

Date: August 15, 2013

To: Speaker Paul Thissen; Minnesota House of Representatives

From: Sarah Strommen; Board of Water and Soil Resources
sarah.strommen@state.mn.us; 651-297-5617

Re: Executive Branch Advisory Groups

In response to your letter to Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Chair Brian Napstad, we are submitting the information requested on the following executive branch advisory groups:

- 1) Reinvest in Minnesota Clean Energy Program Technical Committee (on your list)
- 2) Minnesota River Board Advisory Committee (addition to your list)

Additionally, there are other advisory groups in which BWSR participates but for which BWSR is not directly responsible. If BWSR's input on other groups would be helpful in the future, we'd be happy to provide it.

Reinvest in Minnesota Clean Energy Program Technical Committee (EXPIRED)

Statute: 103F.518, subd. 11

Expired: June 30, 2009

The mission of this Committee was to assist in developing program guidelines and standards for the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Clean Energy Program. The purpose of the program was to support native perennial biofuels production. A report to the Minnesota Legislature was submitted on January 23, 2008. Members of the Committee are listed in the report, which can be found at http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/RIM-CE/2008_RIM-CE_Report.pdf. The Reinvest in Minnesota Clean Energy Program was never funded.

Minnesota River Board Advisory Committee

Statute: 103F.378, subd. 2 (b)

The mission of the Minnesota River Board is to coordinate efforts to improve water quality in the Minnesota River Basin and achieving the goal of making the Minnesota River suitable for fishing and swimming by providing leadership, building partnerships, and supporting watershed programs in collaboration with the Water Resources Center at Minnesota State University, Mankato. More information, including membership can be found at www.minnesotariver.org. The Advisory Committee is intended to provide input on policy development, technical advances, continuing education programs, and other areas of concern.

The Minnesota River Board currently is engaged in a process to re-assess its purpose and determine its future. Depending on the outcome of this process, it is likely that changes to section 103F.378 will be needed. Therefore, we suggest that the Advisory Committee be looked at in conjunction with this comprehensive assessment of the Minnesota River Board and any potential statute updates.