



Subcommittee on Minnesota Water Policy

July 15, 2020

The Water Policy Subcommittee had introduced, or was in the process of introducing 17 bills in the House and Senate when the COVID-19 emergency developed. Some of those bills had a first hearing. Bills are summarized at the end of this note. Some elements of those bills moved forward as the result of the bills, or discussion about the bills.

Since mid-March, I have been working on the following:

- Archived bills and documented progress on the bills introduced during the session as part of the work of the subcommittee, or associated with the subcommittee's work.
- Attending agency and organizational meetings
- Prepared and distributed bi-weekly updates of Minnesota water news, as well as articles beyond Minnesota. The update includes summaries of meetings and reports, as well as, information about upcoming events. It is distributed to more than 500 stakeholders. I have been spending more time on this, with more detail and better editing.
- Prepared a subcommittee's strategic plan (attached).
- Working on an assessment of the 1989 Groundwater Act, with legislative recommendations. This is being done in cooperation with the Minnesota Groundwater Association's white paper process.
- Reviewing the UM/MDH "Future of drinking water report. This is a long report. I've prepared a short review with legislative recommendations.
- Coordinating and preparing an interagency plan for the Upper Mississippi River watershed that provides guidance for protecting, preserving and enhancing water and habitat, as well as protecting source waters for the Metropolitan Twin Cities Area. The plan includes enhancement of ongoing efforts by state, local, Federal and non-profit organizations and would be developed in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy and the Board of Water and Soil Resources. The effort is aimed at demonstrating water-quality improvement to support the endorsement of the Legacy and Environmental Trust Fund amendments, when they will require reaffirmation by the citizens of the state (attached)

Discussion points:

The subcommittee sunsets in December.....

Given that, do you support the work of the subcommittee and the continuation of the subcommittee?

If so, what is the path forward, given campaigns and elections and new committee members?

Suggestions or priorities for the summer and fall?

Can the subcommittee meet this summer and fall?

If so, how?

Following is the status of bills from the subcommittee or discussed by the members during the 2020 session. They were based on consensus decisions from the subcommittee members. Most of these bills involved policy decisions that would have required minimal funding. Generally, these issues required reports to the legislative that would have informed funding decisions for the next budget cycle. In so doing, this subcommittee was preparing a substantive legislative agenda for the 2021-22 budget cycle. Most of these bills were introduced and heard during. ***Some of the bill's objectives moved forward due, in part, to the work for the subcommittee. Some may move forward as part of omnibus bills in a special session. Those are indicated in bold and in italics.***

Subcommittee bills that likely would have been included in the end of session omnibus bills:

1. HF 3595 (Torkelson): SF 3864 (Weber, Franz) Water Retention, This bill is similar to a bill prepared from the subcommittee. The subcommittee's bill was not introduced. This will was included in omnibus bills in each of the chambers.
[HF3943](#): (Lippert, Fischer): SF:3943 (Weber, Eaton, Wiger, Eken): Requires DNR report on sustainability on Minnesota's groundwater and surface water, with a particular focus on ways to prevent export of groundwater. Pertains to the Water Train Controversy. Provides for a report on ways to Ensure Sustainability of Minnesota's Groundwater and Surface Water
2. [HF3944](#) (Fischer), SF 3925 (Weber): Emerging Contaminant Monitoring PFAS: Network for Monitoring Upregulated Contaminants in Sources of Drinking Water: Appropriates money to develop network for monitoring unregulated contaminants in sources of drinking water. A similar bill was introduced in the House.
3. [HF3950](#): (Lippert, Fischer), SF 3951 (Eaton, Wiger): Requires a well water test within six months of sale of property. Drinking Water Safety Private Wells: Safety Education for Private Well Owners: Requires well sampling and disclosure to buyers
4. [HF3967](#): (Heintzeman, Brand, Fischer), SF3413 (Weber, Eaton, Wiger, and Eken): Chloride contamination in state waters reduction plan funding provided for training and for feasibility analysis of chloride alternatives and water softening changes. Bill with some of the components moving forward.
5. [HF3971](#): (Torkelson, Fischer, Heintzeman), SF 3958 (Weber, Wiger Eaton, Eken): Advisory Council on Water Supply Systems and Wastewater Treatment Facilities reestablished, and money appropriated to improve drinking water infrastructure. Portions of this bill moved forward in another vehicle.
6. HF___, SF___ Flushable wipes- labeling or ban: Non-woven Personal Care Disposable Products; Senate: Wiger, Eaton, Weber, Eken, House: Heintzeman, Fischer. Catlin and Fisher had similar bills in the House. Decision made to not introduce the subcommittee bill. Similar bill in the Senate (SF3139. Portions of this bill moved forward in another vehicle.
7. SF3955 (Wiger Eaton) HF _____(Heintzeman): Forever chemicals in food waste, Accepting Certain Compostable Products Containing PFAS, Water Quality Monitoring for PFAS; Appropriation. The committee's bill was not introduced in the House. Rep Claflin introduced a simile bill in the House. (HF318-Claflin and SF 3955 is similar.

Other bills

8. HF 1439 (Poston, Fischer): SF 4206 (Wiger, Draheim, Eaton, Goggin, Weber, Eken): Compensation for Ag Buffers--Agricultural Riparian Buffer Credit {what is the status?}
9. [HF3940](#): (Fisher), SF3952 (Wiger, Eaton, Eken): Requires collaboration among and a report from Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR), Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC), and the Clean Water Council.
10. [HF3941](#): (Torkelson, Lippert, Fischer, Heintzeman): SF4265: (Wiger, Draheim, Goggin, Weber, Eken): Soil and Water Conservation District Grands, Appropriation: Phases out some of the Clean Water Fund (CWF) as funding source Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). Reduce SWCD grants from CWF in FY21 by \$3 million; require CWF to fund SWCDs at \$6 million in FY22 and \$3 million in FY23.
11. [HF3942](#): (Lippert) SF? (Weber Wiger, Eaton, Eken): Sustainable Drinking Water: Pilot Program to Ensure Safe and Sustainable Drinking Water for the Future by enhancing and leveraging County Geologic Atlas data, Plan for Developing Network of Monitoring Wells and Well Owner Education with appropriations. Also creates a blank appropriation for a well monitoring and education program for private well owners Senator Weber signed, not sure if it was introduced.
12. [HF3945](#) (Brand, Fischer, Lippert); SF 3961 (Wiger, Eken): Precision agriculture research and outreach funding provided, and money appropriated.
13. HF 3946 (Lippert, Fischer, Brand): SF 3953 (Wiger, Eaton, Eken): Increase Ag BMP loan program: Agricultural Best Management Practices Loan Program.
14. [HF3947](#): (Poston, Fischer: SF 3956 (Wiger, Eaton): Provides a third-party water-quality broker system and money appropriated. Encourages a pilot pollutant trading
15. [HF3948](#): (Fischer): SF 3954 (Wiger, Eaton): Appropriates money to study storm water retention and infiltration. Policy on storm water infiltration. Provides for a storm water retention and infiltration study.
16. [HF3951](#) (Lippert, Fischer), SF3996? (Weber): Encourage GW recharge policy and a report on artificial recharge. Artificial aquifer recharge use facilitated where appropriate, and report required.
17. [HF3952](#): (Fischer): SF? (Weber signed, Eaton, Wiger, and Eken): Water quality at beaches funding provided for a monitoring program, and money appropriated. Trying to locate the Senate bill.
18. [HF3968](#): (Heintzeman, Poston Fischer); SF 3957 (Wiger, Eaton):Water appropriation allocation priorities modified, Water Appropriation-Golf Courses
19. [HF3969](#): (Poston, Fischer): SF 3995 (Weber): Water quality standards report required on methods to simplify and increase efficiency of process to adopt and amend standards. Simplifies and increases the efficiency of the process to adopt and to amend water quality standards
20. Keeping water on the land, water storage: Pilot Program to Enhance Efforts to Keep Water on the land: Appropriation: Senate interest: Wiger and Weber. This bill was put on hold as per Fischer because of a similar bill proposed by Torkelson and Weber, in the House and Senate, respectively.
21. State Wetlands Assumption: Heintzeman et al. Bill not needed at this time. Following federal legislation by agency staff.

22. SF 4007 (Eken, Wiger Eaton) HF (Bill was not introduced in the house? Best models for BMP evaluation: Water Quality: Evaluating Models for Assessing Best management Practices: Appropriation
23. Combine CWC, LCC Water Commission. Discussed with Rep Lillie, Hold hearings this summer?
24. SF 3959 (Wiger and Eaton), HF(?) Lippert and Fisher: Soil Health: Statewide Soil Health Action Plan, Appropriations. May not have been introduced in the House.
25. Dedicated Funds for Conservation: Constitutionally dedicated funding and analysis with recommendations: Wiger and Fischer. Bill not introduced.
26. Waters of the United States: Wiger, Eken, Lippert, Fischer. Following the process. Bill not needed at this time.
27. SF2102 Draheim: Creating a Department of Water Resources: Draheim and Fischer SF2102. Bill not introduced in the House
28. Evaluate and update 1989 GW Act (support from Wiger, Brand, and Fischer) Bill not needed. Minnesota Ground Water Association is conducting a review. Stark is involved.
29. Preparing for an uncertain future (Wiger and Fischer expressed interest) EQB is including climate change in the required State Water Plan
30. Increase generic EIS process (Wiger and Fischer expressed interest. There was little support in the subcommittee
31. Environmentally responsible mining (support from Fischer and Sandell) did not originate in the subcommittee.