote Speaker

**James Wisker**, District Administrator for the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District will present on “**Watershed Management in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Weaving Together The Land and The Water**”. Mr. Wisker is a 2009 recipient of the Minnesota Division Isaak Walton League Stewardship Award and was also awarded the Watershed Administrator of the Year in 2024. Click here for a list of MCWD: [Awards & Recognition](#)

### Business Meeting

- Each metro League may send one voting delegate for each 50 local members (or part thereof)
- The Convention Booklet will be sent out in early April
- CMAL Board is not proposing a new study for 2025-2026, as we will be in the process of completing the Watershed Study.
- LWVs with program ideas for CMAL in 2025-2026 should send them to [LWVCMAL@LWVMN.org](mailto:LWVCMAL@LWVMN.org) or bring them to the meeting

**RSVPs are requested. Below is a link to the RSVP form so we may get a general headcount.**

Last minute attendees are welcome to attend and if possible complete the form as soon as possible.

### CMAL PROPOSED ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

Refreshments & Appetizers will be provided

5:50-6:30: Tour of Capitol Region Building and social time for CMAL delegates

6:30-7:15 Keynote Speaker James Wisker, Administrator , Minnehaha Creek Watershed District

7:15-7:45 CMAL Annual Business Meeting

- Election of officers and Board of Directors
- Adoption of Annual Budget
- Program Direction for 2025-2026

**CLICK THIS LINK TO:** [RSVP TO CMAL ANNUAL MEETING](#)  
**PLEASE CLICK THIS LINK:** [DIRECTIONS TO CAPITOL REGION WATERSHED DISTRICT](#)

## **CMAL WILL PRESENT TO THE METRO MN WATERSHEDS - APRIL 15**

CMAL will present information about our Watershed Study to Metro Minnesota Watersheds, a chapter of Minnesota Watersheds, a non-profit for local government entities in Minnesota that manage watersheds.

The Metro Watersheds chapter meets quarterly to share ideas on watershed management policy and practice, and to hear from Minnesota State agencies and regulators about developments in water management. All MN Watersheds report directly to the MN Board of Soil and Water.

On April 15 at 7:00 p.m., CMAL will make a short presentation about our Watershed Study. The audience will include metro watershed administrators, staff from the metro area, and metro and state entities with watershed management regulatory authority. This is an excellent opportunity to promote our study and thank those who have already met with League members.

## **OCTOBER QUARTERLY PROGRAM REVIEW**

By Karen Schaffer

CMAL was pleased to host Patricia Nauman, Executive Director of Metro Cities, at a well-attended Zoom meeting on January 29, 2025.

Nauman has served since 2009 as Executive Director of Metro Cities, a membership organization that advocates on behalf of its members at all state levels. Nauman has spoken at previous CMAL events and also provided an interview during the course of CMAL's 2018-2019 study on Metropolitan Council governance. She described decision-making at the Metro Cities board as collaborative, with member cities typically aligned on issues such as (1) funding for metro area cities, (2) tools available for cities' use, and (3) municipal autonomy.

Nauman stated that Metro Cities monitors the thousands of bills introduced annually and informs member cities about legislative developments.

Housing regulation has been a hot topic at the Legislature for the past two sessions. There have been efforts to shift zoning regulations from local cities and municipalities to state responsibility. Metro Cities is opposed to such regulations and prefers local/citizen-led zoning appropriate to their areas. Cities seek assistance from the legislature rather than state control.

In dialogue with the audience, Nauman reiterated metropolitan cities' desire for local autonomy concerning housing and density, emphasizing that cities cannot mandate the development of affordable housing even if they zone for it.

Regarding Metropolitan Council governance, Metro Cities supports the appointment of Metropolitan Council members, who are not local elected officials, by the Governor to staggered terms, aligning with CMAL's

position. According to Nauman, the cities in the metro area are the primary constituents of the Metropolitan Council, hence their focus on the Council's policies, such as those proposed regarding housing density.

Click here for more information on: [Metro Cities](#)

## CMAL WATERSHED STUDY UPDATE

Hey League Members, do not despair if you are still working on your area's Watershed Study!

We realize that "life happens" for all of us, but we encourage you to continue working on them. At present, half of the 33 studies have been submitted, and the data provided has proven to be highly insightful.

It has been reported that most watershed districts have responded positively to the study and appreciated our effort to highlight their work. The two-step process initiated has proven beneficial in gathering information, and meetings with the watershed districts have effectively facilitated information sharing.

At the watershed study check-in meetings, we gathered excellent suggestions for the Final Report. We will use these ideas as we prepare the report this summer. The Final Report will be shared with League members, the public, and local watershed officials.

- When you have finished your study please submit to Peg DuBord: [peg.dubord@gmail.com](mailto:peg.dubord@gmail.com)
- If you have questions or concerns, please contact Peg or Karen [schafferka@gmail.com](mailto:schafferka@gmail.com)

## TODD GRAHAM MAKES THE NEWS

CMAL hosted Todd Graham, Principal Forecaster for the Metropolitan Council, at its October 2024 Quarterly meeting. Graham shared his forecasts for population, households, and jobs in the metro area, which was summarized in the CMAL 2024 Newsletter.

Graham was recently featured in a Minnesota Star Tribune article on February 12, 2025 providing updated population trends in the metro area. The Met Council does this forecast every 10 years which covers years 2020-2050. His predictions include:

- Minneapolis might reach a population of 500,000 and St. Paul 338,200
- Cities like Eden Prairie, Lakeville, Blaine, Maple Grove, Woodbury will see large increases
- Carver is growing due to the completion of HW 212 in the southwestern metro
- Mound, Mahtomedi, Bayport, Lakeland, Coates, and Vermillion are not expected to increase due to lack of land or wastewater capacity or restrictions meant to preserve farmland or natural areas.

## SALT APPLICATOR, LIMITED LIABILITY BILL HF793, SF492

By Marti Micks

Chloride (salt) pollution is a growing problem in Minnesota. It is affecting our streams, ponds, lakes, and rivers.

There are several contributors to this problem: de-icing salts on streets and highways that flow into waterways, oversalting commercial and public walkways due to fear of lawsuits if someone falls, home water softeners, industrial wastewater and agricultural runoff.

To learn more, click below:

[MN Pollution Control Report on Chloride](#) or [Salt Pollution in Carver County - great overview](#)

### 2025 Legislation

One bill, SF 492 and HF 793, aims to reduce chloride pollution by creating a voluntary certification program for water-friendly salt applicators trained in best practices. The bill also limits liability if certified applicators use de-icing agents correctly and keep records unless negligence is clearly evident.

In our CMAL Watershed Study interview with Laura Jester, Executive Director of Bassett Creek WMO, noted that private businesses tend to oversalt walkways due to the fear of liability lawsuits. Highways and roads are the biggest polluters in the metro area.

This bill will not end chloride pollution, but it would reduce it. Ask your MN Representative and MN senator to support this bill. [HF 793](#)

## Metro League Leadership Please let us know...

1. Send the contact information for the President/Co President(s) for your league.
2. Send the contact information for the Delegates that will represent your league on CMAL
3. If there are any interested parties wishing to be included in the CMAL mailings, please email your contact information to CMAL at: [lwvcmal@lwvmn.org](mailto:lwvcmal@lwvmn.org).

### CMAL Calendar for 2025

#### Annual Meeting

Wednesday April 30, 2025