

Legislative Water Commission Update 12-8-17

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

- Austin Daily Herald: [Cedar River Watershed District gets top award; CRWD has many efforts within 435 square miles](#)
- Strib: [Smith, Massman behind Gov. Dayton's recent "green" order](#); sustainability goals for state government include water use reduction of 25% by 2025
- DNR: [The Conservation Partners Legacy \(CPL\) grant program is now accepting applications for the Expedited Conservation Projects grant cycle](#)
- MN Senate Republican Caucus: [Sen. Ruud named Legislator of the Year by Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts](#); Brainerd Dispatch: [Ruud named legislator of the year by state SWCD group](#)
- Sun Sailor: [Hopkins High science teacher receives award for innovative conservation education](#)
- MPCA: [MPCA office in Willmar to close permanently on December 8](#)

SURFACE WATER/STORMWATER

- MPR: [Antibiotics are accumulating in Minn. lakes, posing health risk](#); Winona Daily News: [Study: Antibiotics found in sediment in Minnesota lakes](#)
- MPR: [Fargo's long-awaited flood rescue rests on delicate proposal](#); WCCO: [Fargo Flooding Solution Faces Backlash From Farmers](#)
- Winona Daily News: [City receives grant money for work on Lake Winona](#)
- LillieNews: [Phalen Creek may soon see some daylight](#)
- BWSR: [Cleaning up Serpent Lake](#)
- MinnPost: [Brining icy roads can save cities serious money — and could help save Minnesota's lakes](#); MPR: [Road salt is polluting our water. Here's how we can fix it](#); MPCA: [Nine smart salting tips that protect Minnesota waters](#)
- ABC5: [St. Anthony to Tackle Flooding Issue on Mirror Lake](#)
- Met Council: [Partners in Water Quality Monitoring: Developing Leadership in the Next Generation](#)
- Chicago Tribune: [Pettrak: La Grange Eagle Scout project focuses on mining in the Boundary Waters](#)

WATER SUPPLY

- MPR: [Small towns face a 'crisis' of aging water, sewer pipes](#); WCCO: [Report: Minn. Lacks Funding To Update Aging Underground Infrastructure](#); PiPress: [Minnesota lacks funding to update aging infrastructure; about \\$11 billion needed](#); MN Senate Republican Caucus: [Sen. Utke: Kelliher Awarded \\$2 Million for Water and Sewer Projects](#)
- WCCO: [I-694 Closes In East Metro Due To Sinkhole, Water Main Break](#)
- Wadena Pioneer Journal: [Well kits, buffer strips two weapons in fighting water pollution around Wadena](#)
- St Cloud Times: [DNR committed to Little Rock Creek groundwater sustainability](#)

WASTEWATER

- MPCA: [Amendments to subsurface sewage treatment systems inspection and permit requirements](#)
- MPCA: [2016 SSTS Annual Report: Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems in Minnesota](#)

AG & WATER

- MN Corn: [New tillage guide says less is more](#); UMN Extension: [Upper Midwest Tillage Guide](#)
- Successful Farming: [Best Practices for Late-Fall Fertilizer Applications](#)
- Fergus Falls Daily Journal: [Lindig farm helps protect prime fishery](#)
- City Pages: [A Minnesota town fights for its life against a factory farm](#)
- BWSR: [Minnesota leads the nation in CRP signup with number 50](#)
- BWSR: [A retired hayfield plays a role in forest transformation, water quality](#)
- BWSR: [The first buffer deadline has passed and results are strong](#); “statewide compliance to date on public waters is almost 97%, with 72 counties and 14 watershed districts electing jurisdiction to enforce the law locally”; the deadline for ditch buffers is November 2018
- Post-Bulletin: [MN Corn Growers Association offering \\$300K in grants](#)
- Advocate Tribune: [Yellow Medicine County Conservationist of the Year](#)

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

- Strib: [PUC rejects state's environmental review for Enbridge's Line 3 project](#)
- St Cloud Times: [Regarding Line 3, the future of our climate, water and children is no small concern](#)
- MinnPost: [A MINER problem: Emmer mining bill passes House, but who will take it up in the Senate?](#)
- Ely Echo: [Mining foe: No. No matter what; Twin Metals project, MINER Act injected into Joint Powers meeting](#)
- Business Wire: [PolyMet Reports Third Quarter Fiscal 2018 Results](#)
- MPCA: [Notice of intent to deny the Application of U.S. Steel Minntac for a Variance to Water Quality Standards](#)

OPINIONS

- Strib: [Iron Range: Rangers compelled to think deeply about what it is they truly cherish](#)
- Austin Daily Herald: [The fox is in charge of the Chicken House in Dodge County](#)

BEYOND MINNESOTA

REGIONAL

- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: [Milwaukee Common Council approves selling Lake Michigan water to Waukesha](#)

- NJSpotlight: [Will New Jersey make a healthy environment an inalienable right?](#) following in the footsteps of Montana and Pennsylvania
- Detroit News: [3 companies sued over west Mich. water contamination](#); including 3M
- The Sacramento Bee: [‘These things add up.’ Could recurring problems compromise safety of California dams?](#); “When it comes to inspecting dams, California is second to none. ... Getting dam owners to fix those flaws quickly is another matter.”
- Next City: [New York’s Midsize Cities Get Assistance With Lead Pipes](#)

NATIONAL

- The Washington Post: [After cutting taxes, Trump looking to localities to raise revenue for infrastructure](#)
- Water Online: [Report: EPA Delays WOTUS Amid Rewrite](#); The Washington Post: [GOP crafts spending bill provisions aimed at speeding repeal of water protection rule](#)
- EPA: [Pre-Publication Version of the Final Rule: Financial Responsibility Requirements under CERCLA Section 108\(b\) for Classes of Facilities in the Hardrock Mining Industry](#); “EPA has decided not to issue final regulations because the Agency has determined that final regulations are not appropriate.”
- Water Online: [Scientists Urge Coordination In PFC Response](#)
- Phys.org: [US transportation and water infrastructure not broken](#); “...a 2.5 percent to 3 percent annual spending increase above the total of more than \$235 billion now spent annually by local, state, and federal agencies on transportation and water infrastructure largely would eliminate existing maintenance backlogs by 2030...”
- Ozy: [The New Water Wars Reshaping America](#)

MEETINGS

CWC POLICY COMMITTEE

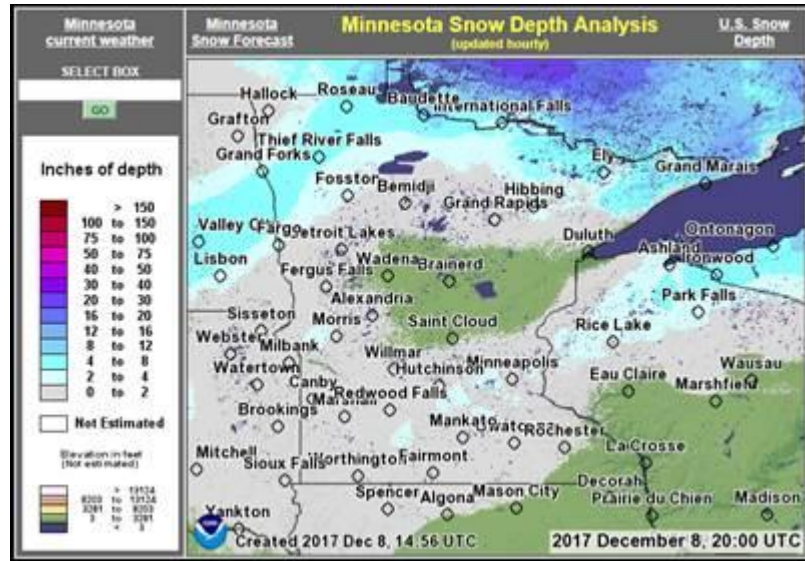
The Policy Committee of the Clean Water Council met this week to continue their evaluation of topic areas that they are considering for policy development. At their most recent meeting, they approved a chloride reduction policy related to deicing, which will be advanced to the full CWC at their 12/18 meeting. They also heard several presentations related to the presence of pharmaceutical compounds in water and will continue those discussions at their 1/26/18 meeting. At that same meeting, they intend to discuss the chloride problem from the standpoint of water softener discharges that affect chloride concentrations in wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) effluent, as well as the use of centralized water softening to reduce WWTF chloride discharges.

REPORTS

STATE OF MN WATER

- DNR: MN Stream Flow Report – ended for the year
- National Drought Mitigation Center [12/7/17](#); we still have abnormally dry (yellow) and moderate drought (tan) areas in the state; thin snow cover in those areas won’t mitigate the situation





NEW REPORTS

- US Water Alliance, WERF & WRF National Blue Ribbon Commission for Onsite Non-potable Water Systems: [A Guidebook for Developing and Implementing Regulations for Onsite Non-potable Water Systems](#)
- BWSR: [Combined Balance Sheets Soil and Water Conservation Districts 2016](#)
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UPCOMING EVENTS

- 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 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 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