

Legislative Water Commission Update 10-27-17

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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MPCA provided clarification on information they shared at the September meeting: in 2007 MPCA had identified about 100 unsewered communities (those without wastewater treatment) and shared that:

- 32 are ensuring that all residents/businesses have adequate septic systems
- 32 have regionalized and connected to a nearby WWTP
- 26 have constructed new community septic systems or WWTPs.

MPCA further explained that the actual 2007 total was 98 communities. Of the remaining 8 unsewered communities:

- 5 communities initially indicated they were noncompliant, but further investigation revealed they actually were compliant
- 2 communities are in the process of upgrading (one is upgrading to individual septic systems; one is actively in the process of deciding on a treatment option)
- 1 group of homes turned out to be more dispersed than we were initially told, so it no longer met the criteria of a “community”

MN NEWS

WATER ACTIONS

- DNR: [DNR accepting applications for coastal area grants](#)
- U of MN: [U of M secures \\$2.5 million grant to improve quality of life in cities](#); the grant is for a new, multi-disciplinary project to advance access, wellbeing, health, and sustainability in cities and it will focus on multiple “smart” infrastructure sectors, including water
- Pine Journal: [SWCD NEWS: Every 'little bit' helps with conservation](#)
- Marshall Independent: [Testing the waters together](#)
- Strib: [Minnesota 'water walker' hopes to save waterways from contamination](#)
- Met Council: [Council Water Supply Team Earns Kudos from U of M](#)
- Lillie News: [The Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy awards two local legislators](#)
- Brainerd Dispatch: [SWCD bus tour shares water quality improvement efforts](#)
- Minnehaha Creek Watershed District 50th Anniversary Video: [Clean Water Partnership, 1990-1999](#); improving the Minneapolis chain of lakes

- MPCA: [MPCA completes 31 enforcement cases in third quarter of 2017](#); \$116,097 in fines were levied for water-related violations
 - M.G. Waldbaum Co., Le Sueur, for industrial wastewater violations, \$32,900
 - City of Willmar, Willmar, for municipal stormwater violations, \$18,500
 - R&R Excavating, Inc., Hutchinson, for construction stormwater violations, \$11,294
 - Welsh Equipment, Inc., Dodge Center, for air quality, hazardous waste and industrial stormwater violations, \$11,200
 - Larry's Auto, Annandale, for hazardous waste and industrial stormwater violations, \$7,450
 - Enel Green Power North America, Inc., Andover, for construction stormwater violations, \$5,375
 - Biosar America LLC, Mankato, for construction stormwater violations, \$5,375
 - Moose Lake Community Schools, Moose Lake, for construction stormwater violations, \$5,211
 - Pearson Candy Co., St. Paul, for wastewater violations, \$4,435
 - The Boldt Company, Moose Lake, for construction stormwater violations, \$4,311
 - Windom Wash LLC, Windom, for construction stormwater violations, \$2,900
 - Wapasha Construction Co., Stewartville, for construction stormwater violations, \$2,876
 - Darrin Voight, Taopi, for subsurface septic treatment system violations, \$1,000
 - David Voight, Taopi, for subsurface septic treatment system violations, \$1,000
 - Andy and Verna Slabaugh, Canton, for subsurface septic treatment violations, \$1,000
 - Shakopee Acquisition LLC, Shakopee, for wastewater violations, \$670
 - City of Cosmos, Cosmos, for municipal wastewater violations, \$600

WATER BUSINESSES

- Business Wire: [U.S. Water Obtains Unanimous Jury Verdict that Novozymes Infringed U.S. Water Patents Relating to its pHyTOUT® Technology](#)
- Big Ten Network: [Minnesota mitigates mercury with specialized sponge](#)

SURFACE WATER/STORMWATER

- Southwest Journal: [Study aims to track sources of downtown runoff](#)
- Post-Bulletin from MPR: [Minnesota has 2,669 troubled bodies of water, draft list says](#); 618 new impairments on 362 lakes and streams are being added and 9 removed; go [here](#) for the schedule of public meetings in November
- MPR: [Hearings begin on wild rice rule](#); PiPress: [Proposed wild rice rule irks Minnesota industry and environmentalists alike](#); Duluth News Tribune: [Wild-rice hearing draws ire on Range](#); MN Senate Republican Caucus: [Sen. Eichorn's statement on MPCA's proposed sulfate water quality standard](#); PiPress: [Mining industry, supporters rally opposition to Minnesota wild rice water quality rules](#)
- Strib: [Slight gain in Minnesota wetlands acreage, but quality is concerning](#)
- Eden Prairie News: [Cities concerned about proposed watershed district bluff standards](#)
- Bismark Tribune: [F-M diversion planners to seek state funding in February](#); Post-Bulletin: [Task force for stalled diversion project holds 1st meeting](#)
- West Central Tribune: [Grant awarded to enhance Lake Wakanda water quality in Kandiyohi County](#)
- The Globe: [Majority speak in favor of clean water at Lake Ocheda hearing](#)
- International Falls Journal: [Watershed monitoring focus of open houses](#)
- KMSP: [Survey results show poor water quality in Minnesota River](#)
- Echo Press: [County out to find source of Lake Ida problems](#)

GREAT LAKES

- Great Lakes Commission: at their Sept meeting in Duluth, the GLC passed a resolution to adopt the [Joint Action Plan for Clean Water Infrastructure and Services in the Great Lakes Region](#); summary of recommendations:
 1. Embrace an integrated planning, or “one water” approach through creating offices, positions, or other opportunities to prioritize Clean Water Infrastructure and Services (CWIS) investments, assist with evaluating CWIS needs, and better coordinate the delivery of programmatic, technical, and financial services.
 2. Create policies and guidelines supporting water infrastructure asset inventories and asset management plans to better inform strategic investments, and consider a regional effort to track and report on clean water infrastructure and services investments and outcomes.
 3. Promote the development of regional water authorities and the consolidation and integration of utilities.
 4. Explore the strengths and weaknesses of private-public partnerships (P3s) as a potential source of private sector investment in clean water infrastructure and services.
 5. Increase state and provincial-level funding allocations and economic incentives for CWIS improvement projects.
 6. Create enabling conditions for local utilities to implement measures that address affordability.The GLC also passed a [resolution](#) to look more holistically at contaminants of emerging concern and their cumulative risks to the Great Lakes basin environment and economy.

Rep Paul Torkelson, Sen Ann Rest, Sen Carrie Ruud, and Rep Jen Schultz (pictures on the left) are the MN representatives on the Great Lakes Commission (GLC). MN is the only GLC state whose GLC representatives are legislators.



WATER SUPPLY

- Crookston Times: [Area legislators, Minnesota DNR host Erskine meeting to discuss water supply](#)
- Public Works: [Mankato’s Water Treatment Backwash Reclamation Project](#) won the American Public Works Association 2017 Project of the Year award in the Environment: Less than \$5 million category

- Woodbury Patch: [Here's Why Woodbury Has The Lowest Water Bills In The Twin Cities](#)
- West Central Tribune: [Lincoln-Pipestone looking for groundwater near Dawson](#)
- The Exponent: [City of Greenbush takes another step forward in 2018 water main project](#)

WASTEWATER

- KWLM: [Grove City getting grants for wastewater improvements](#)
- Mankato Free Press: [Le Sueur egg-washing facility fined for wastewater violations](#)

AG & WATER

- Pipestone Star: [Local data sought on cover crops, groundwater protection](#)
- UMN: [Innovations grant funds win-win approaches to food, water](#)
- Austin Daily Herald: [Study: Cover crops, less tillage key to water goals](#); realistic soil health strategy could reduce storm flows by 30 percent in Dobbins Creek; DNR's Jim Solstad made a presentation to the Clean Water Council in July that describes how this conclusion was reached – the presentation begins on p. 122 of the 7/17/17 CWC [packet](#)
- Albert Lea Tribune: [Public implementation deadline for public waters nearing](#)
- Strib: [Clean water vs. farm profits at heart of debate over new fertilizer rules](#)
- MPR: [Midwestern farmers are tied to a Gulf dead zone](#)
- High Plains/Midwest Ag Journal: [Annual Drainage Research Forum at Iowa State University to focus on water quality monitoring, nutrient loss reductions](#)

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

- DNR: AngloGold Ashanti has submitted [two plans](#) for DNR review, requesting to explore for nonferrous metallic minerals in Itasca, Koochiching and St Louis counties
- Duluth News Tribune: [Groups respond to Line 3 hearing shutdown](#); indybay.org: [Water Protectors Blockade Wells Fargo Bank: Stop Funding Enbridge](#); Brainerd Dispatch: [Crosslake public hearings about Enbridge project attract 100s](#); PiPress: [Minnesota PUC: Enbridge must release oil spill predictions](#)
- St Croix 360: [Oil & Water: Expert points out four ways pipelines could be "a whole lot safer"](#)
- Great Lakes Commission: [Oil Transportation in the Great Lakes- St. Lawrence River Region Publications](#)
- Winona Post: [State will wait for frac sand ruling](#)
- New York Times: [In Northern Minnesota, Two Economies Square Off: Mining vs. Wilderness](#)
- PiPress: ['I support the project,' Mark Dayton says of the PolyMet mining proposal](#); Strib: [PolyMet: Your questions answered](#)

MPCA permitting processes

Air Permitting



Water Permitting



401 Certification



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

- Brainerd Dispatch: [Foundation awards \\$350,000 to fight invasive species](#)

OPINIONS

- Strib: [Watch out, Ely: Mine robots are on the way](#)
- Crookston Times: [Times Editorial - Mixed message at water meeting](#); [note: Polk County is one of the counties that does not have a completed geologic atlas; also none of the completed regional hydrogeologic assessments cover this area]

BEYOND MINNESOTA

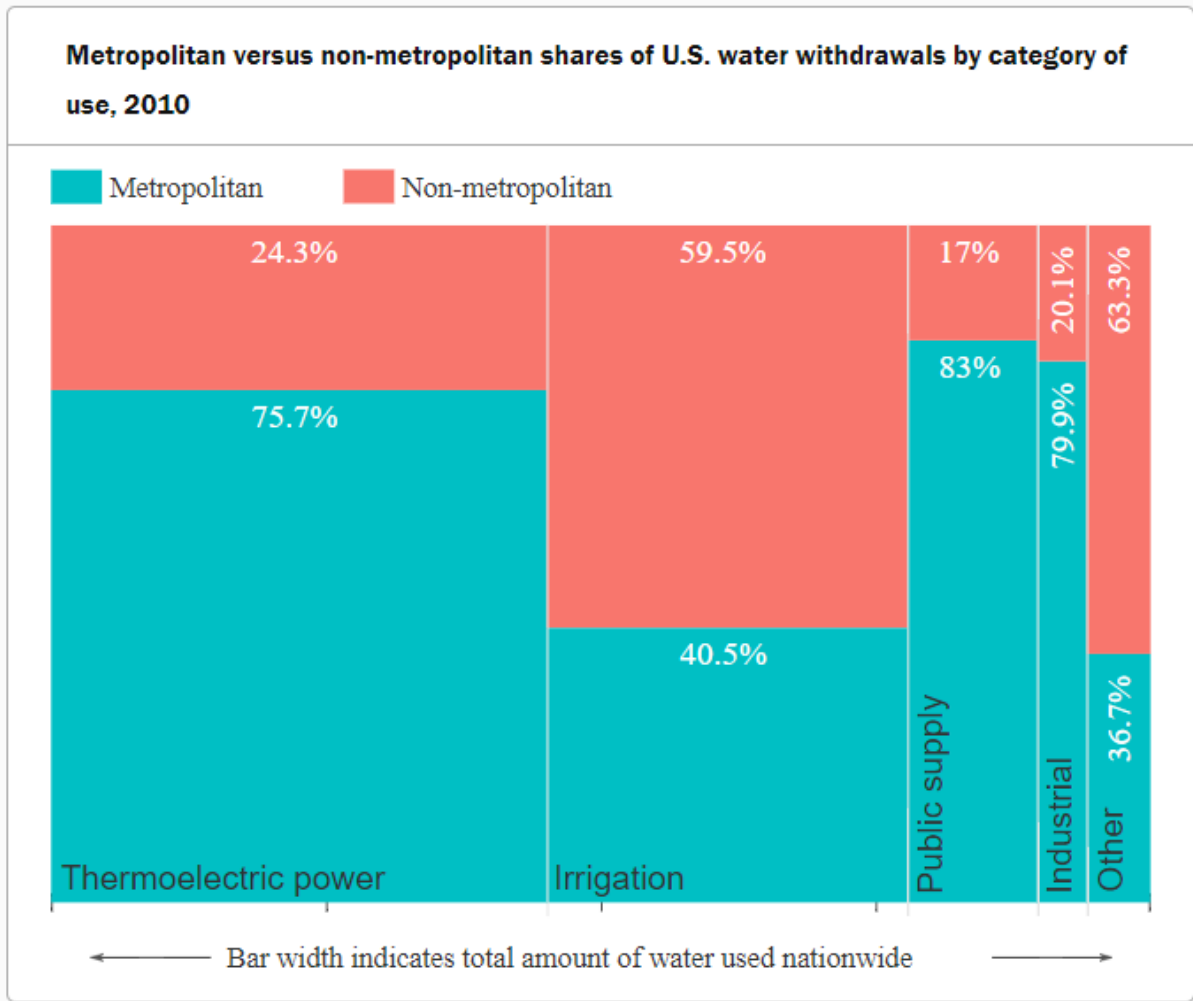
REGIONAL

- Door County Pulse: [Land & Water Conference: Who Pays for Progress on Water Quality](#)
- Journal Sentinel: [Judge throws out well permits while ordering Wisconsin DNR to consider impacts of heavy water use](#); "A Dane County judge ruled this week that the Department of Natural Resources must take into account the cumulative impacts of high-capacity wells on other water resources in cases where she invalidated seven permits approved by the agency last year."
- Cedar Rapids Gazette: [Are golf courses contributing to Iowa's nitrate runoff?](#)
- Science Daily: [Cool roofs have water saving benefits too](#); In reducing air temperatures, cool roofs can also reduce outdoor water use
- Baltimore Sun: [State proposes rules for buying and selling pollution credits](#); Maryland Dept of the Environment and Maryland Dept of Agriculture: [Draft Maryland Trading and Offset Policy and Guidance Manual Chesapeake Bay Watershed](#)

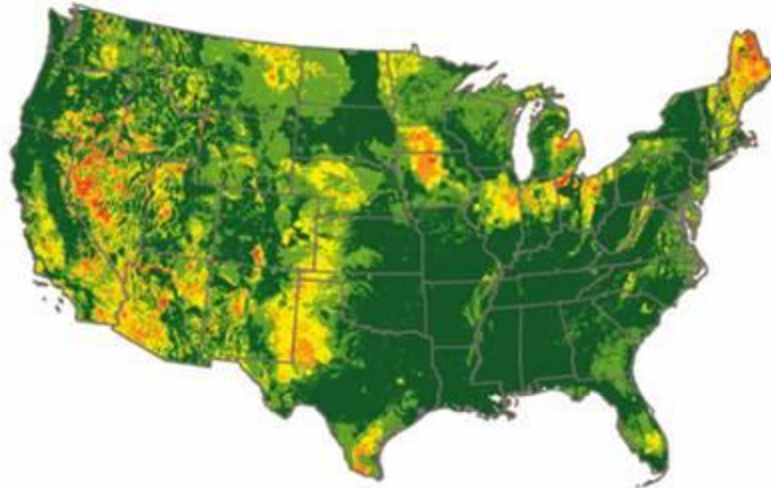
- Inland Waters: [Relationship of chlorophyll to phosphorus and nitrogen in nutrient-rich lakes](#)

NATIONAL

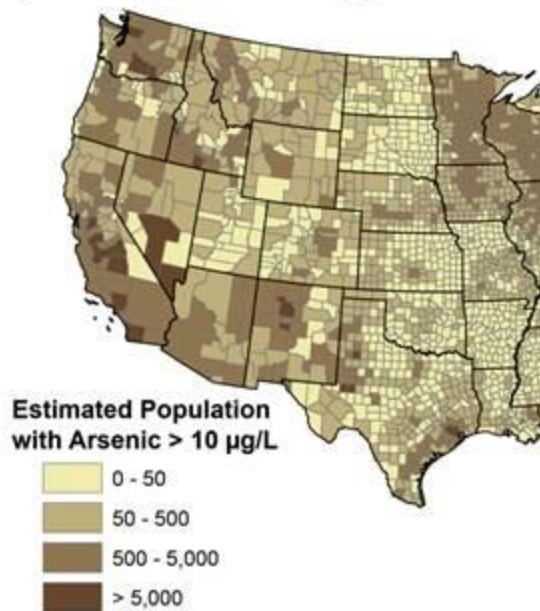
- The Peninsula: [Sen. Stabenow introduces land, water conservation protections into new farm bill](#) to strengthen land and water protections covered by the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP)
- Brookings Institute: [Less water, more risk: Exploring national and local water use patterns in the U.S.](#)



- Environmental Science and Technology: [Estimating the High-Arsenic Domestic-Well Population in the Conterminous United States](#) and USGS: [Study Estimates about 2.1 Million People using Wells High in Arsenic](#)



Probability of arsenic > 10 µg/L in domestic wells



- Government Accountability Office: [Some States Have Trading Programs to Help Address Nutrient Pollution, but Use Has Been Limited](#)
- US Computer Emergency Response Team: [Alert \(TA17-293A\) Advanced Persistent Threat Activity Targeting Energy and Other Critical Infrastructure Sectors](#); “Since at least May 2017, threat actors have targeted government entities and the energy, water, aviation, nuclear, and critical manufacturing sectors, and, in some cases, have leveraged their capabilities to compromise victims’ networks.”
- Washington Examiner: [Scott Pruitt assures Republicans he won't harm ethanol mandate](#)
- NACWA & WEF: [Addressing Nutrient Pollution in Our Nation’s Waters: The Role of a Statewide Utility](#)
- MPR: [Troubled by Flint water crisis, 11-year-old girl invents lead-detecting device](#)
- Ag Alert: [Farmers ask that ‘waters’ rule be clear, consistent](#)
- E&E News: [As dams burst, Trump seeks to gut key safety regime](#); Trump's FY2018 budget calls for zeroing out a program on dam resiliency
- US News and World Report: [Tighter Rules on Arsenic in Water Saved Lives: Study](#)

GLOBAL

- Phys.org: [Adding organic matter to soil has a limited effect on water holding capacity](#)
- UN Global Compact: [How is Water Relevant to my Company?](#)

REPORTS

STATE OF MN WATER

- DNR: MN Stream Flow Report – ended for the year
- National Drought Mitigation Center: [10/26/17](#); the north-central part of the state is still dry
- DNR: [Hydrologic Conditions Report September 2017](#)

NEW REPORTS

- Government Accountability Office: [Some States Have Trading Programs to Help Address Nutrient Pollution, but Use Has Been Limited](#)

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**; Uponsor, 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