

Weekly LWC Update 12-15-16

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.

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This will be the last weekly update for 2016; they will resume on 1/6/17.

MN NEWS

WATER ACTIONS

- MASWCD: [“The Dirt” on Cook and Lake SWCDs - Collaborating for “One Watershed One Plan”](#) and [“The Dirt” on Dodge SWCD - Helping landowners through outreach programs](#)
- Brainerd Dispatch: [Family preserves 500 acres of wildlife habitat](#); that also preserves wetlands and buffers protecting Island and Mud lakes, near Emily
- KSTP: [MN Board of Water & Soil Resources Awards \\$13.4 Million in Clean Water Fund Grants](#); 78 of 171 applications were funded from a total of \$34.4 million in requests; BWSR: [\\$13.4 million awarded to improve Minnesota’s water quality](#); for more details on the 78 projects, go [here](#) and look for these hyperlinks:

Grant Recipients
Clean Water Fund Recipients
Fiscal Year 2017
▪ Projects and Practices
▪ Map - Metro
▪ Map - Greater Minnesota
▪ Accelerated Implementation Grant
▪ Map - Metro
▪ Map - Greater Minnesota
▪ Community Partners
▪ Map
▪ Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant
▪ Map

- Morrison County Record: [Schlichtings named as Minnesota’s 2016 ‘Outstanding Conservationists of the Year’](#)

- BWSR: [BWSR Seeks Comments on Buffer Law policies](#)
- Red Wing Republican Eagle: [10 smart salting tips that protect Minnesota waters](#) with videos; MPCA: [10 smart salting tips to protect Minnesota waters](#)

SURFACE WATER/STORMWATER

- Capitol Report: [Great Lakes cleanup to continue 5 years under legislation](#)
- Limnology and Oceanography: [Climate warming and changes in *Cyclotella sensu lato* in the Laurentian Great Lakes](#); U.S. (U of MN-NRRI) and Canadian researchers have shown a relationship between warming lake temperatures and temperature stratification to an increase in the population of tiny algae called cyclotella; although researchers say the increase at the base of the food web is not concerning in and of itself, they note a potential change in relationship to organisms up the food chain, like zooplankton, small fish that eat zooplankton, and even large fish at the top of the food chain like lake trout
- Duluth News Tribune: [Great Lakes spending included in federal water bill](#)
- Fairmont Sentinel: [Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Update to Buffer Map](#)
- The Advocate: [LSU scientist teams with rowboat team to research Mississippi River water](#); from MN to LA, rowers are collecting water samples at tributaries to the Mississippi River in a study of the river’s microscopic organisms
- Winona Daily News: [Environment report card highlights threat from 'mega-rains'](#); Pioneer Press: [More 'mega-rains,' tick diseases on tap for Minnesota, report says](#)
- EchoPress: [A \\$5.6 million pollution solution](#); MPCA’s TMDL report for Lake Winona near Alexandria estimates that it will cost \$5.6 million to reduce phosphorus pollution to acceptable levels; MPCA: [Comments sought on draft report about water pollution in Lake Winona](#)

AG & WATER

- Austin Daily Herald: [Mower SWCD promotes upland water storage](#)

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

- Timberjay: [MPCA, environmental groups reach temporary settlement on Minntac permit](#)
- Bemidji Pioneer: ['You couldn't hear, you couldn't sit': Activists asked to leave Enbridge meeting Tuesday night \(w/ video\)](#); MPR: [Enbridge shuts down Bemidji meeting after confrontation with pipeline protesters](#); Duluth News Tribune: [Enbridge cancels pipeline forum after heated community meeting](#)
- InfoSuperior: [Right Through Here](#); Enbridge’s “Line 3” project from Hardisty, Alberta to Gretna, Manitoba, near the ND-MN border has been approved; on the U.S. side, Line 3 will then continue across MN to Superior, WI, crossing the St. Louis River



Enbridge’s Line 3 project (red and blue line) runs between Hardisty, Alberta and Superior, Wisconsin.

- Duluth News Tribune: [Feds ask for Twin Metals lawsuit to be dismissed](#); MPR: [Government seeks to dismiss Twin Metals mining lease lawsuit](#);
- Pioneer Press: [Feds deny minerals lease renewals for Twin Metals mine near Ely](#); Strib: [Feds slam brakes on copper-nickel mine near Boundary Waters](#); MPR: [Feds halt Twin Metals plan for Minnesota copper mine](#); The Wilderness Society: [Big step: Interior denies mining lease renewal in Minnesota's Boundary Waters](#); The Hill: [Feds block northern Minnesota mining project](#); ABC News: [Feds Deny Minerals Lease Renewals for NE Minnesota Mine](#); The Washington Post: [Feds deny request to renew mining lease in Minnesota wilderness area](#); this will start a formal review process to examine whether all mining activities in 234,000 acres abutting the wilderness should be barred for the next 20 years; Governor Dayton's Office: [Statement from Governor Dayton on Federal Twin Metals Mineral Lease Decision](#)
- Strib: The Latest: [Trade group blasts Minnesota mine lease denial](#); Minnesota Mining hopes President-elect Donald Trump's administration will reverse Obama's administration decision not to renew the mineral rights leases for the proposed Twin Metals copper-nickel mine

OPINIONS

- Duluth News Tribune: [Native View: Enbridge must be held accountable in northern Minnesota](#)
- Duluth News Tribune: [Reader's View: State must recognize the threat of sulfide mining](#)

BEYOND MINNESOTA

REGIONAL

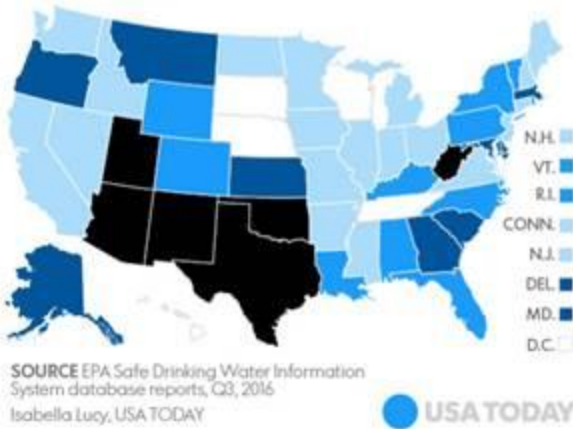
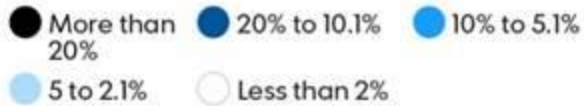
- Duluth News Tribune: [Cleanup plan comes together near Fraser Shipyards in Superior](#)
- MPR: [A year later, unfiltered Flint tap water is still unsafe to drink](#)
- USGS: [USGS Releases First Tool Since 1980s Assessing Water Availability in Northern High Plains Aquifer](#)
- City of Austin, Texas: [Sustainability Performance Dashboard](#); here are their [water metrics and performance](#)
- MPR: [North Dakota oil spill raises questions about safety](#)
- Strib: [Settlement approved for coal mines owned by governor-elect](#) for Clean Water Act violations
- Strib: [Not just Standing Rock: Water sources along pipeline at risk](#)
- Strib: [DuPont to pay \\$50 million over mercury dumped in river](#) in VA
- Strib: [Corpus Christi, Texas, tells residents not to use tap water](#) due to potential petroleum-based contamination released from local industry

NATIONAL

- Strib: [EPA fracking report offers few answers on drinking water](#); APMReports: [EPA reverses course, highlights fracking contamination of drinking water](#)
- Detroit Free Press: [4 million Americans could be drinking toxic water and would never know](#)

CUSTOMERS DRAWING WATER FROM UTILITIES WITH FAILED LEAD TESTS

Percentage of each state's small water-utility customers who draw water from a system that has failed to properly test for lead since 2010:



REPORTS

STATE OF MN WATER

- DNR: Stream Flow Report – discontinued until spring
- National Drought Mitigation Center: [12/13 Drought Monitor](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov 19-Jan 1: **Smithsonian Water/Ways Exhibit** at the [Audubon Center of the Northwoods](#) in Sandstone
- 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](#)
- Jan 31-Feb 2: **MN Erosion Control and Stormwater Management Annual Conference and Trade Show**; 1 Day fee-\$170 member/\$200 Nonmember or 2 Day fee-\$330 member/\$390 nonmember; Verizon Wireless Center in Mankato; schedule [here](#); register [here](#)
- Feb 3: **Minnesota Environmental Congress** (includes a water track); free; 8 am to 6 pm; U of MN Continuing Education and Conference Center (1890 Buford Avenue, St. Paul); more info [here](#)
- Feb 7: **Nutrient Management Conference**, St. Cloud; details to be announced
- Feb 9: **Water Technology Export Roundtable: Opportunities in Water Reuse**; 9:30AM – 1PM; \$30 includes lunch; @ Dow Water & Process Solutions, 7600 Metro Boulevard, Edina; register [here](#)
- Feb 13: Rinke Noonan Annual **Drainage and Wetland Conference**; River’s Edge Conference Center in St Cloud, details to come

- 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**; River's Edge Convention Center in St Cloud; \$280 early registration/\$305 on-site registration; agenda and registration [here](#)
- Apr 18: **MN Water Technology Export Roundtable: The Water Energy Nexus**, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. @ Aeration Industries (4100 Peavey Road, Chaska) \$30 (includes lunch)
- May 9: Minnesota Day at the **National Climate Adaptation Forum**; registration can be found [here](#)