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**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2026:** [Best Western Plus Kelly Inn Reserve Hotel Accommodations](#)

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| 2:30 – 4:30 pm | <b>Hydrology 101 Training</b> – Learn what tools are available, how tools are used, & understand outputs and how to interpret the data. Learn about drainage coefficient calculations & watershed components that matter. Understand how to delineate watersheds & crossing sizing. |
| 4:30 – 5:00 pm | <b>Break</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 5:00 – 7:00 pm | <b>Networking Opportunity &amp; Round Table Discussion</b> – Hors d'oeuvres & beverages. Bring issues you are having & discuss them with the group!                                                                                                                                 |

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**THURSDAY, AUGUST 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2026:** [Best Western Plus Kelly Inn Reserve Hotel Accommodations](#)

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| 8:00 – 9:00 am   | <b>Registration (\$50 Conference Fee) &amp; Breakfast</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 9:00 – 9:15 am   | <b>Business Meeting:</b><br>3-19-26 Meeting Minute Approval<br>Teams Platform<br>Board Meetings 9am – November 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2026 & January 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2027<br>2027 Conferences February 24-25 <sup>th</sup> Willmar & August 18-19 <sup>th</sup> St. Cloud                              |
| 9:15 – 9:45 am   | <b>Selling Storage to Landowners – Rita Weaver, BWSR</b><br>Learn what role Drainage Inspectors can play in selling and siting storage areas on the landscape. Gain talking points, list of benefits of storage, and what the process is for implementing storage. It all starts with a conversation! |
| 9:45 – 10:00 am  | <b>Drainage Work Group &amp; BWSR Update – Tom Gile, BWSR</b><br>Learn what the Drainage Work Group has been working on & priorities for the year, proposed legislation, & grant funding opportunities!                                                                                               |
| 10:00 – 10:15 am | <b>Break</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 10:15 – 11:00 am | <b>Monitoring &amp; Effectiveness of Water Quality Best Management Practices (BMPs) – Jeff Strock, University of Minnesota Southwest Research &amp; Outreach Center</b><br>Learn about best management practices implemented in agricultural landscapes, effectiveness, management, and monitoring.   |

**REMINDER NEXT CONFERENCE IS FEBRUARY 24-25<sup>TH</sup> Willmar Conference Center**  
**[Willmar Best Western Plus | Hotel Rooms](#) Or by Phone at 320-235-6060**

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| 11:00 – 11:30 pm   | <p><b>Drone Use for Drainage System Management – Colby, Otter Tail County</b></p> <p>See how Otter Tail County utilizes drones to management public drainage systems for efficient &amp; effectively. Learn ideas of how to create system inspection reports with the use of drones &amp; reduce the size of data retained.</p>                                                                                              |
| 11:30am – 12:00 pm | <p><b>Annual Assessment Amounts – Loretta Halbur, Nobles County &amp; Kelly Rasche, Jackson County</b></p> <p>Hear about how Nobles County &amp; Jackson County go about setting annual assessment (single year assessments) amounts for regular maintenance of the drainage systems. Learn the data used, considerations, lessons learned, &amp; what to share with the board &amp; landowners.</p>                         |
| 12:00 – 1:00 pm    | <p><b>Lunch</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 1:00 – 2:00 pm     | <p><b>Beaver Management &amp; Trapping – Krysten Foster, Stonebrooke Engineering &amp; a local Beaver Trapper</b></p> <p>Hear about beaver behaviors &amp; movements, design considerations to deter beaver building in drainage systems, &amp; ways to mitigate beaver issues.</p>                                                                                                                                          |
| 2:00 – 3:00 pm     | <p><b>What's Part of the Legal Record? – John Kolb, Rinke Noonan</b></p> <p>Learn what needs to be preserved as part of the legal record as proceedings &amp; everyday drainage system management &amp; best practices in doing so. Join the discussion to talk about ideas to streamline record keeping and best management practices in data collection. Share what works well in your county or what the struggle is.</p> |

**A huge THANK YOU to all the speakers & sponsors that help with the conference. You make it effective & affordable. We greatly appreciate your expertise, time, & commitment to Public Drainage!**