



Legislative Water Commission

Barb Huberty, Director

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October 26, 2015

Room 5 State Office Building

Meeting Minutes

Member Present

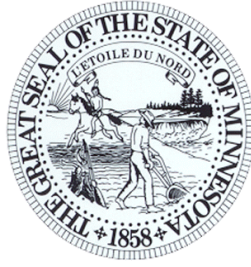
Sen Gary Dahms
Sen Carrie Ruud
Sen Bev Scalze
Sen Charles Wiger
Sen Matt Schmit
Rep David Bly
Rep Peter Fischer
Rep Clark Johnson
Rep Paul Torkelson
Rep Matt Dean

Members Excused

Rep Rod Hamilton
Sen Roger Chamberlain

Rep Paul Torkelson called the meeting to order at 10:10 am on Monday, October 26, 2015 in Room 5 of the State Office Building. A quorum was present.

1. Sen Dahms moved approval of the minutes for the June 22, 2015 meeting and the motion was seconded by Rep Fischer. THE MOTION PREVAILED.
2. Susan Thornton, Director of the Legislative Citizens' Commission on Minnesota Resources gave an overview of the function and members of the LCCMR and asked for LWC member input regarding water topics as they develop their 2017 Request for Proposals.
3. Jack Mackenzie, Director of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association and Jake Smith, President of MGCSA made a presentation about the value of utilizing golf courses for water management and reuse. According to MN Statute, golf courses fall at the bottom of the water appropriations hierarchy. The MGCSA feels golf courses are an important industry in MN and golf courses have made many operational improvements to conserve water and reduce pollution potential. They would like to develop a Golf Course Best Management Practice certification program that would enable participating golf courses to receive certainty for water appropriations that would supersede the hierarchy. More proactive conservation is needed in advance of severe drought periods so that golf courses can retain a share of water use to sustain greens and tees.
4. Anna Henderson & Erik Dahl, staff for the Environmental Quality Board made a presentation about



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the 2015 EQB Water Policy Plan, and its assessment appendices, which represent state government speaking with one voice in an accessible style. It is not a comprehensive tally of all water issues; instead, it focuses on 4 goals representing timely issues that cut across all agencies to serve as a framework for broader discussion. Comments from LWC members included a desire to:

- have these reports recognize progress made,
 - provide ideas regarding how the success stories can be replicated to others,
 - address the role of social sciences in advancing behavioral changes,
 - recognize technologies used in agricultural areas,
 - assess how well agencies are working together,
 - identify gaps in regulations that will allow water reuse and to begin filling those regulatory gaps in the next legislative session, and
 - protect the Mississippi River as a water supply via forest protection in northern MN.
5. Ali Elhassan, a Metropolitan Council staff member made a presentation about the Metropolitan Council Master Water Supply Plan Update.
6. The next meeting will be from 10-12 on Wednesday, November 4th in Rm 5 of the State Office Building. Members will learn about DNR's stakeholder process to determine Groundwater Thresholds for groundwater, surface water and wetlands. DNR will also be presenting about the Water Supply Planning process that municipalities are undertaking. Finally, they will have an opportunity to review a matrix of water issues presented to date so deliberations about LWC priorities can begin.

The December meeting date will be Friday, 12/4. Members were asked to consider setting a recurring meeting time, with options being 3-5 on Thursdays, or 6-8 on Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:58 am.