

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MINNESOTA WATER POLICY

DECEMBER 17, 2021

9:00 AM: VIRTUAL MEETING

Co-Chairs:

Sen. Chris Eaton

Rep. John Poston (presiding)

Jim Stark, Director

Subcommittee Support: Kathryn Ho

AGENDA

Legislative Water Policy Subcommittee, December 17, 9 am

Co-chairs: Senator Chris Eaton Representative John Poston

- Call to order/approval of Subcommittee minutes from November 24
- Jared Trost, USGS; Dr. John Nieber (UM): Groundwater quality: changes take time
- Catherine Neuschler (MPCA); Paul Gardner (Clean Water Council): Impaired waters list and programs
- Subcommittee Legislative Agenda: Jim Stark
- Testifiers
- Adjourn
- Agenda order may be adjusted to accommodate schedules of the members.

PRESENTATION

- Jared Trost (USGS); Dr. John Nieber (UM):
Groundwater quality--changes take time

PRESENTATION

- Catherine Neuschler (MPCA); Paul Gardner (Clean Water Council): Impaired waters list and programs

Legislative Process

- **Fifty + recommendations were suggested, reviewed and evaluated**
- **Subcommittee approved moving forward with 13 bills, by consensus**
- **Bills are drafted**
- **Input about member support would be appreciated**

Group 1

- **Safe Drinking water: Allocation to support Voluntary private well water testing clinics**
- **Water Safety Plans for Cities: Appropriation for a pilot**
- **Reactivation of the LWC and the Water Advisory Council**
- **Ensuring that everyone has drinking water free from lead**

Group 2

- Private wells: Identifying **vulnerable aquifers**, coordinate and supplement existing agency monitoring: **a coordinated monitoring network**
- **Defining sustainable groundwater limits using technological advances**--define limits in a pilot one-watershed/one plan (UM sustainability report)
- **Soil-health action plan**: Research, implementation, and outreach
- Complete land preservation objectives to: **Preserve high-valued lakes in the Upper Mississippi**

Group 3

- **Research/outreach for precision agriculture**
- **Tax credit for private riparian buffer lands**
- **Policy and an appropriation to encourage groundwater recharge where needed**
- **Keeping water on the land– increased water retention**
- **Watershed Districts- changing general fund appropriation**

NEXT STEPS

- **Bill support discussion**
- **Subcommittee support for the list, via consensus**
- **Sending bill titles to members**
- **Your response for support would be very helpful!**
- **Request is in your email inbox**
- **I've heard from some of you**

TESTIFIERS?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Thanks!**
- **Happy Holidays**