

Legislative Water Commission Update 10-19-17

ERRORS? OMISSIONS? If found, please notify barb.huberty@lcc.leg.mn.

Interested reader: each week, I gather general information for Legislative Water Commission members to help keep them apprised about water issues in Minnesota. This update 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 monitored and reports I have read, as well as information about upcoming events. During the Legislative Session, updates on water-related legislation and committee activities are added. Any errors or omissions are inadvertent.

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Subscribe to the weekly update & follow LWC meetings at: www.lcc.leg.mn/lwc/

LWC Subscribers: Little time for media review since the last edition, so slim pickings in the media section.

MN NEWS

WATER ACTIONS

- DNR: [DNR accepting applications for coastal area grants](#)

SURFACE WATER/STORMWATER

- Gov Dayton's Office: [Governor Dayton and Governor Burgum Establish New Task Force on Fargo-Moorhead Flood Diversion](#)
- MPCA: [Success at last: Poplar River meets water quality goals](#)
- MPCA: [Minnesota River continues to suffer in water quality despite some improvements](#)
- MPCA: [Most waters in Missouri River basin fail to support fishing and swimming; restoration needed](#)
- MPCA: [2018 Impaired waters list: Success stories surfacing for Minnesota lakes, streams](#)

GREAT LAKES

- Strib: [Lake Superior is near record high and threatening shoreline](#)

WASTEWATER

- MPCA: [Le Sueur egg-washing facility fined for wastewater violations](#)

AG & WATER

- Strib: [Clean water vs. farm profits at heart of debate over new fertilizer rules](#)
- MDA: [Know Where and When to Apply Fall Nitrogen Fertilizer](#)
- MDA: [Proposals Sought For \\$1.1 million In Fertilizer Research and Outreach Activities](#)
- BWSR: [Progress toward buffer compliance is strong ahead of first implementation deadline](#); 94% of Minnesota public waters now have buffers

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

- DNR: [Zebra mussels confirmed in Kandiyohi County's George Lake](#)
- DNR: [Check for invasive species when removing docks and equipment for seasonal storage](#)

BEYOND MINNESOTA

REGIONAL

- The Water Council: [SofTap Water Announces Breakthrough Water Softening Technology](#)
- Microbe Detectives: [Dr. Trevor Ghylin, Founder and CTO of Microbe Detectives, to Receive Prestigious Water Award](#); state-of-the-art DNA sequencing can be used to quantify the bacterial makeup of a wastewater facility's mixed liquor suspended solids to quantify the seasonal biological make-up in order to optimize their treatment process

NATIONAL

- NRCS: [Every Successful Farm Starts With a Plan](#)
- CNN Tech: [This company wants to stop floods before they happen](#)

MEETINGS

CWC

The Clean Water Council's agenda covered a wide range of topics at their October meeting. First, members received a refresher on conflict of interest considerations. Next, MN Dept of Health (MDH) staff explained the extent of arsenic contamination in private wells, how householders with high arsenic levels are managing the associated health risk, and options to improve communication about mitigation options. One member recommended that the well disclosure form used when properties are sold be updated to provide more accurate and recent well test data. Following this, Dept of Natural Resources staff explained how current road crossings over rivers and streams are designed to considering only hydraulic loads. DNR advocates for designs that also include a sediment loss analysis so that retrofits of road crossings can distribute culverts across the floodplain, instead of centralizing them near the channel center. This will help reduce sediment loss and improve water quality. Next up, MDH staff presented a summary of their new water reuse report, which takes a health risk based approach to assessing reuse options. A lack of data on stormwater quality and the absence of statutory authority for the agencies are near term barriers to advancing reuse. The Director of the Rice Creek Watershed District then described the triple benefit of stormwater reuse for irrigation: groundwater protection, improved water quality, and flood prevention. In their experience, stormwater reuse presents an economic incentive and there have been no reported negative health impacts from decades of stormwater reuse for irrigation. However, they have not specifically monitored for pathogens (bacteria, viruses, and protozoa) or polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, which can be a problem in collected stormwater sediments. In addition to continued research, the risks of not doing these types of projects also need to be evaluated. Finally, UMN staff gave an update on their project to evaluate the return on investment of Clean Water Fund (CWF) expenditures. They are in the initial design stages of this project and were seeking CWC member input on desired outcomes. The value of CWF progress should be compared to where MN would be without the CWF. To review all the meeting materials, go [here](#) to see the posted meeting packet and WebEx archive for October.

LCCMR

The Legislative Citizens Commission on MN Resources has finished their arduous process of reviewing applications, listening to a subset of proposal presentations, and selecting proposals for allocation. There are 26 projects related to water resources being recommended for \$14,536M in funding, which represents about 32% of the total recommended allocation. More details about the recommended projects (as proposed, not as recommended for funding) may be reviewed by right-clicking on the hyperlinks for each project included in the table below. The next step will be to convert the recommendations into a bill that will be presented to the legislature during the 2018 session. The House and Senate Legacy Committees will then debate the merits of the recommendations and may offer alternative proposals for inclusion in the bill for the full legislature to

consider when they vote on the bill. At the end of the processes the grant award winners will need to revise their work plans to develop a budget that matches the approved allocation. Note that the LCCMR recommendation package does not include the \$15M request for additional CREP funding.

ENRTF Proposal ID (1)	Title	Total LCCMR \$ Recommended FY2019	Organization
A. Foundational Natural Resource Data and Information (12 Recommendations - Subtotal = \$7,293,000)			
001-A	Minnesota Geological Survey Geologic Atlases for Water Resource Management Part-A	\$ 2,500,000	U of MN - MN Geological Survey
002-A	County Geologic Atlas for Water Resource Sustainability Part-B	\$ 1,500,000	MN DNR
003-A	Providing Critical Water Quality Information for Lake Management	\$ 250,000	U of MN
006-A	Maximizing Wildlife, Water, and Productivity in Peatland Forests	\$ 600,000	U of MN
022-A	Variable Winter Thermal Regimes and Managing Trout Streams	\$ 400,000	U of MN
Foundational Natural Resource Data and Information Subtotal =		\$ 5,250,000	
B. Water Resources (11 Recommendations - Subtotal = \$5,275,000)			
034-B	Removing Plastic Particle Pollution from Minnesota Water Bodies	\$ 300,000	U of MN
035-B	Wastewater Treatment Plant Optimization Pilot Program	\$ 700,000	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
037-B	Investigation of Road Salt Alternatives and Pavement Innovations	\$ 400,000	U of MN
039-B	Defining Minnesota's Environmental Antibiotic and Antibiotic Resistance Footprint	\$ 750,000	U of MN
041-B	Contaminant Removal Efficiency of Urban Stormwater Treatment Ponds	\$ 325,000	St. Cloud State University
048-B	Small Cheap Purification System for Cleaner Drinking Water	\$ 425,000	U of MN
054-B	Emerging Pathogens in Lakes, Rivers, and Tap Water	\$ 325,000	U of MN
055-B	Working Farmlands: Targeting Alfalfa Production for Water Protection	\$ 500,000	U of MN
057-B	Preventing Nitrate Contamination of Groundwater Using Perennial Grains	\$ 250,000	Minnesota Department of Agriculture
064-B	Unregulated Contaminants: Addressing Gaps in Drinking Water Protection	\$ 1,000,000	Minnesota Department of Health

094-B	ShellRock River Watershed Stormwater Quality Trading Pilot Program	\$ 300,000	Shell Rock River Watershed District
Water Resources Subtotal =		\$ 5,275,000	
C. Environmental Education (11 Recommendations - Subtotal = \$4,368,000)			
101-C	Connecting Students with Watersheds through Hands-on Learning	\$ 400,000	Minnesota Trout Unlimited
106-C	YES! Students Take on Minnesota Water Quality Challenge	\$ 213,000	Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center
121-C	River Watch on the Minnesota River	\$ 100,000	Friends of the Minnesota Valley
Environmental Education Subtotal =		\$ 713,000	
D. Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species (6 Recommendations - Subtotal = \$5,760,000)			
133-D	Developing RNA Interference Genetic Controls for Zebra Mussels	\$ 500,000	U.S. Geological Survey
134-D	An Effective and Practical Invasive Carp Deterrent	\$ 998,000	U of MN
139-D	Determining Minnesota's Risk of a Toxic Algal Invader	\$ 200,000	Science Museum of Minnesota - St. Croix Research Station
Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species Subtotal =		\$ 1,698,000	
F. Methods to Protect or Restore Land, Water, and Habitat (7 Recommendations - Subtotal = \$2,569,000)			
180-F	Show Me the Money: 10 Markets for Perennials	\$ 150,000	Science Museum of Minnesota - St. Croix Research Station
Methods to Protect or Restore Land, Water, and Habitat Subtotal =		\$ 150,000	
G. Land Acquisition, Habitat, and Recreation (12 Recommendations - Subtotal = \$17,439,000)			
213-G	A Local-State-Federal Partnership Protects multiple public benefits on the Mississippi River	\$ 700,000	City of Baxter
215-G	Prioritize and Target North-Central Minnesota Lakes for Protection	\$ 750,000	Crow Wing SWCD
Land Acquisition, Habitat, and Recreation Subtotal =		\$ 1,450,000	
Total \$ Recommending =		\$ 14,536,000	32.03%

(1) hyperlinks to the proposals show requested, not recommended, funding

REPORTS

STATE OF MN WATER

- DNR: MN Stream Flow Report – ended for the year
- National Drought Mitigation Center: [MN 10/19/17](#)

NEW REPORTS

- BWSR: [Working Lands Watershed Restoration Program](#); for more information on the Working Lands program, go [here](#)
- MPCA: [Our Minnesota River - Evaluating the health of the river](#)

MINNEHAHA CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT 50th ANNIVERSARY

These videos remind us that progress has been made:

- [Video 1 - Early History, 1955-1979](#)
- [Video 2 - Crisis in Lake Minnetonka, 1980-1989](#); shows the results of improved wastewater treatment

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov 1-3: **BWSR Academy** Cragun's Conference Center; Brainerd; registration to come in August
- Nov 8: The Petri Dish: **The Future of Water in the Land of 10,000 Lakes**; Camp Bar 490 N Robert St, St Paul; reserve \$5 tickets @ z.umn.edu/futureofwater
- Nov 14: Freshwater Society Moos Family Speaker Series; Kathy Lake, MBA, Pollution Prevention Manager for the Madison WI Metropolitan Sewerage District will discuss **The Lake Effect: Protecting Water Through Innovative Collaboration**; free, but registration is required; register [here](#)
- Dec 4-5: **MASWCD 27th Annual Trade Show & Conservation Information Fair**; Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Bloomington-Minneapolis South; more info to come
- Jan 18, 2018: Water Technology Roundtable: Issues in Groundwater Resources; contact Steve.Riedel@state.mn.us for more info
- Feb 8, 2018: Freshwater Society's **17th Annual Road Salt Symposium**; details to come
- April 12-14, 2018: Freshwater Society's **The State of Water Conference**; details to come
- May 1-3: MN-ND-SD AWWA **Surface Water Treatment Workshop**; Courtyard by Marriott in Moorhead; info to come @ www.AWWAND.org
- May 10, 2018: **Smart Water Technology Roundtable: Workshop for IOT Solutions in Water Treatment**; Uponor, 5925 148th St W, Apple Valley; contact Steve.Riedel@state.mn.us for more info
- June 3-7, 2018: American Society of Civil Engineers **World Environmental and Water Resources Congress**; details to come at www.ewricongress.org
- July 10-12, 2018: US Water Alliance's **One Water Summit** will be at the Hyatt hotel in downtown Minneapolis; details to come