

Weekly LWC Update 2-24-17

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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All the House appointments to the LWC have been made:

Democrats	Republicans
Rep David Bly (20B, Northfield)	Rep Glenn Gruenhagen (18B, Glencoe)
Rep Peter Fischer (43A, Maplewood)	Rep John Poston (9A, Lakeshore)
Rep Clark Johnson (19A, N Mankato)	Rep Paul Torkelson (16B, Hanska)

The Senate Republican appointments have been made, but the Democratic appointments are still forthcoming.

Democrats	Republicans
TBD	Sen Andrew Lang (17, Olivia)
TBD	Sen Carrie Ruud (10, Breezy Point)
TBD	Sen Bill Weber (22, Luverne)

A meeting will be scheduled as soon as the final appointments are made.

LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEES ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

In the Senate:

- The Ag, Rural Development and Housing Finance Committee heard SF960, which has passed and had its 2nd reading
- The Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee heard SF 326, which was amended, passed and re-referred to Finance
- The Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance Committee sent SF672 and SF737 on to the State Gov't committee and laid over SF399
- The Finance Committee heard SF326 and it passed, as amended and was sent to the floor
- The Jobs and Economic Growth Policy and Finance Committee heard and laid over SF627
- A joint meeting of the Ag, Rural Development and Housing Finance Committee and the Environment and Natural Resource Finance committee was convened to hear an update on the

implementation of DNR's buffer mapping initiative and BWSR's buffer implementation and enforcement program

In the House:

- The Capital Investment Committee took testimony on the bonding bill; no action was taken
- The Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee heard HF 1003 (referred to Gov Ops), HF766 (laid over), HF457 (laid over) and HF1387 (laid over); read more about HF1387 in House Public Information Services: [Environment committee wades into groundwater permitting changes](#)
- The Government Operations Committee heard HF761 (passed to floor), HF 552 (laid over), HF1285 (laid over) and HF 1433 (laid over)
- The Legacy Funding and Finance Committee heard and laid over HF560, HF707, HF717, HF151, and HF 198; HF706 was passed and re-referred to Ways and Means; read more about HF706 in House Public Information Service: [Legacy Committee takes action to prevent budget shortfalls](#)
- The Transportation and Regional Governance Committee heard and laid over HF829
- The House Chamber passed HF434 (126-0)

Below is a table that summarizes those bills for which committee action has been taken (see the green Committee Assignment cells):

House File	Chief Author	Committee Assignment	Senate File	Chief Author	Committee Assignment	Description
151	Murphy, M	Legacy -> laid over	179	Simonson	ENRP&LF -> laid over	\$350K from CWF to Admin for grant to Lake Superior Center Authority for new river systems exhibit (dba the Great Lakes Aquarium)
198	Hanson	Legacy -> laid over	18	Klein	ENRP&LF	\$5M CWF to Met Council for grants/loans for local inflow/infiltration reduction programs in metro area
200	Lien	Ag Policy -> Prop Tax	111	Eken	Ag & Rural Dev	Ag and Revenue Departments to study the impact of taxing ag lands based on production value (including identifying types of ag properties not directly used in ag production and approaches for valuing them)
284	Hamilton	Ag Finance	315	Westrom	Ag, RDP -> Ag, RDF -> Finance	\$2.218M general fund to MDA to equip ag laboratory
431	Norness	ENRPF	371	Ingebrigsten	ENRP&LF -> ENRF	\$5M gen fund to BWSR to acquire wetland banking projects for road projects and \$10M bond proceeds to purchase land or easements for the wetland banks
434	Fabian	ENRPF -> W&M (1st Engr) -> gen reg - passed (126-0)	326	Ingebrigsten	ENRP&LF -> Transp F&P -> ENRF -> Finance -> passed to floor	where road replacement wetland bank credits are not available, BWSR must use credits from other service areas as permitted by state/fed law and wetland disturbances up to 10K sq ft for roads previously authorized by ACE Sec 404 are exempt from WCA
457	Howe	ENRPF -> laid over	233	Fischbach	ENRF -> laid over	Extends availability of grant money to remove and prevent aquatic invasive species
468	Cornish	Job Growth -> W & M	627	Rosen	Jobs -> laid over	\$101K gen fund to DEED for grant to reimburse Madelia for infrastructure repair costs from 1/16 fire

552	Green	Gov Ops -> laid over	None	None	None	Grant of authority in law required for adoption of rules, and threshold for conducting a public hearing on expedited rules reduced
560	Kiel	Legacy -> laid over	399	Johnson	ENRF -> ENR&LF-> laid over	\$300K over 2 yrs from CWF to MPCA for grant to Red River Mgmt Bd for River Watch monitoring and education program
575	Urdahl	Cap Invest -> W & M -> gen reg	396	Senjem	Cap Invest	Lanesboro dam project exempted from a nonstate contribution
649	Backer	Job Growth -> laid over	472	Westrom	Cap Invest	\$11.495M bond proceeds to PFA for Morris to demolish and replace its water treatment plant to reduce chloride discharges to Pomme de Terre River from its WWTF
653	Gunther	Job Growth -> laid over	391	Jasinski	Cap Invest	\$15M bond proceeds to DEED for grants under the Greater MN business development public infrastructure program
702	O' Driscoll	ENRPF	695	Newman	ENRP&LF -> state gov't	provides for expert review of agency actions and prohibits use of unadopted rules
706	Gunther	Legacy -> W&M	565	Ruud	ENRP&LF	no more than 95% of the projected balance for each of the Legacy funds may be appropriated in a fiscal year
707	Gunther	Legacy -> laid over	566	Ruud	ENRP&LF	\$50K from the Legacy and Environmental Trust Funds to LCC in FY18 to maintain the dedicated funding website
710	Uglen	ENRPF -> Legacy	262	Ingebrigsten	ENRP&LF	\$103,978,000 in 2018 and \$585,000 in 2019 from the outdoor heritage fund to various recipients
717	Green	Legacy -> laid over	643	Johnson	ENRP & LF	\$__ CWF and \$__ gen fund to DNR for grants to road authorities or WDs for replacing culverts as part of water quality or environmental improvement projects, respectively
761	Hamilton	Ag Policy -> Gov ops -> oassed, 2nd reading	960	Westrom	Ag, Rural Dev -> passed to floor	extends the ag fertilizer research and education program and council
766	Swedzinski	ENRPF -> laid over	672	Ruud	ENRP&LF -> State Gov't	Modifies public comment period requirements for draft impaired waters list notices, provides process to challenge impaired waters lists, and requires notice to publicly owned wastewater treatment facility applicants
821	Loonan	ENRPF	701	Hall	ENRF -> laid over	\$960K gen fund to BWSR for grant to Lower MN River WD to defray dredge site O & M cost
829	Hornstine	Transp & Reg Gov -> laid over	641	Dibble	Local Govt	Established sewer availability charges stakeholder group
916	Hilstrom	Public Safety & Security P&F -> laid over	743	Eaton	Judiciary & Public Safety F&P	requires county sheriffs to maintain collection boxes for drugs

1003	Lueck	ENRPF -> Gov Ops	737	Weber	ENRP&LF -> state gov't	MPCA shall amend MnR 7001.0150 using the MnStat 14.388 good cause exemption to allow a municipality that builds a WWTF to comply with new/modified effluent limits compliance with any new/modified limits adopted after construction onset if it would require additional capital investment until the new/modified WWTF is 80% depreciated
1285	Pugh	Gov Ops-> laid over	769	Kiffmeyer	State Govt	Agencies can't adopt rules without legislative approval
1387	Newberger	ENRPF -> laid over	1290	Mathews	ENRP&LF	modifies groundwater appropriation permit requirements and well interference claim requirements
1433	Kresha	Gov Ops -> laid over	None	None	None	regulates rulemaking, reviews/ repeals EAW/EIS, restricts implementation and enforcement of policies/guidelines/statements; increases rule oversight; modifies notice requirements; requires impact analysis; modifies SONAR requirements
None	None	None	210	Senjem	Cap Invest -> Finance	omnibus bonding bill; \$213.225M in bond proceeds DNR, MPCA, BWSR, MDA, Met Council, MDH, DEED and PFA to fund various capital investment programs and projects, including those related to water infrastructure and water resources
None	None	None	717	B Anderson	ENRPF - no action	MPCA must review wastewater treatment projects receiving financial assistance to ID wastewater discharge impact on geographic aquifer; definitions added

WATER BILLS

The table below shows the water-related bill introductions for the end of the 8th week of session (through 2/24/17). The gold shaded cell is a bill introduced this week that is a companion to a bill introduced previously. Click on the File # hyperlinks for more details. As of 2/24/17, 232 of 3,103 introduced bills (7%) are water-related. *Italicized* authors are current or former LWC members.

House File	Chief/LWC Authors	Senate File	Chief/LWC Authors	Description
1622	Hansen	1027	<i>Ruud</i>	renames the MPCA the Dept of Environment
1433	Kresha, <i>Torkelson</i>	None	None	regulates rulemaking, reviews/ repeals EAW/EIS, restricts implementation and enforcement of policies/guidelines/statements; increases rule oversight; modifies notice requirements; requires impact analysis; modifies SONAR requirements
1441	Miller	1236	Lang	\$3.2M bond proceeds to DNR for a flood hazard mitigation grant to Montevideo
1465	<i>Torkelson</i>	None	None	provides for emergency preparedness for RR oil & haz mat spills
1466	<i>Torkelson</i>	1395	Westrom, <i>Dahms</i>	\$10M gen fund to Dept of Revenue to make payments to LGUs that assume jurisdiction for implementation and enforcement of the buffer law

1485	Ecklund	1360	Bakk, <i>Ruud</i>	\$2M from CWF to MPCA for grants to LGUs for sanitary sewer projects included in the VNP Clean Water Comprehensive Plan to restore waters of VNP
1498	Loonan	1131	Hall	\$4.5M from CWF to BWSR to coordinate the development & implementation of goals and strategies for sediment, flow & nutrient reduction in the MN River Basin ; with \$2M to local grants, \$2M to research, & 500K to BWSR for oversight
1528	Hamilton	1388	Weber	\$14M bond proceeds to PFA for grant to Windom for WWTF improvements
1557	Drazkowski	1351	Goggin	When a court has ruled that there has been no violation of a wetland restoration or replacement, recording of the order on a deed is prohibited
1568	Hoppe	None	None	\$45M bond proceeds to BWSR for RIM and other conservation easements protecting wetlands and riparian lands & to restore rivers & their uplands to protect soil, WQ, & habitat and reduce flooding
1582	Marquart	None	None	\$16.19M bond proceeds to DNR for flood hazard mitigation grant to Buffalo-Red River WD
275	<i>Bly</i>	1269	Dibble	\$___ gen fund to LCC to create Health and Climate Resiliency Commission to develop strategic plan, including an assessment of climate change implications on water quality & quantity and development of associated mitigation strategies
None	None	1283	Newman	MPCA must obtain legislative approval for WQ stds/rules if the financial impact to affected permittees is >\$50M or >\$5M for a single permittee within the 1st 5 yrs of implementation; stds/rules affecting WWTFs adopted on 1/2/14 are suspended until the cost analysis is completed
1687	Layman	1301	Eichorn	\$1.7M bond proceeds to PFA for grant to Coleraine-Bovey-Taconite Joint Water Commission for sanitary and storm sewer improvements between those cities
1644	Pryor	None	None	nonwoven personal care disposable products (i.e. "wipes") must not be advertised, packaged or labeled as flushable, septic safe, or sewer safe
1673	Fabian	None	None	DNR game and fish bill; includes a change to 103G.411 re: stipulation of low water mark no longer requires approval of attorney general
1675	Green	None	None	legacy funds can't be used to pay for statewide or agency indirect costs
None	None	1330	Johnson	\$20M bond proceeds to DNR for flood hazard mitigation grants for capital improvements to prevent or alleviate flood damages

None	None	1349	Housely, Ruud	\$400K CWF to MPCA for coordination with WI & NPS on comp P reduction activities in MN portion of Lake St Croix, working with St Croix Basin Water Resources Planning Team & the St Croix River Assoc to implement the water monitoring and P reduction activities
None	None	1381	Simonson, Ruud	modifies mining policy to make DEED responsible for mineral research, exploration, development, production, and commercialization and DNR responsible for mineral evaluation, resource conservation & environmental protection

MN NEWS

WATER ACTIONS

- DL Online: [Water, water everywhere...: Smithsonian traveling exhibit 'Water/Ways' opens Saturday in DL](#)
- Walker Pilot Independent: [Help monitor water quality on your favorite Minnesota lake, stream](#)
- FMR: [Classroom programs and outings available](#)
- Lakeshore Weekly News: [Long Lake Waters Association launches](#)
- Curiosity: [It Takes 2,700 Liters Of Water To Make One T-Shirt](#); watch the embedded videos to learn more
- Walker Pilot Independent: [Protecting Lake Roosevelt through a new aquatic management area](#)
- Walker Pilot Independent: [Get hooked on volunteering — help Minnesota's water](#)
- Park Rapids Enterprise: [Constituents flock to town hall meeting](#); drinking water pollution, buffers and regulations discussed
- Strib: [Anderson: Nobles County sets good example on water](#)
- MPCA: [Water/Ways exhibit opens Feb. 25 in Detroit Lakes](#)
- MPCA: [Cook County citizen volunteers share passion for their waters](#)

SURFACE WATER/STORMWATER

- Duluth News Tribune: [New assessment, recovery options for Nemadji River watershed](#)
- West Central Tribune: [Slowing the water remains Hawk Creek challenge](#)
- Pioneer Press: [200 businesses form group to oppose copper mining near Boundary Waters](#)
- Pipestone County Star: [Finding other waters](#)
- MinnPost: [Bit by bit, the dams are coming down and streams are regaining their health](#); 6 dams were removed in MN in 2016 [see related article in the National section below]
- House Public Information Service: [Keeping meds out of waterways, away from others prompts call for safe disposal](#); read the bills here: [HF916/SF473](#)
- Strib: [Angry neighbors in Otter Tail County defend their lakes in feud of 40 years](#)

GREAT LAKES

- Detroit Free Press: [AG Bill Schuette says vessel discharge bill could threaten Great Lakes](#)

WATER SUPPLY

- Met Council: [New report outlines challenges to sustaining long-range water supply; Water Supply Now and for the Future](#)
- Pipestone County Star: [Local townships scheduled for private well testing in 2018](#)

- Pioneer Press: [Anyone thirsty? New water sources for Washington County cities proving costly; read Met Council's report: Washington County Municipal Water Coalition – Water Supply Feasibility Assessment](#)

WASTEWATER

- Strib: [Exurbs seek relief after sewer facilities built for growth come up short](#)
- Met Council: [New SAC task force to reexamine outdoor seating, ways to simplify SAC application process](#) and [SAC: an easier way to say Sewer Availability Charge](#)
- Met Council: [Physical challenges of sewer repair can be daunting](#)
- Met Council: [Council to implement I/I task force recommendations](#)

AG & WATER

- BWSR: [BWSR Seeks Comments on Soil Loss Rulemaking](#)
- MN Corn: [Bills beginning to move at Capitol](#)
- House Public Information Service: [Governor's tax bill calls for \\$79 million in changes; HF893/SF726](#) include a provision for farmers to receive \$40/tillable acre converted to a public waters buffer
- Waseca County News: [County Farmer Forum includes update on buffer law](#)
- Pipestone County Star: [Southwest Minn. producers lead state in application rate for water quality certification program](#)
- TriState Neighbor: [Researchers clean water with a bioreactor in a box](#)
- MN Soybean Growers' Association: [Buffers take the stage at joint Senate committee meeting](#)

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

- MPR: [Judge allows environmentalists to intervene in mine lawsuit](#)
- ABC 10: [U.S. Steel Takes Legal Action Against MPCA](#); Duluth News Tribune: [U.S. Steel seeks court action on Minntac permit](#); MPR: [U.S. Steel goes to court against Minnesota over Minntac permit](#); Pioneer Press: [US Steel goes to court against Minnesota over mine permit](#); Strib: [US Steel goes to court against Minnesota over Minntac permit](#)
- Hometown Focus: [NRRI's Mining Innovation Initiative received \\$2.6M from the state legislature](#)

OPINIONS

- Morris Sun Tribune: [Letter to the editor: Backer must continue to support buffers](#)
- MinnPost: [When it comes to sulfide mining, let's use 'pro-water' and 'anti-water' to describe stances](#)
- Duluth News Tribune: [Conservationist's View: Rep. Nolan off-base on mining near BWCAW](#)
- Inforum: [Letter: Buffer strips are meant to control runoff](#)
- Pioneer Press: [Steve Woods: Infrastructure and those who build it](#)

BEYOND MINNESOTA

REGIONAL

- The Dickenson Press: [South Dakota considers buffer strip bill](#)
- Circle of Blue: [Wisconsin Towns Face Groundwater Crisis Alone](#)

NATIONAL

- Bloomberg: [Trump Eyes Easing Obama Rules for Sprawling Pipeline Network](#); there is speculation of a roll-back of recent regulations that increase inspection and repair demands and require leak-detection systems in populated areas
- Washington Post: [Trump to roll back Obama's climate, water rules through executive action](#)
- Delta Farm Press: [New law would reduce reporting requirements for conservation programs](#)
- New York Times: [America's Aging Dams Are in Need of Repair](#); the Association of State Dam Safety Officials said that in 2015, nearly 2,000 state-regulated high-hazard dams in the US were listed as being in need of repair ("high hazard" dams are those with the potential for the loss of life if they fail; low hazard dams can cause property damage); according to the Am Society of Civil Engineers, 70% of US dams will be >50 yrs old by 2020; *[according to the DNR, there are >1,250 dams in MN of which 800 are public dams (with 430 of these owned by the state), with most being >50 yrs old; DNR spends ~\$1M bond funds/yr on repairs and reconstruction, but ~\$114M is needed over the next 20 yrs to assure public dams remain safe and usable]*



GLOBAL

- MinnPost: [Lots to love: Counting the world's lakes](#); MN has ~5% of America's lake water (not counting Lake Superior), about 2X as much as a typical state

REPORTS

STATE OF MN WATER

- DNR: Stream Flow Report – discontinued until spring
- National Drought Mitigation Center: 2/21/17 [MN Drought Monitor](#)

VALUE OF WATER

The U of MN River Life program is researching how people value water. Responses to the 5 questions in the narrative survey posted @ <http://z.umn.edu/valuingwater> will be used as part of their ongoing investigations and as source material for the online journal Open Rivers.

ADDRESSING MICROPLASTICS IN THE GREAT LAKES

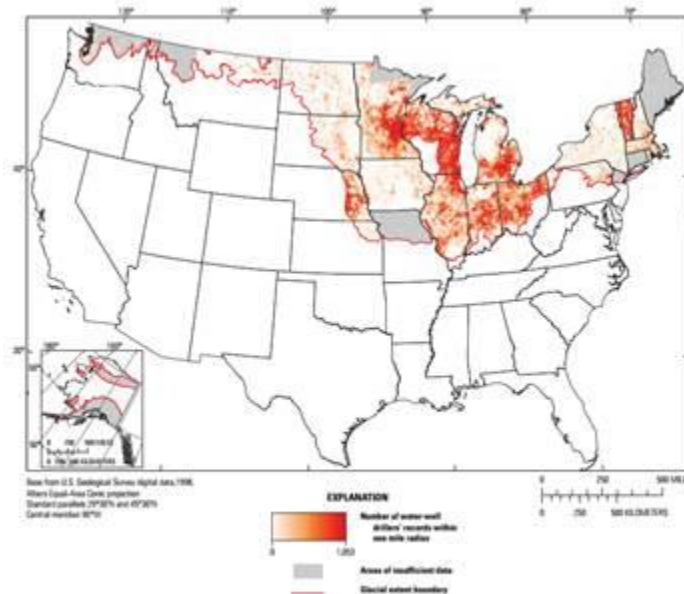
The International Joint Commission is concerned about the presence of microplastics in the Great Lakes and their unknown human health and ecological impacts. They just released the [International Joint Commission's Recommendations on Microplastics in the Great Lakes](#) to begin addressing this concern.

Here are their starting recommendations:

1. **Binational Plan Recommendation:** develop a binational plan to prevent microplastics entering the Great Lakes using a combination of approaches and tools and include measureable goals to gauge progress and periodic review for making effectiveness and adjustments.
2. **Science Recommendation:** undertake research for a binational assessment of microplastics in the Great Lakes to inform decision-making by (1) developing and/or adopting standardized sampling and analytical methods (2) developing a transport model to determine the sources and fate of microplastics (3) assessing potential ecological and human health impacts and (4) investing in research for source reduction, improved recycling, and reduced release of plastic pollution.
3. **Pollution Prevention Recommendation:** adopt policies that promote life-cycle responsibility of producers and support state, provincial and municipal policies, including market-based incentives and disincentives, to effectively reduce plastic pollution. The Parties should provide funding to compare and analyze existing programs and policies for the reduction and prevention of plastics and microplastics in the Great Lakes; and promote those that are good models for plastics and waste management.
4. **Education and Outreach Recommendation:** provide funding support for local programs and organizations that provide education and outreach to promote the reduction and prevention of plastics/microplastics in the Great Lakes.

THE HYDROGEOLOGY OF GLACIATED AREAS

Take 14M water-well records from the glaciated regions of the US, standardize the records to provide consistent variables across the states, and a hydrogeologic database is created from which maps and grids that can be created and used for groundwater availability assessments and studies of groundwater flow and transport. Read the USGS report: [Maps and Grids of Hydrogeologic Information Created from Standardized Water-Well Drillers' Records of the Glaciated United States](#).



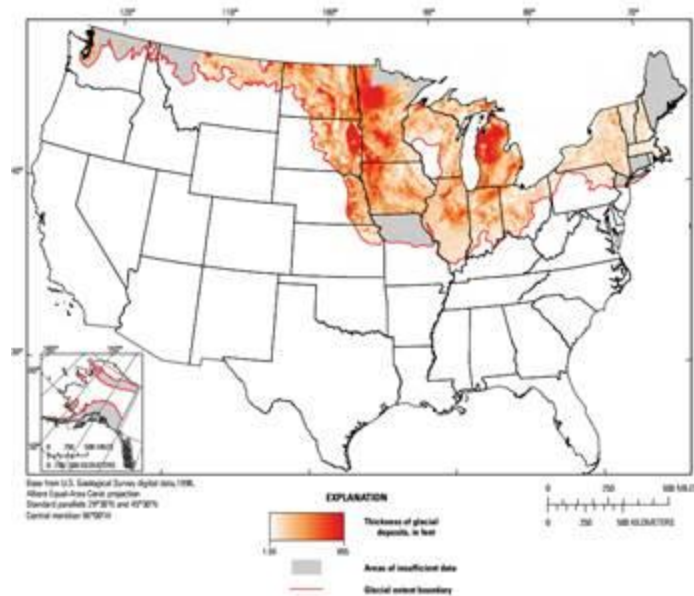


Figure 6. Thickness of glacial deposits in the United States.

WATER LITERACY IN THE RED RIVER VALLEY

International Water Institute has published its [Red River Basin River Watch Annual Report 2016](#), outlining progress on its water quality and biological monitoring efforts, teacher training, guided kayak excursions to and document watershed conditions, and the River Watch Forum (where students share and learn about emerging watershed issues). Two new programs are coming to River Watch in 2018: a snow study where students collect snow depth, snow water equivalency, and infiltration rate to help accurately forecast spring flooding and their “River of Dreams” program that will introduce elementary students to watershed science and terminology through geography, reading, writing, and art.

DEVELOPING A WATER ETHIC

Governor Dayton has called on Minnesotans to develop a water ethic, but which water ethic is the one to adopt? One that puts nature first? One that puts the economy first? Or one that provides for both? Social science research about cultural cognition finds that the positions people take have less to do with the facts and more to do with a subconscious sense of how people want to see society organized and operated. In other words, people’s worldviews and cultural identities shape their individual beliefs about both subjective things and objective reality. Why is this? Evolutionarily, chances of survival increased when people adopted positions that agreed with their social “tribe”, since that strengthened that tribe's dominance in society and a person’s acceptance in the tribe. MN’s diverse demographics show there are many “tribes”, each with their own ideas (if they think of it at all) about water. The stronger a person adheres to their tribe’s views, the more difficult it is to keep an open mind. Respecting the differences in cultural cognition can lead to more respectful listening and compromise. Are you an Individualist or a Communitarian? An Hierarchist or an Egalitarian? Find out in Psychology Today’s [Take the Cultural Cognition Quiz](#).

AUDITS OF FEDERAL WETLAND CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

The Office of the Inspector General published [NRCS: Wetland Conservation Provisions in the Prairie Pothole Region](#), a report indicating that NRCS made significant changes in its wetlands determination process, in a non-transparent manner, that allowed producers to drain and farm more wetlands; as a result NRCS is to issue official guidance reinforcing correct and current rules to make wetland

determinations. In their [USDA Monitoring of Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Violations](#) report, the OIG assessed the HEL & WC compliance review activities by the NRCS and recommended that NRCS clarify the level of treatment needed to control gully erosion, develop guidance and apply it consistently.

WATER/WAYS

The Smithsonian Water/Ways tour through 6 MN towns will end after the 2/25-4/9 stop in Detroit Lakes. The Minnesota Humanities Center, which has led the effort, has published an interim report: [We Are Water Partnership Report July 2015 – January 2016](#) to show progress toward meeting the seven goals for the Water/Ways – We Are Water project, as noted below:

Partner Relationships Goals

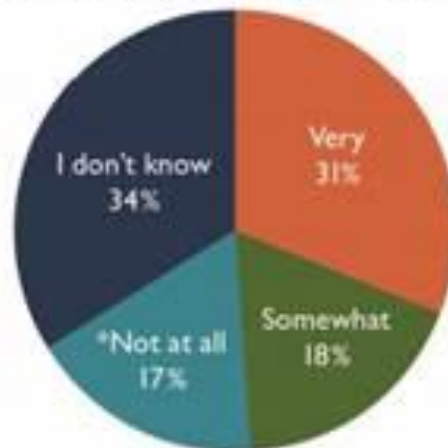
1. Deepen relationships among state level partners
2. Build host site capacity to practice the Humanities Center’s relationship-based approach
3. Support the expansion of local networks within host communities

Visitor Experiences Goals

1. Share national, state, and local histories and narratives about water
2. Reinforce Minnesotans’ individual relationships with water
3. Reinforce Minnesotans’ individual responsibilities to water
4. Build relationships between Minnesotans through community engagement events and activities preceding, during, and after the exhibit

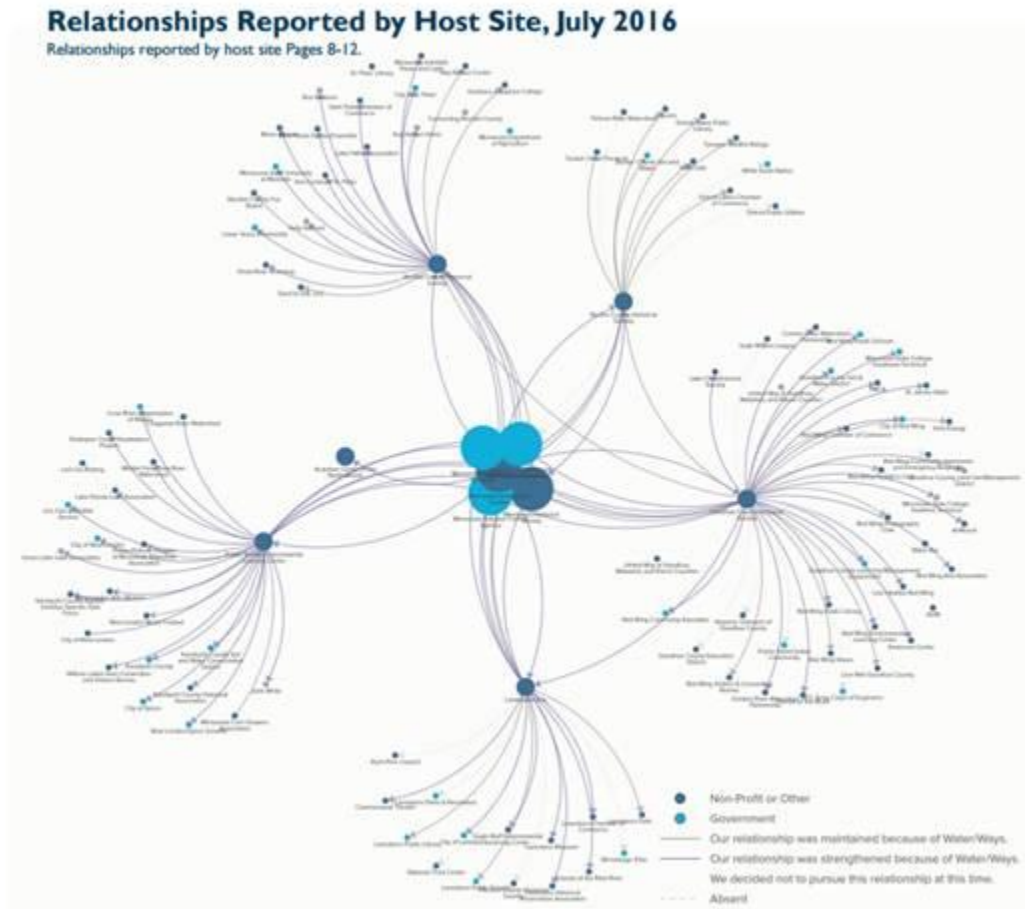
Although visitors are learning about water, there is still a lot to be learned:

After viewing the exhibit, how knowledgeable do you feel you are about the state of water in Minnesota?



In a 2014 MPCA survey, 42% identified themselves as "not at all knowledgeable" about the condition of Minnesota lakes and rivers.

The host sites reported maintaining or strengthening partner relationships as a result of their experience.



Plans are in the works for the MN “We Are Water” exhibit to be in the Ecoexperience building at the state fair this year. Funding is also being sought to continue the tour of the “We Are Water” exhibit in several more communities around that state that are primed to implement water improvement goals via community engagement and network building. Stay tuned for more information as these plans evolve.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 25-Apr 9: **Smithsonian Water/Ways and MN We Are Water exhibits** on display in Detroit Lakes; the grand opening is from 10-11 on 2/25 at the Becker County Historical Society; additional activities will be posted [here](#)
- Mar 1: MN Green Step Cities March Workshop & Webinar: **Water Conservation and Reuse**; 9-11 am; free; LMC (145 University Avenue West, St Paul); agenda and registration link [here](#)
- Mar 1: **Water Technology Listening Session: A New Path Forward For Water Technology Testing and Pilot Projects**; 11:00am-1:00pm (lunch included); U of MN St Paul Campus, Cargill Building (1500 Gortner Ave; parking validation provided); free, but [registration](#) is required
- Mar 7-9: 33rd Annual **MN Rural Water Association Water & Wastewater Technical Conference**; River's Edge Convention Center in St Cloud; \$280 early registration/\$305 on-site registration; agenda and registration [here](#)

- Mar 11: Izaak Walton League of America – MN Division’s **2017 Watershed Summit**; 8:30 am to 4:30 pm; Normandale Community College (9700 France Ave. S, Bloomington); \$30; registration and program info [here](#)
- Mar 15: Annual International Water Institute **River Watch Forum** for the Red River Basin; U of MN Crookston; more info to come [here](#)
- Mar 22-23: **19th Joint Annual Conference of the Red River Watershed Management Board and Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group**; Courtyard by Marriott in Moorhead; details to come
- Mar 23: **Shared Water, Shared Responsibility: Engaging Minnesota’s Communities, Students, and Policy-Makers**; co-sponsored by the U of MN’s Humphrey School of Public Affairs’ Center for Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy and the U of MN’s Water Resources Center; 5:15 p.m.—reception & poster session in Humphrey Atrium; 6:30 p.m.—panel discussion in Cowles Auditorium (301 19th Ave S); event, livestreaming and registration details [here](#); free, but register is required by March 15th
- Mar 27: **Agricultural Drainage Workshop**; Best Western Hotel, Willmar; \$30; register [here](#)
- Mar 27: **Industry/Academia Roundtable on Water**; 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.; Thomas H. Swain Room-U of MN McNamara Alumni Center (200 Oak St, Minneapolis), more info to come
- Mar 29-31: **Design-Build for Water/Wastewater Conference**; Minneapolis Convention Center; registration costs vary; agenda and registration info [here](#)
- Mar 30: Rain Bird’s **MN Efficient Irrigation Summit** re: water-efficiency information and cost-effective retrofit and upgrade solutions for municipalities, with product fair; U of M, McNamara Alumni Center (200 SE Oak St., Minneapolis); 9am-4 pm; \$10 (includes lunch); register [here](#) by March 10th
- Apr 18: DEED **MN Water Technology Export Roundtable: The Water Energy Nexus**, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. @ Aeration Industries (4100 Peavey Road, Chaska) \$30 (includes lunch)
- Apr 19: **Water Action Day**; 8-4 pm meet with legislators, rotunda rally @ 1 pm; more info [here](#)
- May 9: Minnesota Day at the **National Climate Adaptation Forum**; registration can be found [here](#)
- Aug 7-9: **WaterWorks! Drinking Water Institute for Educators**; Lakeville; details [here](#)