

Weekly LWC Update 8-19-16

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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MN NEWS

WATER ACTIONS

- KEYC 12: [Lawmakers Tour Water Quality Successes And Issues](#)
- Gov Dayton's Office: [Governor Mark Dayton Kicks of "Year of Water Action" at the Headwaters of the Mississippi River](#); ABC 5: [Dayton Kicks Off 'Year of Water Action' in Minnesota](#); KQDS Fox 21: [Governor Mark Dayton Kicks of "Year of Water Action"](#); throughout the next year, Gov Dayton & his administration plan to raise awareness of water quality issues & highlight actions to preserve and protect water' the topics planned for each month are:
 - August 2016 – Year of Water Action Kickoff: Conserve, Protect, Clean and Enjoy
 - September 2016 – We All Live Downstream: Understanding Our Clean Water Sources
 - October 2016 – Clean Water Challenges & Solutions in Greater Minnesota
 - November 2016 – Clean Water Challenges & Solutions in the Twin Cities
 - December 2016 – Winter Ways to Take Action for Clean Water
 - January 2017 – Clean Water Creates a Healthy Minnesota
 - February 2017 – Minnesota Innovations in Clean Water Practices and Technology
 - March 2017 – Impacts of Climate Change on Minnesota Water
 - April 2017 – Sustainable Practices for Clean Water
 - May 2017 – Keep Our Waters Swimmable & Fishable
 - June 2017 – Clean Water is Good for Our Economy
 - July 2017 – Year of Water Action for a Future Generation
 - August 2017 – A Year of Water Action in Review
- Inforum: [Capitol Chatter: Dayton says clean water tops light rail politics](#)
- Met Council: [Take the "Lawn Water Use Survey" if you live in the 7 county metro area](#)
- DNR: [Applications open for nearly \\$7 million in Legacy grants](#)
- Brainerd Dispatch: [Crow Wing County: Public agrees with disbanding watershed district](#)
- St Croix 360: [Indigenous Women to Perform Ceremonial Water Walk Along St. Croix Tributary](#)
- Brainerd Dispatch: [Water Conversations launched in area](#)
- Mankato Free Press: [Lake Hallett paddle, water quality workshop planned](#)
- Pioneer Press: [Washington County public works building goes green](#)
- Waseca County News: [City road, utilities work to cut down discharge into Waseca lakes](#)

WATER SUPPLY

- Strib: [Plymouth residents raise concerns about discolored water](#) and [Plymouth reassuring residents that discolored water is still safe](#)
- MinnPost: [Minnesota among 13 states with high levels of risky chemicals in drinking water](#)

SURFACE WATER/STORMWATER

- MPCA: [Multiple enforcement actions lead to settlement between MPCA and Isanti biodiesel facility](#)
- MPR: [Minnesota environmental group wants in on Red River diversion appeal](#) and Inforum: [Richland County water board appeals ND approval of diversion dam permit](#)
- Strib: [EPA gives grants to Great Lakes cities to help beach water](#) and [State briefs: Duluth gets grant to prevent stormwater runoff into Lake Superior](#)
- West Central Tribune: [Zebra mussels found in Detroit Lake](#); DNR: [Zebra mussels confirmed in 3 Minnesota lakes](#); Pope County Tribune: [Zebra mussels confirmed in five more Minnesota lakes](#)
- Rochester Post Bulletin: [John Weiss: Is green water the new normal?](#)

WASTEWATER

- Strib: [Normandale students take national honors for innovative renewable energy proposal](#) – extracting energy from wastewater discharges
- Met Council: [Council Approves Wastewater Rates for 2017](#); a 5.4% rate hike is largely due to additional debt service, which recently has been driven by increased rehabilitation of large, aging sewer pipes; Met Council customers pay about 40% less for wastewater collection and treatment than peer regions across the country
- Pioneer Press: [St. Paul church added a door and got charged a \\$9,000 sewer fee – here's why](#)

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

- Winona Daily News: [Regulation, not outright ban: Winona County planning commission grinds to compromise on frac sand](#)

AG & WATER

- KEYC 12: [Dept. Of Ag Certifies Farmers For Water Quality Practices](#)
- Dairyland Peach: [Melrose dairy farmer recognized for his conservation efforts](#)
- West Central Tribune: [Buffer debate continues in Minnesota farm country to protect waters](#) and Bemidji Pioneer: ['Every generation has to leave something': Buffer debate continues in Minnesota farm country](#)
- PR Newswire: [Farm and Food Coalition Seeks Candidate Support for Plan to Grow Minnesota's Food Economy](#)
- Crow River Media: [York Farm certified in state water quality program](#)

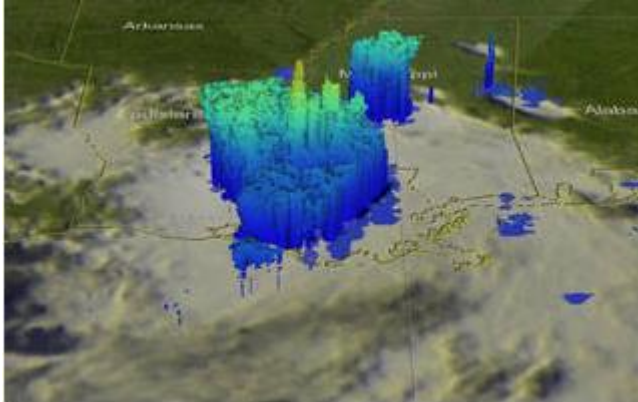
OPINIONS

- Rochester Post Bulletin: [Their View: What can make Southeast Minnesota better?](#) Protecting water supply
- Met Council: [Partnering to Protect Our Water](#), Chair Adam Duininck shares his thoughts on Met Council's water role

BEYOND MINNESOTA

- NOAA: [NOAA launches America's first national water forecast model](#); new tool hailed as a game changer for predicting floods, informing water-related decisions
- Strib: [US agency studies how to detect algae bloom outbreaks](#)

- The Des Moines Register: [Vilsack: Iowa's economy needs a water quality solution](#) and [Vilsack: Iowa will have 'hell to pay' unless water quality addressed soon](#) "It is irritating to me beyond belief, and I'm serious about this, that I have a damned sign in my office in Washington, D.C., from the Minnesota Water Project," he said. "The former governor of Iowa has got to look at that damned sign every day and know that Minnesota has a clean water initiative."
- NASA: [NASA's GPM Examines Exceptionally Heavy Louisiana Rainstorms](#); during the 8/11 Louisiana mega-storm, NASA's dual-frequency precipitation radar instruments measured some storm tops over 9.9 miles high and rainfall rates of over 3.9"/hr



- Congressional Research Service: [Evolution of the Meaning of "Waters of the United States" in the Clean Water Act](#); of course, it's complicated
- Congress: [letter from the House Committees on Natural Resources and on Energy and Commerce](#) asking EPA to address their concerns related to the proposed risk management and financial assurance rules for hard rock mining companies that are intended to insure clean water (the rules are being prepared in response to a court order)
- MPR: [Federal state of emergency over lead-laced water ends in Flint](#)
- American Farm Bureau Federation: [Most of the world's large aquifers at tipping point](#)
- Strib: [US Air Force to change fire foam due to water contamination](#) and [Colorado: Water contamination likely came from military base](#)
- Strib: [EPA watchdog says government fails to study ethanol's impact](#)

MEETINGS

LWC FIELD TOUR

The LWC held its second annual field tour this past Wednesday, focusing on water successes and issues in the Minnesota River Basin, from Mapleton to Blakeley. The tour packet should be posted on the LWC web site early next week. See some press coverage by KEYC 12: [Lawmakers Tour Water Quality Successes And Issues](#).

REPORTS

STATE OF MN WATER

- 8/15 [Stream Flow Report](#)
- 8/16 [Drought Monitor](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug 13 – Sept 25: **Smithsonian’s Water/Ways and We Are Water MN** exhibits and activities in St Peter; grand opening at 9 am on 8/13 at the [Nicollet County Historical Society](#) Treaty Site History Center
- Aug 23: **MnTAP Intern Symposium**; 1-5 pm: Johnson Great Room and Ski-U-Mah Room @ McNamara Alumni Center, U of MN; reports on projects that include helping companies reduce water use; the agenda can be found [here](#); [register here](#).
- Aug 24-25: **BWSR Tour and Board Meeting**, East Grand Forks (I will attend)
- Aug 31: **NEMO Workshop on the Lower MN River**, focusing on sediment pollution; no cost, but registration is required before 8/22 at z.umn.edu/nemominnesotariver
- Sept 7-9: **International Drainage Symposium**, \$400, The Commons Hotel (615 Washington Ave SE, Minneapolis), registration [here](#)
- Sept 14: **NEMO on the St. Croix River Workshop**, focusing on the National Scenic Riverway rules and policies and adopting Minimum Impact Design Standards by the riverside communities; registration info to come
- Sept 17: **Buffer Field Trip** (in conjunction with the U of MN Buffer Science and Design Symposium on 9/16); registration link to come [here](#)
- Sept 20: **Water Technology Summit**; 8 am to 4 pm; highlighting key topics in water technology including water's use in agriculture, food and beverage, national and local perspectives of water, and opportunities to accelerate technology adoption; US Bank Stadium; \$100 before 8/26 & \$135 afterwards; agenda to come; register [here](#) (I will attend)
- Sept 20-23: **American Water Works Association – Minnesota Section Annual Conference** (their 100th anniversary); Duluth; details [here](#)
- Sept 22: **Clean Water Summit - Green Infrastructure for Clean Water - Rethinking Redevelopment and Retrofits**; MN Landscape Arboretum; \$80; 9 am to 4:30 pm; info & registration [here](#)
- Sept 26: **MN’s Water Reuse Stakeholder Meeting** (open to the public); 1:30 – 4:30; MPCA Board Room (I will attend)
- Sept 29: **NEMO Lessons Across the Landscape Workshop**; land-based tour focused on urban stormwater practices in Minneapolis, led by the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization; registration info to come
- Oct 5-6: **Aquatic Invaders Summit II**; River’s Edge Convention Center (10 4th Ave. S, St. Cloud); \$165 (early)/\$180 (late) registration; register [here](#)
- Oct 5-6: **Minnesota Coastal Conference 2016**; Two Harbors; registration and agenda to come [here](#)
- Oct 18-19: **MN Water Resources Conference**; agenda [here](#); cost before 9/22 is \$245 2 days/\$170 1 day (\$265/\$190 after 9/22); registration link [here](#) (I will attend)
- Oct 24-26: **BWSR Training Academy**; Cragun’s in Brainerd (registration will begin in August)
- Nov 17: **MN’s Water Reuse Stakeholder Meeting** (open to the public); 1:30 – 4:30; MPCA Board Room
- Jan 23-24, 2017: **MN Water Well Association’s 95th Annual Trade Show and Convention**; Minneapolis Marriott NW; more info to come [here](#)