



Legislative Water Commission

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February 9, 2015
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Meeting Minutes

Members Present

Rep. Torkelson – Chair
Sen. Scalze – Co-Chair
Rep. Bly
Sen. Chamberlain
Sen. Dahms
Rep. Dean
Rep. Fischer
Rep. Johnson
Sen. Ruud
Sen. Schmit
Sen. Wiger

Members Excused

Rep. Hamilton

Representative Paul Torkelson called the meeting of the Legislative Water Commission to order at 6:02 PM on Monday, February 9, 2015 in the Basement Hearing Room of the State Office Building.

A quorum was present.

Senator Dahms moved approval of the minutes for the January 12, 2015 meeting. THE MOTION PREVAILED.

Commissioner Tom Landwehr, Department of Natural Resources, gave an update on the Governor's buffer initiative and responded to questions about the recently announced discretionary EAW being required of R.D. Offet's conversion of forest land to irrigated agricultural land in northern Minnesota, necessitating 81 appropriations permits.

Brief presentations on agricultural water policy issues:

MN AgriGrowth Council – Perry Aasness, MN Farm Bureau – Doug Busselman, MN Farmers' Union – Doug Peterson.

LWC goals and objectives were discussed, as follows:

Overall Goal: During the 2015 session, utilize the meetings to help define who LWC is and how LWC can provide accurate and well-informed background to legislative colleagues in the future.

Near Shore Objectives:

1. Review and consider supporting the Clean Water Council and the Interagency Work Group activities and the (81) watershed monitoring and assessment approach.
2. Assess the impacts of proposed legislation related to water policies, resources, and budgets (Ex: Governor's buffer initiative).
3. Assess Agency water roles and potentially make recommendations for adjustments (Ex: Groundwater management areas/competing appropriations).

LWC Director Barb Huberty briefly discussed the handouts prepared for the meeting, including:

- A summary of water-related bills to date that could form the basis of future meeting discussions
- A compilation of presentations made to date, along with potential speakers and topics for future meetings
- John Helland's January 2001 Survey of the Groundwater Act of 1989
- A PowerPoint presentation about Groundwater Management that supports the earlier DNR presentation on this subject
- Several exhibits that provide detail on how much public money is spent on water related programs and by whom
- A copy of the Farm to Stream publication produced by the Freshwater Society

Commission members discussed future meeting dates, and agreed that the next meeting will be 6:00 PM, Monday, March 9.

Commission members discussed future agenda items. Members were encouraged to contact the co-chairs and/or the Director with their suggestions.

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM.