

Legislative Water Commission Update 10-6-17

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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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LWC Subscribers: Being in “catch-up” mode, you’ll see an abundance of water-related press releases issued by the agencies since 6/30. Expect more “catch-up” on media articles and reports in future editions.

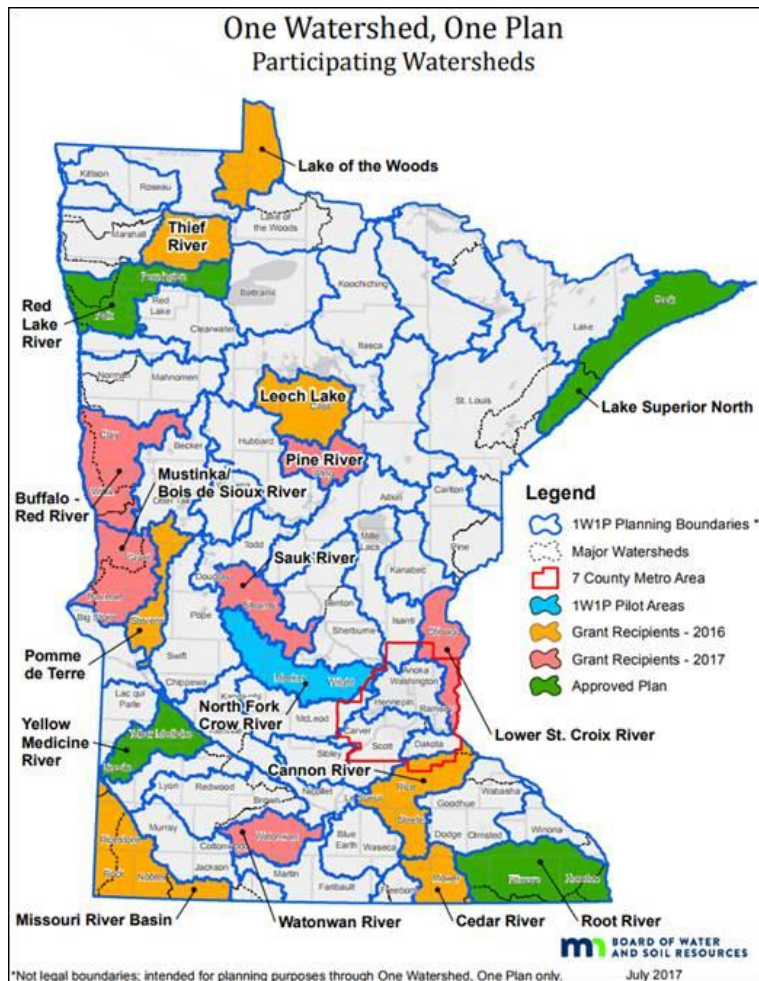
MN NEWS

WATER ACTIONS

- Gov Dayton’s Office: [Environmental Quality Board appointments](#); EQB is transitioning the make-up of its Board, replacing expired appointments with representation by Congressional District; here are the new appointments:
 - Kristen Eide-Tollefson – Frontenac, MN, Public Member – Congressional District 2, new seat (returning member)
 - Alan Forsberg – Mankato, MN, Public Member – Congressional District 1, new seat
 - Julie Goehring – Moorhead, MN, Public Member – Congressional District 7, new seat (returning member)
 - Bryan Murdock – Wyoming, MN, Public Member – Congressional District 8, new seat
- BWSR: [Celebrating a major milestone in Fillmore County](#)
- BWSR: [Preventing pollution one subwatershed at a time](#)
- BWSR: [Red Lake County SWCD makes strides using Clean Water Funds](#)
- BWSR: [Board Tour 2017: Kandiyohi County, Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District, and Grass Lake Restoration](#)
- BWSR: [Otter Tail River bank stabilization preserves farmland, pleases paddlers](#)
- BWSR: [Saint Olaf Lake: Building lasting partnerships](#)
- DNR: [DNR awards \\$450,000 in grants to protect coastal resources](#)
- DNR: [DNR to appeal White Bear Lake ruling](#)
 - *Court ruling would place unnecessary burdens on more than 500,000 White Bear Lake area residents*
 - *Judge’s ruling would immediately halt important development within 5 miles of White Bear Lake, stalling road construction, utility improvements, and residential construction*
 - *Ruling not supported by scientific evidence, creating precedent that could restrict development and impose new burdens on residents across Minnesota*
- BWSR: [Local Governments Join Forces to Plan for Water Management](#); the 6 new planning areas are:

- Buffalo-Red River watershed, which includes parts of Becker, Clay, Otter Tail, and Wilkin Counties.
- Lower St. Croix watershed, which includes parts of Anoka, Chisago, Isanti, Pine, Ramsey, and Washington Counties
- Mustinka/Bois de Sioux watershed, which includes parts of Big Stone, Grant, Otter Tail, Stevens, Traverse, and Wilkin Counties.
- Pine River watershed, which includes parts of Cass and Crow Wing Counties.
- Sauk River watershed, which includes parts of Douglas, Pope, Stearns, and Todd Counties.
- Watonwan River watershed, which includes parts of Blue Earth, Brown, Cottonwood, Jackson, Martin, and Watonwan Counties.

With these additions, about 30% of the planning areas have been completed or are underway.



SURFACE WATER/STORMWATER

- Inforum: [A bridge over troubled waters: Governors form two-state task force to find solution to F-M diversion differences](#)
- MPCA: [Minnesota River continues to suffer in water quality despite some improvements & The Minnesota River: Evaluating its health](#); Strib: [Progress on cleaning Minnesota River swamped by high volume of water](#)
- MPCA: [Most waters in Missouri River basin fail to support fishing and swimming; restoration needed](#)

- BWSR: [Underground project irrigates ballfield, protects Lake McCarrons](#)
- BWSR: [Boyer Lake: A sparkling success story](#)
- BWSR: [ACGC School project solves a problem, wins an award](#); Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City solve a stormwater problem with pervious pavers
- BWSR: [Five years post 2012 Duluth Flood: Chester Creek restoration](#)
- BWSR: [In Polk County, \\$7.6 million Sand Hill River project curbs soil erosion, helps fish habitat](#)
- BWSR: [Storm clouds with silver linings: DRAP funds fix Rock County damage, reveal other needs](#); (DRAP = Disaster Recovery Assistance Program)
- BWSR: [Cascading success: On a former golf course, a Rochester stream, floodplain restoration](#)
- BWSR: [Improving water quality for multiple benefits in Chanhassen](#)
- BWSR: [Targeting the Chisago Chain of Lakes: Improved Lakes, Improved Communities](#)
- MPCA: [The Minnesota River: Evaluating its health](#); read more in: [Our Minnesota River - Evaluating the health of the river](#)
- MPCA: [Disasters don't plan ahead — but we do](#); spill drills can help prevent disaster related water contamination
- MPCA: [Toolbox for local units of government recovering from a natural disaster](#)
- MPCA: [Ask the MPCA how to report a spill](#)
- MPCA: [Citizen volunteers keep an eye on Hubbard County water quality](#)
- MPCA: [Lake Superior-North watershed — a growing concern](#)
- MPCA: [Adventures in citizen monitoring on Lake Superior](#)
- MPR: [A decade of data offers glimpse into watersheds' health](#)

GREAT LAKES

- MPCA: [It takes a \(shipping\) village](#) [3 min video]

WATER SUPPLY

- Strib: [Overwatering lawns — and pavement — is the norm in the Twin Cities](#)
- DNR: [Groundwater sampling planned for Kanabec County](#)
- MDH: [Drinking water annual report shows state's water supplies in good shape but facing challenges](#); read the full report: [Minnesota Drinking Water 2017 - Annual Report for 2016](#)
- MPCA: [Cleaning up hazardous waste at the WDE Landfill](#)

WASTEWATER

- Governor Dayton's Office: [New water treatment facility in Morris will improve water quality for residents and save taxpayers money](#)
- Met Council: [Metro area cities can apply for funding to improve local sewers](#)

AG & WATER

- BWSR: [Landowners have new options and a new website to help with Buffer law](#)
- BWSR: [Minnesota CREP officially underway](#)
- BWSR: [Benton County cover crop trial: Improving soil, clearing up lakes](#)
- BWSR: [Wright SWCD ditch work tackles water-quality, ag concerns: 'They're not mutually exclusive'](#)
- BWSR: [Progress toward buffer compliance is strong ahead of first implementation deadline](#); Mankato Free Press: [Progress strong on new buffer requirements](#); KSTP: [One Month Before Buffer Law Goes Into Effect, State Officials Tout Progress](#)

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

- DNR: [DNR opens public comment period on draft PolyMet water appropriation permits](#)
- DNR: [DNR opens public comment period on draft PolyMet dam safety and public waters work permits](#)

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

- DNR: [Zebra mussel confirmed in Wright County's Cedar Lake](#)
- DNR: [Zebra mussels confirmed in 2 Crow Wing County waters](#)
- DNR: [Zebra mussels confirmed in Rush Lake in Otter Tail County](#)
- DNR: [Zebra mussels confirmed in Comfort Lake in Chisago County](#)
- DNR: [Zebra mussels confirmed in Douglas County's Burgen Lake](#)
- DNR: [Zebra mussels confirmed in Whiskey Lake, Chippewa Lake in Douglas County](#)
- DNR: [Zebra mussels confirmed in Ten Mile Lake in Otter Tail County](#)
- DNR: [Zebra mussels confirmed in North Star Lake in Itasca County](#)
- DNR: [Single zebra mussel confirmed in Lake Harriet](#)
- DNR: [Zebra mussels confirmed in Lakeville's Lake Marion](#)
- DNR: [Zebra mussel larvae confirmed in Garfield Lake in Hubbard County](#)
- DNR: [Zebra mussels confirmed in Grant County's Elk Lake](#)
- DNR: [Zebra mussels confirmed in Kandiyohi County's George Lake](#)
- DNR: [Minnesota River listed for zebra mussels, invasive carp](#)
- DNR: [DNR tagging invasive carp for first time](#)
- DNR: [One new lake confirmed after 20-county starry stonewort search](#); Grand Lake in Stearns County
- DNR: [Starry stonewort confirmed in Pope County's Lake Minnewaska](#)
- DNR: [Eurasian watermilfoil in Hubbard County's Bad Axe Lake](#)

BEYOND MINNESOTA

NATIONAL

- EPA: [Urban Waters Federal Partnership](#); this program helps overburdened or economically distressed urban communities reconnect with their waterways to improve economic, environmental and social benefits by improving coordination among federal agencies and collaborating with community-led water revitalization efforts

TOOLS

- U of MN Water Council: [Water Portal of the University of Minnesota](#)

MEETINGS

WATER REUSE

The Water Reuse Working Group has drafted their report "Advancing Safe and Sustainable Reuse in Minnesota", which was discussed at the last of 4 stakeholder meetings this week. The comments received at the meeting along with those submitted by 10/20 will be considered in the final report, which is expected to be published by mid-November.

LCCMR

Over the last 2 weeks, LCCMR members spent 6 days listening to 102 grant proposals, many of which were water related. The members will re-rank the proposals based on their presentations and return on 10/17 to begin the 2-day process of deciding which projects will be recommended for funding. After those are made, I'll summarize the water projects that are advancing.

CWC BOC

The Clean Water Council's (CWC) Budget and Outcomes Committee (BOC) has begun its process of assessing past funding allocations and making allocation recommendations to the full CWC. At their 10/6 meeting, they conversed with representatives from the Interagency Coordination Team (ICT) to discuss whether and how the CWC and ICT processes might become more aligned. Reps from the Met Council were also present to discuss the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisor Committee/Technical Advisor Committee recommendations for funding a variety of water sustainability issues in the metro area.

WATER TOWN HALLS

The last two 25 by 25 Water Town Halls were held this week in Burnsville and Stillwater. Summaries of all the Town Halls are posted on the EQB [website](#). Click on the town name to access the input. Staff will be aggregating the input so that the Governor can decide what state or regional water initiatives he wants to advance this next session.

REPORTS

STATE OF MN WATER

- DNR: MN Stream Flow Report [10/1/17](#)
- National Drought Mitigation Center: [MN 10/5/17](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct 17-18: **MN Water Resources Conference**, St Paul River Center; go to cce.umn.edu/water for more information
- Nov 1-3: **BWSR Academy** Cragun's Conference Center; Brainerd; registration to come in August
- 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**; Uptonor, 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