

## Legislative Water Commission Update 12-8-17

**ERRORS? OMISSIONS?** If found, please notify [barb.huberty@lcc.leg.mn](mailto: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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**This is the last update for 2017.**

### MN NEWS

#### WATER ACTIONS

- MASWCD: [2017 award winners](#)

#### SURFACE WATER/STORMWATER

- GoMN: [Antibiotics are ending up in Minnesota's lakes, so here's how to dispose of them properly](#)
- The Dickenson Press: [Flood diversion task force finds common ground in some, not all cases](#); MPR: [Saving the Fargo-Moorhead flood diversion project will be costly](#)
- Sleepy Eye Herald Dispatch: [Local students participate in Minnesota River basin water monitoring program](#)
- UMD: [Study: Too many nutrients make microbes less responsive](#)
- Strib: [Minnesota briefs: Public comment sought on state's tainted waters](#)

#### GREAT LAKES

- DNR: [Great Lakes- St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact Annual Water Conservation and Efficiency Assessment](#)
- MPCA: ["It takes a \(shipping\) village: Duluth's harbor springs to life"](#)

#### WATER SUPPLY

- DNR: [New Water Conservation Reporting System](#); 360 municipal water suppliers have received their training to use this new tool; between 1/2/18 and 3/30/18, they will be loading their data to the system for the first time; once the data is in, DNR can run reports to create snapshots of the state of water conservation in MN
- Mankato Free Press: [Mankato water gets a fresh set of filters](#)

#### WASTEWATER

- MPR: [Minn. cities want a break as they face costly sewer work, new rules](#)

## AG & WATER

- West Central Tribune: [Kandiyohi County adopts buffer enforcement ordinance](#)

## EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

- Minneapolis/St Paul Business Journal: [PolyMet offers \\$544 million to cover risks at Minnesota mine](#)
- PiPress: [Minnesota PUC wants more details on Line 3 oil pipeline](#)

## OPINIONS

- St Louis Dispatch: [Editorial: Clean water? Don't worry your pretty little heads about it](#)
- MinnPost: [Minnesota can have both mining and clean water](#)
- South Washington County Bulletin: [Rep. Tony Jurgens viewpoint: Investigating water pollution lawsuit](#)

## BEYOND MINNESOTA

### REGIONAL

- MLive: [Michigan bill proposes nation's lowest PFAS limit in drinking water](#)

### NATIONAL

- USDA: [USDA Highlights \\$40 Million in Infrastructure Investments in Rural Communities](#)
- EurekAlert: [Landmark paper on global oceans garners international award](#); *"Five percent of all the nitrogen in the Gulf of Mexico comes from Minnesota and 11 percent comes from Iowa," said John A. Downing, director of the University of Minnesota Sea Grant"*

## MEETINGS

Thanks to an appropriation from the legislature during last year's session, BWSR has been evaluating the feasibility of developing a Working Lands Incentive Program to help advance the research on and implementation of perennial crops and cash cover crops. In their workshop this week, they discussed market opportunities and the bioeconomy needed to support this shift. Speakers shared advancements in the areas of: aviation biofuels, the U of MN's Forever Green research, the use of Kernza in food products, bioenergy, and the economics of producing these crops, as it relates to the public incentives that would be needed to catalyze early commercial deployment. After listening to this information, participants were asked to share their ideas about what a working lands incentive program would look like. BWSR staff will be taking this input back to their planning group to flesh out recommendations and next steps. This is an initiative to watch!

## REPORTS

### STATE OF MN WATER

- DNR: MN Stream Flow Report – ended for the year
- National Drought Mitigation Center: [12/14/17](#)
- DNR: [HydroClim Minnesota for Early December 2017](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec 19: **LWC Meeting – Wastewater Roundtable #3**, 9:30 – 12:30, MN Senate Building 2412
- Jan 10: MPCA's **Triennial Standards Review** public meeting; MPCA (520 Lafayette Rd, St Paul); 3:30 until complete or 7 pm, whichever comes first
- Jan 18, 2018: Water Technology Roundtable: Issues in Groundwater Resources; contact [Steve.Riedel@state.mn.us](mailto:Steve.Riedel@state.mn.us) for more info
- Feb 8, 2018: Freshwater Society's **17<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.AWWAND.org)
- May 10, 2018: **Smart Water Technology Roundtable: Workshop for IOT Solutions in Water Treatment**; Uponor, 5925 148<sup>th</sup> St W, Apple Valley; contact [Steve.Riedel@state.mn.us](mailto: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](http://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