

Weekly LWC Update 10-21-16

Interested reader: each week, I gather general information for Legislative Water Commission members to help keep them apprised about water issues in Minnesota. It contains a roundup of easily attainable MN water news, as well as articles from beyond MN that may inform member thinking. It also includes summaries of meetings I have attended and reports I have read, as well as info about upcoming events. During the Legislative Session, it also includes updates on water-related legislation. Any errors or omissions are inadvertent.

Barb Huberty, Director, MN Legislative Water Commission
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., 65 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone: 651/284-6431
Email: barb.huberty@lcc.leg.mn

Web site: www.lcc.leg.mn/lwc/

MN NEWS

WATER ACTIONS

- MPR: [How a far-sighted Minnesota scientist pointed America toward the future](#)
- Capitol Report: [‘Year of Water Action’ aims for ripple effect](#)
- Great Lakes Commission Resolution: [Providing and maintaining clean water infrastructure and services in the Great Lakes Basin](#); at its annual meeting in October, the GLC calls on the US Congress and the Canadian Parliament to increase federal funding to support drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services
- DNR: [DNR launches updated performance and accountability webpage](#); the number of long-term groundwater level monitoring wells increased 59% as part of an effort to expand and overhaul Minnesota’s groundwater level monitoring network; see the Waters and Watersheds Performance and Accountability [website](#) to learn about mapping & monitoring, flood damage reduction, lake/river/stream conservation, and aquatic invasive species
- Water Online: [Teams From The University Of Minnesota – Twin Cities And Southern Methodist University Win The 2016 WEF Student Design Competition](#)
- Fox21: [Meeting Held to Help Protect Lake Superior](#)
- Maven’s Notebook: [Water Smart Innovations: Speeding up innovation in the water industry](#) in 3 ways: avoiding the optimization trap, removing standardization as a barrier, and reengaging individual citizens with technology
- H2O for Life: [Testing the Waters at AFSA High School, MN](#)
- Post Bulletin: [Water quality gets a \\$3.2 million boost from foundation](#)
- MASWCD: [“The Dirt” on Pope SWCD - Improving water quality on Lake Minnewaska](#)

SURFACE WATER/STORMWATER

- Fox21: [Discussions on the Iron Range on the Impacts of Wild Rice Water Quality Standards](#)
- MPCA: [Zumbro watershed: good news, but more work to do](#)
- DNR: [DNR coordinating new starry stonewort treatment method in West Lake Sylvia](#)
- KSTP 5: [Protecting Minnesota's Environment During Winter Driving Season](#); see the MN Local Road Research Board’s [Snow and Ice Control Guidebook](#) (remember, once salt is dissolved in water bodies, expensive reverse osmosis is the primary treatment option)
- Freshwater Society: [What’s up with the Minnesota River?](#)

- DNR: [Zebra mussels confirmed in Lower Cullen Lake and nearby Lake Hubert in Crow Wing County](#)
- International Joint Commission: [Preliminary International Joint Commission Recommendations on Microplastics in the Great Lakes](#)
- MPCA has announced that these organizations (excluding Oronoco Township and the Sauk River Watershed District) will now be required to obtain municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permits:

MS4 Name (click to sort alphabetically) ▲
Albertville, City
Baldwin Township
Bayport, City
Blue Earth County
Buffalo-Red River Watershed District
Canosia Township
Eagle Lake, City
Grand Lake Township
Hanover, City
Isanti, City
Lake City
Mankato Township
Minnesota Correctional Facility, Stillwater
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Morris, City
Nicollet County
Oak Park Heights, City
Oronoco Township
Rogers, City
Sauk River Watershed District
Skyline, City
South Bend Township
South Central College, North Mankato Campus
St. Augusta, City
St. Francis, City
Thomson Township
Wyoming, City

WATER SUPPLY

- DNR: [DNR designates Bonanza Valley Groundwater Management Area](#)
- Hibbing Daily Tribune: [Elevated Lead Levels in Hibbing Water](#)

AG & WATER

- MPR: [We pay billions for greener farms, so what does that buy us?](#)
- Steele County Times: [Feedlot Lawsuit Gains More Momentum](#)
- The Kenyon Leader: [Sustainability approach focuses on people, planet and profitability](#)
- USAgNet: [Mower Co. Farm Families Ensure Clean Water is Their Legacy](#)

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

- Duluth News Tribune: [Minnesota doctors request to add human health to environmental reviews](#) and [Doctors try again for health study on copper mines](#); Strib: [Minnesota board to consider health impacts of mining plans](#); ; a petition has been filed with the Environmental Quality Board requesting a rule modification to require completion of health impact assessments or health risk assessments during future EAWs for non-ferrous mining; the EQB listened to 4 hours of testimony, but did not take any action on the petition at their 10/19 meeting (Related...WDIO: [Twin Metals Owner Faces Environmental Charges in South America](#))

OPINIONS

- Strib: [Counterpoint: Blame farmers for water pollution? Look in the mirror](#)
- SC Times: [Do your part during Year of Water Action](#)

BEYOND MINNESOTA

REGIONAL

- MinnPost: [‘Strict’ pesticide rules fail to erase threat to Wisconsin’s drinking water](#)
- WPR: [Wisconsin Farmers Talk About Water With Louisiana Fishermen](#)
- The Des Moines Register: [Water Works shifts how it disposes of excess nitrates](#)
- Michigan Live: [Legislature's water crisis report: 'Government has failed the people of Flint'](#); here is the full report: [Flint Water Crisis: Report of the Joint Select Committee on the Flint Water Emergency](#); Reuters: [EPA watchdog says clearer emergency power needed after Flint crisis](#); MinnPost: [Expert insights on what went wrong in Flint — and why it could happen here](#)
- New York Times: [As California Water Use Rises, Some Ask: Were Limits Eased Too Soon?](#); MPR: [California's dire drought message wanes, conservation levels drop](#)
- Circle of Blue: [California Designs First Statewide Water Affordability Program](#)
- Crosscut: [To solve water pollution, Seattle turns to an old solution](#)
- WUFT: [Florida, Georgia Prepare For Federal “Water Wars” Trial](#)
- The Washington Post: [‘Do it for the water’: Native Americans carry Potomac water on prayerful, 400-mile journey](#); Sharon Day, Clean Water Council member and leader of Nibi walks in MN, is featured in this article

NATIONAL

- Ag Mag: [Data Show Farmers Must Do More to Protect the Environment, Public Health](#)
- Center for American Progress: [Aging Dams and Clogged Rivers](#)

GLOBAL

- Strib: [Schafer: China's dirty water gives Pentair and Ecolab a big business opportunity](#)

- Nov 17: **Minnesota River Congress** meeting; Mankato; networking fair @ 4:30 & meeting @ 7:30; for more information contact Scott Sparlin @ sesparlin@gmail.com, 507-276-2280; register [here](#)
- Dec 1-3: **MN Association of Watershed Districts Annual Meeting & Trade Show**; Arrowwood Conference Center, Alexandria; Drainage workshop on 12/1; conference agenda, costs, and registration [here](#)
- Dec 4-6: **MN Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Meeting & Trade Show**; \$145 to \$220 (depending on days participating); Double Tree Hotel – Bloomington; details [here](#)
- Dec 5-6: **Association of MN Counties Annual Conference**; Hyatt Regency Minneapolis; \$375 before 11/4 & \$400 after; schedule [here](#); registration [here](#)
- Jan 17-19: 34th Annual **Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference** “Passport to Progress: Thinking Beyond Our Boundaries”; \$225, Ramada Plaza Hotel in Fargo; more info [here](#)
- Jan 23-24: **MN Water Well Association’s 95th Annual Trade Show and Convention**; Minneapolis Marriott NW; more info to come [here](#)
- Feb 16: U of MN Extension’s **Nitrogen: Minnesota's Grand Challenge and Compelling Opportunity**; Verizon Wireless Center (1 Civic Center Plaza, Mankato); details to come [here](#)
- Mar 7-9: 33rd Annual **MN Rural Water Association Water & Wastewater Technical Conference**; St Cloud; details to come [here](#)
- May 9: Minnesota Day at the **National Climate Adaptation Forum**; registration can be found [here](#)