

Legislative Water Commission Update 11-22-17

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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MN NEWS

WATER ACTIONS

- MPR: [The Water Main: 'Know Water, Know Beer'](#)
- DEED on behalf of PFA: [PFA – \\$4.5 Billion, 1,300 Projects, Over 590 Communities](#); see full list on PFA [website](#); Senate Republican Caucus: [Several southeastern Minnesota communities receive state funding for needed infrastructure upgrades](#)
- League of MN Cities: [LMC 2018 City Policies Available Now](#); click on the pdf to view their water-related policies
- FMR: [Thank you, young river stewards!](#); “Young FMR volunteers stenciled over 2,000 storm drains with educational messages, distributed over 7,000 related educational flyers, collected trash throughout Twin Cities parks...”
- MPCA: [State renews sustainability commitment](#); including a water consumption reduction of 15% by 2025

SURFACE WATER/STORMWATER

- KXRA: [Lake Ida: Clear, cold, in danger of degrading](#)
- MinnPost: [We’re pouring millions of tons of salt on roads each winter. Here’s why that’s a problem](#)
- Austin Daily Herald: [CRWD finishes water quality projects south of Austin; Crews complete 3 berms along Cedar River as part of 25-project initiative](#)
- Bismark Tribune: [Five different F-M flood diversion plans and a massive ring dike studied](#)

GREAT LAKES

- The Nature Conservancy: [Greater Lakes](#)
- Michigan Radio: [Partnership aims to protect the Great Lakes by changing how cities handle rain water](#)

WATER SUPPLY

- Strib: [State alleges 3M chemicals caused cancer and infertility, alleges \\$5B in damage](#); MPR: [Lawsuit: 3M contamination led to more cancer, infertility](#); WCCO: [3M Withheld Info About Contamination, Suit Claims](#)

- Mankato Free Press: [Main bane: Vulnerable water mains common downtown](#)
- Mankato Free Press: [Blue Earth County, Mankato recognized for innovation](#)
- WCCO: [What Are PFCs, And Where Can You Find Them?](#)

WASTEWATER

- Strib: [Met Council to help industrial businesses treat wastewater at the source](#)
- MPCA: [Don't be a turkey: Keep grease out of sinks, wipes out of sewer pipes](#)

AG & WATER

- The Globe: [Nobles County's buffer ordinance one step closer to approval](#)
- DL-Online: [Call the doctor, this dirt needs help: Local farmers will play key role in new healthy soils initiative](#)
- MN Corn Growers Association: [Innovation Grant Program returns for 2018](#)
- Farm Forum: [MDA AgBMP loan program will cover more pollution prevention projects](#)
- AgriNews: [Farm of future grows crops quickly, efficiently](#)
- Duluth News Tribune: [Eye in sky will help Renville County enforce buffer law](#)
- UMN Extension: [Manure and Nutrients: A Complicated Relationship](#)
- Bruce Tiffany: [Strip Tilling](#); for people unfamiliar with conservation tillage techniques (used to reduce soil erosion), here is a video clip giving a birds-eye view of that practice

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

- Duluth News Tribune: [Long-quiet copper project near Babbitt stirs](#)
- La Crosse Tribune: [Judge dismisses challenge to Winona County frac mine ban](#)
- Strib: [Pipeline opponents claim Enbridge skirted permit rules for storage yard](#)

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

- Clayton County Register: [Broadcasting underwater noise may be a sound solution for repelling Asian carp on Mississippi River](#)

OPINIONS

- Duluth News Tribune: [Readers' View: Does governor value our water less?](#)
- The Caledonia Argus: [Letter to the Editor: Mining threatens to pollute the Boundary Waters](#)

BEYOND MINNESOTA

REGIONAL

- Daily Press: [Chesapeake Bay funding could get a big boost under new farm bills](#); "This legislation will provide targeted funds to areas like the Chesapeake that face complex, multi-state water quality challenges. It is a triple win — clean water, local economic benefit and improved bottom line for farmers."
- Chicago Business Journal: [Nalco's Water University provides hands-on training in water conservation and recycling](#)
- Recordnet.com: [H2O Hackathon seeks creative solutions for water](#)
- Water Online: [Case Studies From The World Of Improved Stormwater Management](#)
- NPR: [How Tulsa Became A Model For Preventing Floods](#)
- The Gazette: [Water quality deal lacks allure in swath of Iowa](#)
- The Storm Lake Times: [DM council candidate wins big running on water quality](#)

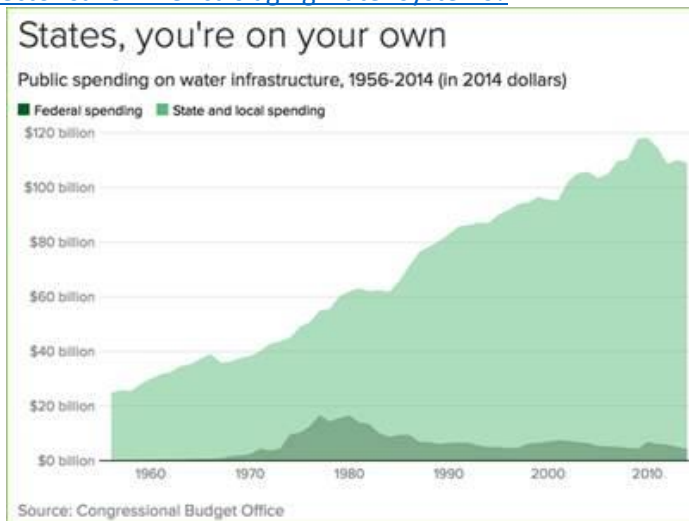
- Door County Pulse: [Wisconsin Finds 240 More Impaired Waterways](#); BWSR's Executive Director is quoted in this article

NATIONAL

- New York Times: [Trump Wants More Big Infrastructure Projects. The Obstacles Can Be Big, Too.](#); his plan gives the White House's Council on Environmental Quality authority to coordinate actions and direct how environmental reviews are performed; the inspiration for part of the plan comes from a 2015 report "[Two Years Not Ten Years](#)" by Common Good



- Soil Health Nexus: [Setbacks Reduce the Concentration of Manure Constituents in Runoff](#); in these conditions, leaving a setback of about 40 ft of crop where no manure was applied effectively reduced the concentration of dissolved phosphorous to background values that were similar to those measured on the no-manure treatment
- Purdue: [Questions and Answers About Drainage Water Recycling for the Midwest](#)
- Circle of Blue: [Nonstick Chemicals Slipped Into Water, Causing Health, Environmental, Regulatory Mess](#)
- Congress: [H.R.2810 - National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018](#); \$7M to fund a national study of the effect of PFCs on human health; this lands in a Defense Department spending bill approved by Congress because PFCs have been found on and near military bases due to the use of foams for extinguishing oil fires
- EPA: [EPA and the Army Propose to Amend the Effective Date of the 2015 Rule Defining "Waters of the United States"](#) and Western Farm Press: [EPA, Army propose two-year delay of WOTUS](#)
- Congressional Research Service: [Drought in the United States: Causes and Current Understanding](#)
- CBS: [Can the private sector save America's aging water systems?](#)



MEETINGS

CWC

At this month's Clean Water Council meeting, members received an overview of [MPCA](#) and [MDH](#) efforts to learn what contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) are present in surface and groundwater, what health risks are associated with those low levels, and when the development of health risk values is appropriate. This was followed by a BWSR presentation explaining the progress that has been made on their "[Working Lands Watershed Restoration Project](#)" which is evaluating the feasibility of cover crops and perennial crops to reduce nutrient pollution on a watershed scale (note the related 12/15 event, below). DNR gave an update on their recently completed [transient model](#) for the N & E Metro (reported on in a previous Update). American Public Media has launched a new "[The Water Main](#)" initiative, which was explained by an MPR staffer. Closing out the meeting was an EQB presentation giving a high-level overview of themes expressed in the Governor's [25 by 25](#) water town halls. Learn more details by reviewing the presentations contained in the [11-20-17 Meeting packet](#).

REPORTS

STATE OF MN WATER

- DNR: MN Stream Flow Report – ended for the year
- DNR: [Hydrologic Conditions Report - October 2017](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec 3-5: **MASWCD 27th Annual Trade Show & Conservation Information Fair**; Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Bloomington-Minneapolis South; info [here](#)
- Dec 15: BWSR & the Great Plains Institute: **Bioeconomy Forum** to discuss market opportunities for innovative perennial and cover crops; 9am – 2pm; TIES conference center (1644 Larpenteur Ave W, St Paul); the event is free but registration is required; see the event details and registration link [here](#)
- Dec 19: **LWC Meeting – Wastewater Roundtable #3**, 9:30 – 12:30, MN Senate Building 2412
- 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
- Feb 15: Rinke Noonan Wetland and Drainage Seminar; St Cloud; info to come
- Mar 6-8: **MRWA Water & Wastewater Technical Conference**; St Cloud; more info to come
- Mar 19-20: DNR's **The Science of Healthy Waters: The Ditching Dilemma** workshop; Blue Earth, more info to come [here](#)
- 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