

Legislative Water Commission Update 9-29-17

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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LWC Subscribers: Being a one-person office limits what I can accomplish each week. Due to a number of factors, I had to take a hiatus from preparing weekly updates in order to focus on other priorities this summer. With this edition, I hope to return to more regular updates of water happenings, but I expect them to be shorter and less frequent than before.

Plans are in development for the October, November and December stakeholder roundtables to discuss wastewater; below is the conceptual plan. More details will be shared as they are developed.

Day	Date	Time	Location	Topic	Participants	Meeting Goal
T	10/17	9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Rm 2412, MN Senate Building	Wastewater Issues Clarification	Stakeholder group, TBD	clarify the issues associated with water quality standards and permitting for wastewater facilities
T	11/21	9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Rm 2412, MN Senate Building	Wastewater Solutions - Small Cities	Stakeholder group, TBD	identify potential solutions that can be developed to address small city issues
T	12/19	9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Rm 2412, MN Senate Building	Wastewater Solutions - Large Cities	Stakeholder group, TBD	identify potential solutions that can be developed to address large city issues

I have a large backlog of news items still awaiting sorting, so those included below represent only a snippet of what's been happening since the last update.

Barb

MN NEWS

WATER ACTIONS

- MPR: [EPA chief meets with Dayton on regulations](#)
- National Caucus of Environmental Legislators: [Mississippi River Legislative Caucus](#) created “to assist legislators representing river districts and their colleagues committed to a thriving, healthy Mississippi River. The goal of the MRLC is to build the capacity of legislators in river districts to more effectively address river health and water quality issues, and to create a forum for collaboration on growing communities and local economies. The Caucus will include opportunities for state lawmakers to interface with river mayors, members of Congress, advocacy groups, and the business community.”
- Met Council: [2017 Green Infrastructure Pilot Grant Program – Allocation of Funds](#)

WATER BUSINESSES

- YouTube: [Urban Organics, Brought to Life by Pentair: Grand Opening June 1, 2017](#) [5 min]; Nasdaq Global Newswire: [Pentair and Urban Organics Honored as 2017 Agriculture Project of the Year by the WaterReuse Association](#)

SURFACE WATER/STORMWATER

- MPR: [Minn., N.D. governors seek common ground on flood control](#)
- MPR: [Lake Minnetonka zebra mussel study tests population control](#)
- KEYC: [Political Rumbblings Around Mankato Water Quality Bonding Request](#) and MPR: [Mankato to Dayton: Do better on water quality](#)

GREAT LAKES

- MPR: [House panel to consider bill preserving Great Lakes cleanup](#)

WATER SUPPLY

- MPR: [DNR to appeal ruling on White Bear Lake over-pumping](#) and WCCO: [DNR To Appeal White Bear Lake Water Level Ruling](#)

WASTEWATER

- Clean Energy Resource Teams: [U of M researchers turning wastewater scum into profitable biofuels](#); the U is pilot testing their patented process that converts 68% of dried and filtered wastewater scum to biodiesel and reduces environmental pollutants in landfills and water systems, saving \$500K to \$600K/yr; funding for the research came from LCCMR, Met Council Environmental Services, MnDRIVE and the U’s Center for Biorefining

AG & WATER

- MPR: [As foodies seek local, Midwest farmers go global](#), driven in part by global water scarcity

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

- MPR: [State better off without Enbridge oil pipeline, Dayton agency says](#); Strib: [Enbridge's new pipeline across northern Minnesota not needed, state says](#)
- MPR: [After Supreme Court victory, peat mine proposal's fate in DNR's hands](#)
- MPR: [Bill backing PolyMet land swap gets first hearing in Congress](#)
- Duluth News Tribune: [Copper mining supporters turn out in force at third Forest Service hearing](#)
- MPR: [Does Minnesota really need a new oil pipeline?](#)

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

- MPR: [Zebra mussel puts Lake Harriet in Mpls. on infested waters list](#)

OPINIONS

- Woodbury Bulletin: [Viewpoint: DNR, others partner to keep aquatic invaders at bay](#)

BEYOND MINNESOTA

REGIONAL

- Water Deeply: [How Conservation Helps Keep Water Costs Down](#)
- Rice University Baker Institute for Public Policy: [Hurricane/Tropical Storm Harvey: Policy Perspectives](#); offers policies and actions that can be used to initiate a conversation about designing a more storm-resilient Houston – ideas that can apply to flood-prone areas in MN

NATIONAL

- MPR: ['It's raining needles': Drug crisis creates pollution threat](#) [another pathway for contaminants of emerging concern to enter waters]
- NCGA: [NCGA calls on EPA to rescind 2015 WOTUS rule](#)
- EPA: [Waters of the United States \(WOTUS\) Rulemaking](#) and [Schedule of Public Meetings](#) (teleconferences hosted by EPA & ACE)

GLOBAL

- Homeland Security News Wire: [Identifying global hotspots for water conflict](#)

TOOLS

- MGS: [Bedrock Topography vs. Depth to Bedrock \(2016\)](#)
- UMN: [Lake Browser](#); shows the water clarity index for MN lakes
- MPCA: [Search for lake and stream information](#)

MEETINGS

WATER TECH SUMMIT

At this year's water technology summit, water reuse was discussed with perspectives provided by MDH, MPCA, and 2 water technology businesses. The agency reps described the interagency reuse study that was authorized by the legislature in 2015. Their process included interagency staff work, as well as 4 stakeholder meetings. The draft report has been shared with interested parties and after their comments have been received and addressed, the final report will be issued (ETA November). The report is neither a regulatory or guidance document, rather, it is a first step in assessing reuse options and risks in MN, but the report will highlight the many remaining questions. Report recommendations include:

- Defining who is responsible for what, given the complex set of responsibilities
- Developing water quality criteria based on pathogen reduction targets to avoid negative public health impacts
- Assessing risk from both agency and public health perspectives and develop risk mitigation strategies
- Identifying where regulation vs guidelines are needed
- Developing simple processes
- Providing more education is needed
- Finding the appropriate opportunities for gray water reuse

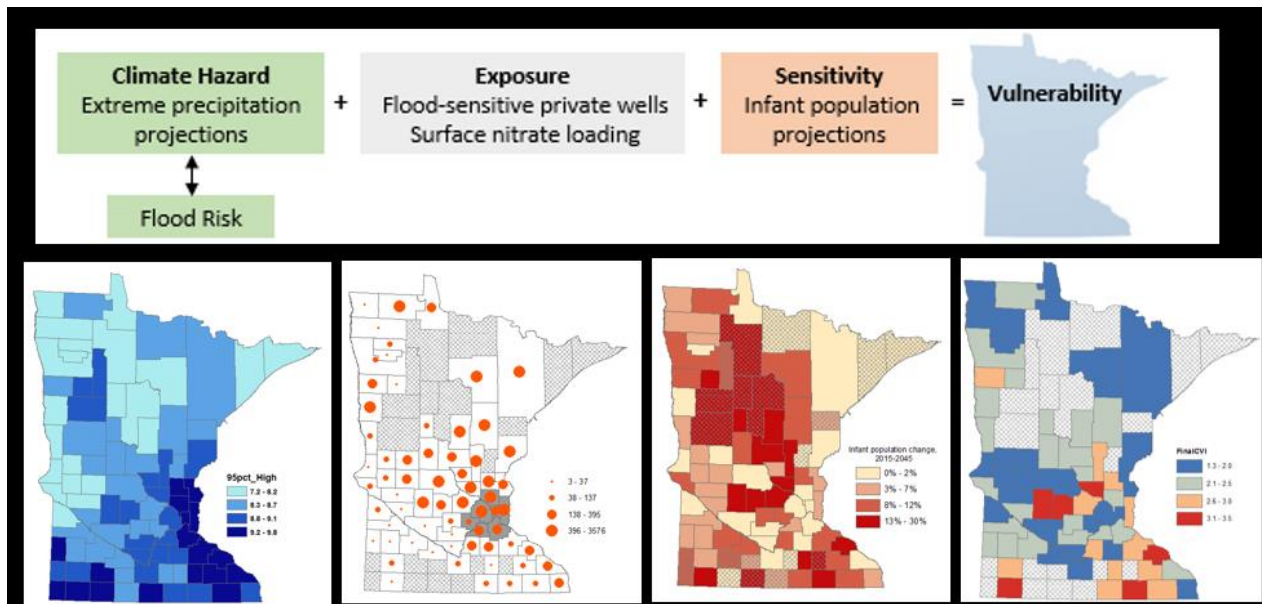
- Continuing research

Although the agency staff do not feel there is a water supply crisis that demands an immediate response, they view reuse as a tool and they want to pursue those without direct human contact as a first step. Advice from the business community: work now to be prepared for a future crisis, focus now on areas in MN with current or expected water shortages, facilitate more demonstration projects, develop clear water conservation goals and apply them equitably.

Other Summit topics focused on the data revolution (analyze all the data you collect or stop collecting it) and the emergence of smart technologies to manage water and wastewater treatment and conveyance systems.

MDH PRIVATE WELL VULNERABILITY TO FLOODING

When private wells are flooded, their water supply can be impacted by contaminants present in the floodwater. MDH has developed a map that shows which counties have a higher vulnerability to flooding impacts to private wells. The figure below shows what factors they integrated to establish the vulnerability determinations.



REPORTS

STATE OF MN WATER

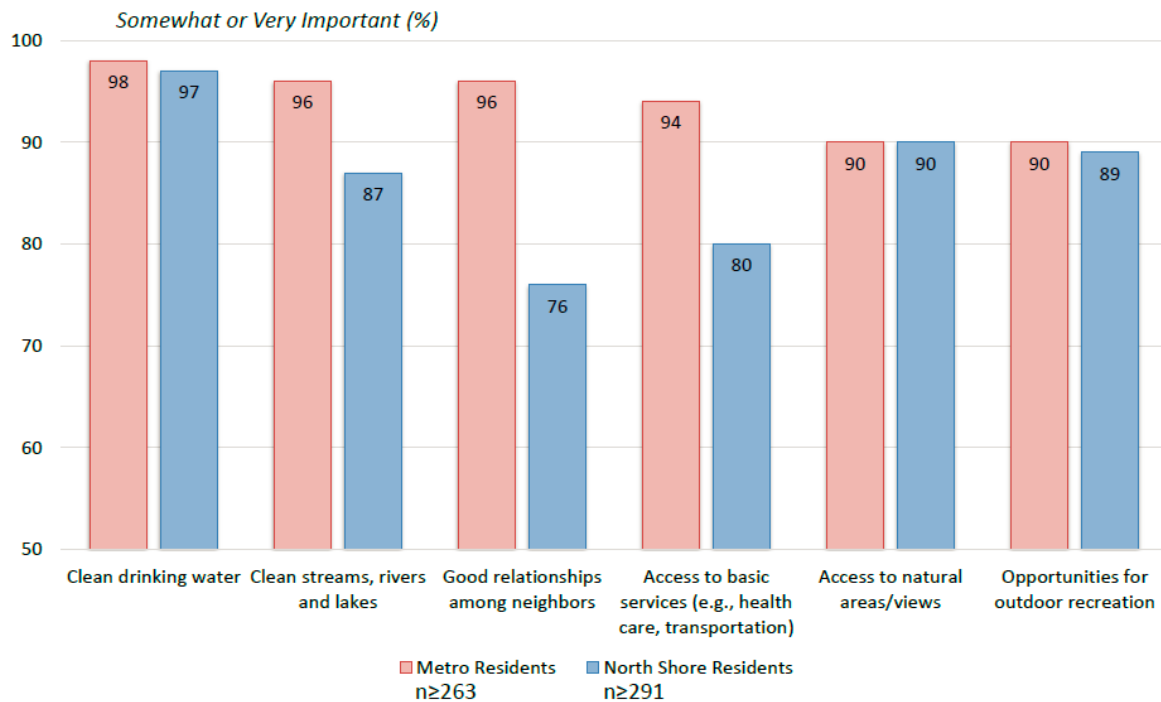
- DNR: [Hydrologic Conditions Report August 2017](#)
- DNR: MN Stream Flow Report [9/24/17](#); low, normal and high flows across the state
- National Drought Mitigation Center: [9/26/17 MN Drought Monitor](#); abnormally dry (yellow) and moderate drought (tan) conditions in NW & SE MN

NEW REPORTS

- Alliance for Water Efficiency: [Net Blue Webinar Part 1: Supporting Water Neutral Community Growth](#) [watch: 81 minutes]
- ECOS: [Achieving and Maintaining a Clean Environment and Protecting Public Health](#); a vision to recast state and federal roles for environmental management and public health protection at lower cost [MPCA Commissioner John Linc Stine is the current President of the Environmental Council of States]

- MDH: [Minnesota Drinking Water 2017 - Annual Report for 2016](#)
- UMN: [A Community Capacity Assessment for Stormwater Management in Three Twin Cities Metro Area Watersheds](#); some follow-up work compared these 3 metro areas with the Duluth-North Shore area response to extreme weather and urban runoff, the value differences are interesting:

MOST IMPORTANT QUALITIES OF A COMMUNITY OR NEIGHBORHOOD



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct 4: **"25 by 25" Water Quality Town Hall**, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Burnsville – Diamondhead Education Center @ 200 Burnsville Parkway, #100, details [here](#)
- Oct 5: **"25 by 25" Water Quality Town Hall**, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Stillwater High School @ 5701 Stillwater Blvd N, details [here](#)
- 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
- 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
- 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