

## Weekly LWC Update 3-26-17

**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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HF691, the State Gov't Finance omnibus bill and its delete all amendment A17-0299 have been posted, proposing to repeal the LWC (MnStat 3.886), as follows:

Sec. 62. **REPEALER.**

68.5 Subd. 3. **Legislative commissions.** Minnesota Statutes 2016, sections 3.886; and

68.6 161.1419, are repealed

The Senate version of the State Government Finance bill does not contain a similar provision at this time.

## LEGISLATURE

### COMMITTEES ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

In the Senate:

- The Ag, Rural Development and Housing Committee heard testimony on the SF780, the omnibus agriculture bill, which was passed on to the Senate Finance Committee
- The Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee heard testimony on SF 723 and passed it on to Finance
- The Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance Committee heard testimony on SFs 18, 262, 708, 1349, 1360, 1647, and 1734 which were all laid over for possible inclusion in the legacy bill
- The Finance Committee heard SFs 565, 723, and 780 and passed them to general orders.

In the House:

- The Ag Finance Committee heard HF895 and re-referred it to Ways and Means; House Public Information Services: [Ag committee approves omnibus agriculture finance bill](#)
- The Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee heard HF888 and re-referred it to Ways and Means; House Public Information Services: [Omnibus environment bill spares EQB, but makes significant changes](#)
- The Government Operations Committee heard HF1433 and re-referred it to the State Government Finance Committee
- The House Education Finance Committee heard HF890, which provides for sampling water in schools to test for lead; funding for the Race 2 Reduce water conservation education program in the White Bear Lake area was in HF890 as introduced; the bill was adopted and re-referred to the Taxes

Committee; House Public Information Services: [Omnibus education finance bill approved during contentious hearing](#)

The tally below shows which water-related bills have received action, to date, beyond introductions. The green Committee Assignment cells in the following table show committee actions to date. A number of the laid over bills have been incorporated into their respective omnibus bills, but a cross-check of which original bills remain in the omnibus bills has not been made. As omnibus bills reach the floor and amendments are considered, tracking bills by their # of origin becomes unwieldy so this is the last entry for this action.

**2017/2018 Water Related Bills - for LWC Member Reference  
Sorted Numerically by House File Number**

**NOTES:**  
*This is a dynamic document with information available as of 3/23/17.  
 Bill #s noted in italics are authored or co-authored by LWC members.  
 Please notify [bhuberty@lcc.leg.mn](mailto:bhuberty@lcc.leg.mn) of any errors or omissions*

House File	Chief/LWC Authors	Committee Assignment	Senate File	Chief/LWC Authors	Committee Assignment	Description (as introduced, not as amended)
<a href="#">198</a>	Hanson	Legacy -> laid over	<a href="#">18</a>	Klein	ENRP&LF -> laid over	\$5M CWF to Met Council for grants/loans for <b>local inflow/infiltration reduction programs in metro area</b>
<a href="#">151</a>	Murphy, M	Legacy -> laid over	<a href="#">179</a>	Simonson	ENRP&LF -> laid over	\$350K from CWF to Admin for <b>grant to Lake Superior Center Authority for new river systems exhibit</b> (dba the Great Lakes Aquarium)
<a href="#">200</a>	Lien, C <i>Johnson, Bly</i>	Ag Policy -> Prop Tax -> laid over	<a href="#">111</a>	<i>Eken</i>	Ag & Rural Dev -> taxes	Ag and Revenue Departments to study <b>the impact of taxing ag lands based on production value</b> (including identifying types of ag properties not directly used in ag production and approaches for valuing them)
None	None	None	<a href="#">210</a>	Senjem, <i>Eken</i>	Cap Invest -> Finance -> gen ord	omnibus bonding bill; \$213.225M in bond proceeds DNR, MPCA, BWSR, MDA, Met Council, MDH, DEED and PFA to fund various <b>capital investment programs and projects, including those related to water infrastructure and water resources</b>
<a href="#">457</a>	Howe	ENRPF -> laid over	<a href="#">233</a>	Fischbach	ENRF -> laid over	<b>Extends availability of grant money to remove and prevent aquatic invasive species</b>
<a href="#">710</a>	Uglem	ENRPF -> Legacy-> laid over	<a href="#">262</a>	Ingebrigsten, <i>Ruud</i>	ENRP&LF -> laid over	\$103,978,000 in 2018 and \$585,000 in 2019 from the <b>outdoor heritage fund to various recipients</b>
<a href="#">284</a>	Hamilton	Ag Finance	<a href="#">315</a>	Westrom	Ag, RDP -> Ag, RDF -> Finance	\$2.218M general fund to <b>MDA to equip ag laboratory</b>

<a href="#">2330</a>	Loeffler	ENRPF	<a href="#">316</a>	Dziedzic	Energy & Utilities -> laid over	\$___ general fund to <b>DOC to establish a green roof advisory task force</b>
<a href="#">398</a>	Torkelson	ENRPF	<a href="#">348</a>	Dahms, Weber	ENRF -> laid over	\$378K from gen fund to BWSR for grant to <b>Area II Mn River Basin floodplain management projects</b>
<a href="#">431</a>	Norness, Johnson, Torkelson	ENRPF	<a href="#">371</a>	Ingebrigsten, Ruud	ENRP&LF -> ENRF	\$5M gen fund to <b>BWSR to acquire wetland banking projects for road projects</b> and \$10M bond proceeds to <b>purchase land or easements for the wetland banks</b>
<a href="#">434</a>	Fabian, Torkelson	ENRPF -> W&M (1st Engr) -> gen reg - passed, signed by Gov	<a href="#">326</a>	Ingebrigsten, Lang	ENRP&LF -> Transp F&P -> ENRF -> Finance -> gen orders - passed, signed by Gov	where road replacement wetland bank credits are not available, <b>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</b> [note: SF 326 amended to include \$1.4M fire remediation for Madelia and \$296K fire remediation for Watonwan Co; see HF468/SF627]
<a href="#">468</a>	Cornish	Job Growth -> W & M -> incorp into 434	<a href="#">627</a>	Rosen	Jobs -> laid over -> incorp into 326	\$101K gen fund to DEED for grant to <b>reimburse Madelia for infrastructure repair costs from 1/16 fire</b>
<a href="#">495</a>	Sundin	Job Growth - laid over	<a href="#">361</a>	Lourey	Cap Invest	\$2.2M bond proceeds to PFA for grant to <b>Big Lake Area Sanitary District for wastewater connection to WLSSD connector in Cloquet</b>
<a href="#">552</a>	Green, Poston	Gov Ops -> laid over	None	None	None	<b>Grant of authority in law required for adoption of rules, and threshold for conducting a public hearing on expedited rules reduced</b>
<a href="#">560</a>	Kiel	Legacy -> laid over	<a href="#">399</a>	Johnson, Eken	ENRF -> ENR&LF-> laid over	\$300K over 2 yrs from CWF to MPCA for <b>grant to Red River Mgmt Bd for River Watch monitoring and education program</b>
<a href="#">575</a>	Urdahl	Cap Invest -> W & M -> gen register	<a href="#">396</a>	Senjem	Cap Invest	<b>Lanesboro dam project exempted from a nonstate contribution</b>
<a href="#">653</a>	Gunther, C. Johnson, Poston	Job Growth -> laid over	<a href="#">391</a>	Jasinski, Lang	Cap Invest	\$15M bond proceeds to DEED for <b>grants under the Greater MN business development public infrastructure program</b>
<a href="#">649</a>	Backer	Job Growth -> laid over	<a href="#">472</a>	Westrom	Cap Invest	\$11.495M bond proceeds to PFA for <b>Morris to demolish and replace its water treatment plant to reduce chloride discharges to Pomme de Terre River from its WWTF</b>

<a href="#">635</a>	Hamilton	Job Growth - -> Cap Invest	<a href="#">543</a>	Weber	Cap Invest	existing bond authorization purposes modified for the <b>Lewis &amp; Clark Regional Water System</b> & \$5M bond proceeds authorized for Phase 3
<a href="#">702</a>	O' Driscoll, Poston, Gruenhagen	ENRPF	<a href="#">695</a>	Newman, Eken	ENRP&LF -> state gov't - -> ENRF -> laid over	<b>provides for expert review of agency actions and prohibits use of unadopted rules</b>
<a href="#">706</a>	Gunther	Legacy -> W&M -> gen reg	<a href="#">565</a>	Ruud	ENRP&LF -> ENRF -> gen orders	<b>no more than 95% of the projected balance for each of the Legacy funds may be appropriated in a fiscal year</b>
<a href="#">707</a>	Gunther	Legacy -> laid over	<a href="#">566</a>	Ruud	ENRP&LF	\$50K from the Legacy and Environmental Trust Funds to LCC in FY18 to <b>maintain the dedicated funding website</b>
<a href="#">717</a>	Green	Legacy -> laid over	<a href="#">643</a>	Johnson, Ruud	ENRP & LF	\$__ CWF and \$__ gen fund to DNR for <b>grants to road authorities or WDs for replacing culverts as part of water quality or environmental improvement projects, respectively</b>
<a href="#">1265</a>	Heintzeman	ENRPF -> Gen Reg	<a href="#">550</a>	Westrom	ENRF -> Finance	\$8.428M in FY2017 and \$50.728M in FY2018 from the <b>ENRTF to various recipients</b> (LCCMR bill)
<a href="#">766</a>	Swedzinski	ENRPF -> laid over	<a href="#">672</a>	Ruud, Weber, Eken	ENRP&LF -> State Gov't	<b>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</b>
<a href="#">821</a>	Loonan	ENRPF	<a href="#">701</a>	Hall	ENRF -> laid over	\$960K gen fund to BWSR for grant to <b>Lower MN River WD to defray dredge site O &amp; M cost</b>
<a href="#">829</a>	Hornstine	Transp & Reg Gov -> laid over	<a href="#">641</a>	Dibble	Local Govt	<b>Established sewer availability charges stakeholder group</b>
<a href="#">888</a>	Fabian	ENRPF -> Ways & Means	<a href="#">723</a>	Ingebrigst en	ENRF -> Finance -> Gen Orders	<b>Appropriates \$200.559M from various funds for environment and natural resources programs and modifies policy provisions</b> (MPCA, DNR, BWSR, Met Council budget bill); includes \$ to address gw threats from demo landfills
<a href="#">891</a>	Gunther	Legacy	<a href="#">708</a>	Ruud	ENRP & LF - -> laid over	<b>Appropriates \$214.124M in Legacy funds, including Clean Water Funds (Legacy Bill)</b>
None	None	None	<a href="#">717</a>	B Anderson, Weber	ENRF - no action	<b>MPCA must review wastewater treatment projects receiving financial assistance to ID wastewater discharge impact on geographic aquifer; definitions added</b>

<a href="#">1003</a>	Lueck	ENRPF -> Gov Ops -> Gen Reg	<a href="#">737</a>	Weber, <i>Ruud, Eken</i>	ENRP&LF -> state gov't - > laid over	MPCA shall amend MnR 7001.0150 using the MnStat 14.388 good cause exemption to <b>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</b>
<a href="#">1285</a>	Pugh	Gov Ops-> laid over	<a href="#">769</a>	Kiffmeyer	State Govt - > laid over	<b>Agencies can't adopt rules without legislative approval</b>
<a href="#">895</a>	Hamilton	Ag Finance - > Ways & Means	<a href="#">780</a>	Westrom	Ag, Rural Dev -> Finance -> gen orders	<b>modifies ag provisions &amp; appropriates \$103.675M from various funds to MDA (MDA budget bill)</b>
<a href="#">790</a>	<i>Gruenhagen</i>	Gov Ops	<a href="#">822</a>	Newman	State Govt - > laid over	<b>Agencies must submit all contested case hearings to the Office of Administrative Hearings for disposition</b>
<a href="#">1858</a>	Miller	ENRPF	<a href="#">835</a>	Draheim, <i>Weber</i>	Ag & Rural Dev -> ENRP&LF	<b>buffer law compliance practices must use only seed mixes grown &amp; processed in MN</b>
<a href="#">1076</a>	<i>Bly, C Johnson</i>	Ag Finance - > laid over	<a href="#">2250</a>	Marty	Ag, Rural Dev	\$10M gen fund to MDA for grant to U of MN for <b>Forever Green program</b> to protect natural resources while supporting ag economy via development of perennial and winter annual crops
<a href="#">761</a>	Hamilton, <i>C Johnson</i>	Ag Policy -> Gov ops -> gen register, incorporated in HF1717	<a href="#">960</a>	Westrom	Ag, Rural Dev -> general orders	<b>extends the ag fertilizer research and education program and council</b>
<a href="#">1456</a>	Swedzinski	Ag Policy	<a href="#">1016</a>	<i>Weber</i>	Ag, Rural Dev -> ENRP&LF	<b>modifies public comment and environmental review provisions for CAFOs; mandatory EAW not required for CAFOs &lt;2K animal units; public notice concurrent with CUPs notice by LGU</b>
<a href="#">1291</a>	Fabian	ENRPF -> Civil Law -> Gov Ops -> W&M	<a href="#">1087</a>	Ingebrigst <i>en, Ruud</i>	ENRP&LF -> Judiciary -> state gov't -> ENRF -> Finance	<b>modifies permitting, rules, and environmental review processes for DNR &amp; MPCA; eliminates the EQB &amp; transfers duties to the MPCA and gives some duties to the CWC</b>
<a href="#">1317</a>	Newberger	Job Growth - > laid over	<a href="#">1933</a>	Mathews	Cap Invest	\$1.2M bond proceeds to PFA for <b>Clear Lake-Clearwater Sewer Authority to remove/replace WWTF</b> to control P discharges to the Mississippi River

<a href="#">1387</a>	Newberger , <i>Torkelson</i>	ENRPF -> laid over	<a href="#">1290</a>	Mathews	ENRP&LF -> ENRF	modifies groundwater appropriation permit requirements and well interference claim requirements
<a href="#">1433</a>	Kresha, <i>Torkelson</i>	Gov Ops -> State Gov Finance	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
<a href="#">1466</a>	<i>Torkelson</i>	ENRPF -> Taxes -> laid over	<a href="#">1395</a>	Westrom, <i>Eken</i>	ENRF -> gen ord	\$10M gen fund to Dept of Revenue to make payments to <b>LGUs that assume jurisdiction for implementation and enforcement of the buffer law</b>
<a href="#">1485</a>	Ecklund	Legacy -> laid over	<a href="#">1360</a>	Bakk, <i>Ruud</i>	ENRP&LF -> laid over	\$2M from CWF to MPCA for <b>grants to LGUs for sanitary sewer projects included in the VNP Clean Water Comprehensive Plan to restore waters of VNP</b>
<a href="#">1498</a>	Loonan	ENRPF	<a href="#">1131</a>	Hall	ENRF -> ENRP&LF	\$4.5M from CWF to <b>BWSR to coordinate the development &amp; implementation of goals and strategies for sediment, flow &amp; nutrient reduction in the MN River Basin</b> ; with \$2M to local grants, \$2M to research, & 500K to BWSR for oversight
<a href="#">1557</a>	Drazkowski	ENRPF -> laid over	<a href="#">1351</a>	Goggin	ENRP&LF -> laid over	<b>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</b>
<a href="#">1673</a>	Fabian	ENRPF -> gen reg	<a href="#">1695</a>	<i>Ruud</i>	ENRP & LF -> laid over	DNR game and fish bill; <b>includes a change to 103G.411 re: stipulation of low water mark no longer requires approval of attorney general</b>
None	None	None	<a href="#">1349</a>	Housely, <i>Ruud</i>	ENRP & LF -> laid over	\$400K CWF to MPCA for <b>coordination with WI &amp; NPS on comp P reduction activities in MN portion of Lake St Croix, working with St Croix Basin Water Resources Planning Team &amp; the St Croix River Assoc to implement the water monitoring and P reduction activities</b>
<a href="#">893</a>	Davids	Taxes -> laid over	<a href="#">726</a>	Chamberlai n	Taxes	Tax bill; includes provision for <b>farmers to receive \$40/tillable acre converted to a public waters buffer</b>
<a href="#">916</a>	Hilstrom	Public Safety - Security P&F -> laid over	<a href="#">743</a>	Eaton	Judiciary - Public Safety F&P	<b>requires county sheriffs to maintain collection boxes for drugs</b>

<a href="#">1796</a>	<i>C Johnson, Bly</i>	ENRPF	<a href="#">1417</a>	<i>Ruud</i>	ENRP&LF -> laid over -> SF865 (OEP) -> ENRF	establishes 25% water pollution reduction goal by 2025
<a href="#">1863</a>	<i>Dettmer, Fischer</i>	ENRPF -> laid over	<a href="#">1458</a>	<i>Chamberlain</i>	ENRP&LF -> laid over -> SF865 (OEP) -> ENRF	modifies wetland replacement requirements by defining 80% wetland bank replacement areas
<a href="#">1807</a>	<i>Lueck</i>	ENRPF	<a href="#">1482</a>	<i>Tomassoni</i>	ENRP&LF -> laid over -> SF865 (OEP) -> ENRF	surplus wetland replacement credits obtained in association with a mining permit issued on/after 7/1/91 to may be used to off-set future mining-related wetland impacts under any permits to mine held by the permittee or their associates
<a href="#">1717</a>	<i>P Anderson</i>	Ag Policy -> gen reg	<a href="#">1674</a>	<i>Weber</i>	Ag, RD & HP -> gen ord	<b>Omnibus Ag bill</b> ; includes modification of MnStat Ch 18B <b>provisions related to experimental pesticide use and treated seeds</b>
<a href="#">1731</a>	<i>Torkelson</i>	ENRPF -> Legacy -> laid over	<a href="#">1734</a>	<i>Ruud</i>	ENRP&LF -> laid over	\$220.514M CWF to MDA, PFA, MPCA, DNR, BWSR, MDH, Met Council, U of MN, LCC
<a href="#">1747</a>	<i>Wagenius</i>	Transp & Reg Gov -> Gov Ops	<a href="#">1877</a>	<i>Torres-Ray</i>	Local Govt	<b>Met Council must not impose a sewer availability charge on a LGU for existing eating/drinking establishment due to expansion of outdoor seating</b> unless the # of fixtures discharging to the sanitary sewer increase or the capacity of the pipes are increased; the charge must be proportionate to increase on demand
<a href="#">1846</a>	<i>Thissen, Bly</i>	Ed Innov -> amended to HF890 in Ed Fin -> taxes	None	None	None	<b>MDH &amp; MDE to develop a model plan to test for Pb in water in K-12 buildings, referencing EPA standards and MDH guidance; each ISD/charter school to adopt model plan or alternative by 7/1/18</b>
None	None	None	<a href="#">1646</a>	<i>Weber, Ruud</i>	ENRF -> laid over	\$300K gen fund to MPCA for a grant to <b>Shell Rock River WD for a pilot project for a water quality credit trading program for stormwater</b>
None	None	None	<a href="#">1647</a>	<i>Weber, Ruud</i>	ENRF -> laid over	\$300K CWF to MPCA for a grant to <b>Shell Rock River WD for a pilot project for a water quality credit trading program for stormwater</b>
<a href="#">1994</a>	<i>Torkelson, Gruenhagen</i>	ENRPF -> Ag Pol -> ENRPF	<a href="#">1693</a>	<i>Weber</i>	ENRP&LF -> gen ord	modifies buffer law, limiting APO authority to BWSR, 50' buffer applies to public waters with shoreland classification; 16.5' to those without and to public ditches; extends compliance date for both to 11/1/18;

						enforcement can only occur if 100% of cost to establish buffers is provided
<a href="#">2028</a>	<i>Fischer, Torkelson, C Johnson</i>	ENRPF -> laid over	<a href="#">1731</a>	<i>Ruud, Wiger</i>	ENRP&LF -> laid over -> SF865 (OEP) -> ENRF	exempts stormwater reuse projects from water-use permit requirements
<a href="#">1986</a>	Bernardy	Legacy -> laid over	<a href="#">1992</a>	Laine, Wiger	ENRP&LF	\$15K CWF to DNR for grant to <b>New Brighton for aquatic invasive species control &amp; education</b>
<a href="#">2301</a>	Lueck	Higher Ed	<a href="#">2103</a>	Tomassoni	ENRF -> laid over	\$1M in 2018, \$3M in 2019 and each yr thereafter from bond proceeds to the DNR to transfer to the U of MN Bd of Regents for the <b>Natural Resources Research Institute for ops, maintenance, research and staff for applied research in water</b> and other key areas
<a href="#">1752</a>	Torkelson	ENRPF	<a href="#">1542</a>	Dziedzic	ENRF -> taxes	<b>establishes riparian-buffer compensation program</b> ; \$11K FY18, \$434K FY19 from general fund to DOR for administration; \$286K to DOR base budget for FY20-21
<a href="#">1711</a>	Loonan	Taxes -> property taxes	<a href="#">1368</a>	Pratt	Taxes -> laid over	<b>modifies the definition of agricultural purpose to include local conservation programs</b>
<a href="#">1483</a>	B Johnson	ENRPF	<a href="#">865</a>	<i>Ruud</i>	ENRP&LF -> ENRF	modifies blaze orange hunting requirements to allow for blaze pink; amended in the Senate to become the <b>OMNIBUS ENVIRONMENT POLICY BILL</b>

## WATER BILLS

Only a few water-related bills were introductions this 12<sup>th</sup> week of Session. On the table below, the gold shaded cells are bills introduced this week (or that I missed earlier) that are companions to bills introduced previously. Click on the File # hyperlinks for more details. As of 3/23/17, 325 of 4,763 introduced bills (7%) are water-related.

House File	Chief/LWC Authors	Senate File	Chief/LWC Authors	Description (as introduced, not as amended)
<a href="#">890</a>	Loon	<a href="#">718</a>	Nelson	\$614 gen fund to Dept of Ed for grants to <b>expand Race 2 Reduce water conservation programming</b> ; grants to H2O for Life (\$143K), ISD 624-White Bear Lake (\$98K) and ISD 832-Mahtomedi (\$66k) for 2018 and repeated in 2019
<a href="#">1076</a>	<i>Bly, C Johnson</i>	<a href="#">2250</a>	Marty	\$10M gen fund to MDA for grant to U of MN for <b>Forever Green program</b> to protect natural resources while supporting ag economy via development of perennial and winter annual crops



<a href="#">2283</a>	Hausman	<a href="#">2204</a>	Eaton	DNR can't issue permit to mine a sulfide ore body until it verifies an example mine has operated or been closed for 10 yrs without water pollution
<a href="#">2446</a>	Newberger	<a href="#">2239</a>	Mathews	\$250K gen fund to DNR to compensate hydroelectric facilities impacted by Little Rock Lake-Sartell Pool drawdown project
<a href="#">2456</a>	Baker	None	None	allows watershed districts to levy taxes to pay for projects funded by grants or loans
None	None	<a href="#">2217</a>	Dibble	pipeline companies excavating a pipe segment for inspection must notify MPCA and DPS and provide notice of any contamination found during the inspection
None	None	<a href="#">2219</a>	Osmek	\$100K CWF in FY2018 to DNR for grant to MN Clean Marina Program for ed and tech assistance on reducing marina and boating impacts on waters and shoreline environments
None	None	<a href="#">2234</a>	Utke, Eken	\$1.282M gen fund to PFA for grant to Mahnommen to improve city's water infrastructure; this grant not subject to the PPL

## MN NEWS

### WATER ACTIONS

- MPCA: [Fix a leak and save; Fix household water leaks and save an average of 10,000 gallons a year;](#) Hutchinson Leader: [Fix household water leaks and save lots of water](#)
- Pioneer Press: [MN Pollution Control Agency chief sounds alarm about Trump cuts to EPA grants](#)
- MPR: [Lawmakers eyeing state's environmental regulatory process for changes](#)
- MPR: [Report: Too soon to gauge impact of Clean Water Fund spending;](#) Strib: [Auditor asks: Did \\$761 million produce cleaner lakes and streams for Minnesota?;](#) Waseca County News: [Auditor asks: Did \\$761 million produce cleaner lakes and streams for Minnesota?;](#) St Cloud Times: [\\$761 million for water quality scrutinized; read the full report from the Office of the Legislative Auditor;](#) [Clean Water Fund Outcomes 2017 Evaluation Report](#)
- KARE 11: [Earth Day Tips: Protect Minnesota's water and land resources](#)
- Bluff Country Reader: [Reduce wasted water in honor of World Water Day](#)
- Albert Lea Tribune: [Local volunteers sought to work with MPCA](#)

### SURFACE WATER/STORMWATER

- North Dakota Ag: [Hoeven Organizes Meeting on Comprehensive Flood Protection](#)
- Pioneer Press: [In St. Paul, a century-old underground tunnel system gets a cleaning;](#) Strib: [Work on century-old Ramsey County storm sewer gives public rare glimpse of underground rivers;](#) see the embedded video that explains what urbanites can do to help clean water
- MPR: [Minnesota worries about what's in the water](#)
- Strib: [University of Minnesota researchers invent nano-sponge to soak up pollution;](#) Latin Post: ['Super Sponge' Is Faster Than A Speeding Bullet: Can Clean Mercury From Polluted Lakes In Seconds](#)
- Minnesota Cities Magazine: [How a City Rallied Together for Clean Water](#)
- Albert Lea Tribune: [Watershed district prepares for next decade of projects](#)
- Met Council: [2017 Stormwater Grants](#) are open

### GREAT LAKES

- Strib: [Republicans join Democrats against Trump's Great Lakes cuts](#)

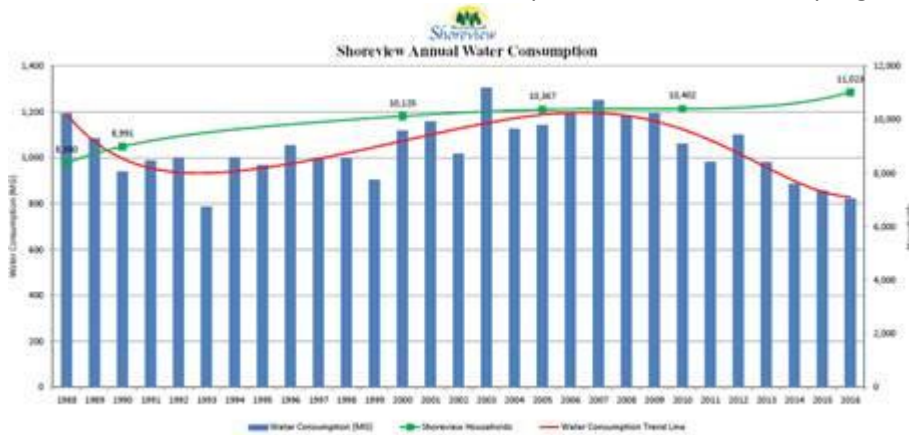
- Bloomberg: [How About One Rule for Ballast Water Instead of Many, Shippers Ask](#)
- Great Lakes Echo: [New flame retardant threat documented in Great Lakes](#)
- Great Lakes Commission: [Great Lakes Regional Water Use Database](#)
- mlive: [Trump budget eliminates Great Lakes cleanup funds](#)



A map showing Great Lakes Restoration Initiative projects from 2010 to 2015. The grant program funds pollution cleanup and habitat restoration projects in the eight Great Lakes states. (U.S. EPA)

## WATER SUPPLY

- DNR: [DNR designates Straight River Groundwater Management Area](#)
- Echo Press: [Ban on new wells sinks, for now](#)
- Water Online: [High Levels Of Bacteria Found In Minnesota Wells](#)
- City of Shoreview: [Utility Operations and 2017 Utility Rates](#); Shoreview has been working hard on water conservation and their water consumption chart shows their progress:



## WASTEWATER

- MPCA: [Comments sought on report for Tracy wastewater treatment upgrade](#); comments due by 4:30 pm on 4/19
- Met Council: [Council Appoints Wastewater Reuse Task Force](#)
- Mesabi Daily News: [CIRSSD Mercury Facility Nears Completion](#); the mercury treatment facility for the Central Iron Range Sanitary Sewer District at the Pulford Wastewater Treatment Plant is nearly done

- Echo Press: [Cities object to high sewage treatment plant costs](#)
- Met Council: [Council Partners with U of MN to Study Phosphorus in Ash as a Crop Fertilizer](#); sewage ash, that is

## AG & WATER

- MPR: [Republicans still want buffer law changes, but Dayton won't bend](#); Faribault.com: [Thanks to farmers, we're making great progress with buffers](#); Brownfield: [Buffer Clarification Bill Would Make Law Workable for Minnesota Farmers](#); MCGA: [Statement from the Minnesota Corn Growers Association Related to Water Buffer Issue](#); Mankato Free Press: [Torkelson, Dayton at odds over buffer strip changes](#)
- Daily Globe: [Nobles] [County chooses to enforce state buffer law](#)
- MDA: [Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program tops 200,000 acres](#)
- Strib: [Selling rice to Japan? Minnesota tribes marketing wild rice to the world](#)
- AgriNews: [Get rid of random acts of conservation](#)

## EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

- Pioneer Press: [Hundreds jam Duluth hearing on controversial Twin Metals mining proposal](#); Ely Echo: [Mining passion fuels lively Duluth hearing](#)

## OPINIONS

- Pioneer Press: [Letter: Kill the 'feel-good' ethanol program](#)
- Grand Forks Herald: [Legislative priorities for rural Minnesota: Local Government Aid to foster and secure growth](#), as well as addressing costly upgrades to water infrastructure
- Brainerd Dispatch: [Guest Opinion: Dangerous Waters ...](#)

## **BEYOND MINNESOTA**

### REGIONAL

- Strib: [EPA awards \\$100 million for Flint water infrastructure work](#)
- MPR: [Trump approves Keystone XL, calling it 'great day' for jobs](#)
- Strib: [North Dakota oil spill 3 times larger than first estimated](#)
- News Deeply: [Water, Off the Grid: A Home in Bend, Oregon, Proves It's Possible](#)
- MPR: [Beer brewers test a taboo, recycling water after it was used in homes](#)
- Strib: [Seattle plant failure dumps millions of gallons of sewage](#)
- Orlando Sentinel: [U.S. Supreme Court extends expensive Florida-Georgia 'water war'](#)
- Iowa Public Radio: [Judge Dismisses Des Moines Water Works Lawsuit](#) and The Washington Times: [Judge dismisses Des Moines lawsuit over nitrates in water](#)

### NATIONAL

- News Deeply: [Five Reasons Water Efficiency and Recycling Are a Perfect Match](#)
- News Deeply: [Under Par: How Golf Courses Are Fighting for Survival](#)

### GLOBAL

- The Guardian: [World Water Day: one in four children will live with water scarcity by 2040](#)
- Reuters: [Governments must recognise wastewater as resource - U.N.](#)
- EOS.org: [Global Significance of the Changing Freshwater Carbon Cycle](#)

## **MEETINGS**

### **CWC**

At this month's Clean Water Council meeting, members received an overview of MDA's CWF academic research and evaluation program, followed by the results of a modular bioreactor project being conducted at the U of MN Lamberton Research Station.

They also received a presentation by Dr. Shawn Schottler, from the Science Museum of MN's St Croix Research Station, about making choices that provide affordable and measurable water quality improvements. His ideas: develop marketable and profitable crops that increase crop diversity on a landscape scale that are more protective of water resources; develop livestock feed mixes that support crop diversity; modify the crop insurance program to incentivize perennial and cover crops.

CWC members then learned about the Smithsonian Water/Ways and We Are Water MN exhibits that have been traveling around the state over the last year and a half. The We Are Water MN exhibit's next stop will be the state fair. New partners are being sought to continue that exhibit's tour around the state. If you have suggestions for partners or locations, contact Jennifer Tonko, MN Humanities Center at [jennifer@mnhum.org](mailto:jennifer@mnhum.org).

Finally, the CWC members had a chance to learn about and discuss the Governor's 25% pollutant reduction by 2015 initiative.

### **SHARED WATER, SHARED RESPONSIBILITY**

Water Resource Students in Action, a graduate student group from the U of MN, sponsored an event this week as part of the Year of Water Action. Students from several U of MN programs presented 23 posters highlighting their research about a variety of water resource issues, such as: assessing the water quality benefits of floodwater storage impoundments, evaluating contaminant remediation from iron oxides, using industrial anion exchange to remove nitrates from tile water, and more. The poster session was followed by a panel of state agency representatives who explained their water management role and described what they see as the state's biggest challenges. Here's the summary, by agency:

- MPCA: funding for aging infrastructure; ag contributions (which are more pronounced after the success of point source pollution controls)
- BWSR: addressing the impacts of altered hydrology from more intense land use; protecting water supplies using surface water; adapting to larger storm events; changing Federal farm policies to support more conservation; addressing an aging workforce in rural MN
- MDA: finding political will; funding
- MDH: replacing aging drinking water infrastructure (\$7.4B in the next 20years); addressing water contamination; removing lead from drinking water systems; achieving health equity for private well users
- DNR: protecting the water resources of the state for both their sustainable long term use and for economic benefit; use a more collective approach to managing the water equitably

## **REPORTS**

### **STATE OF MN WATER**

- DNR: Stream Flow Report – discontinued until spring
- National Drought Mitigation Center: [3/21/17 Drought Monitor](#)

### **NEW REPORTS**

- News Deeply: [High and Dry: New Book Examines World's Biggest Groundwater Challenges](#)
- The Value of Water Campaign: [The Economic Benefits of Investing in Water Infrastructure](#)

## 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 27: **LWC Meeting**, 6-8 pm, State Office Building basement hearing room; agenda [here](#)
- Mar 27: **Agricultural Drainage Workshop**; Best Western Hotel, Willmar; \$30; register [here](#)
- Mar 28: **Freshwater Cyanobacteria Harmful Algal Blooms in MN: Past, Present and Future**; 10 am- 2 pm; U of MN St Anthony Falls Laboratory (2 Third Ave SE, Minneapolis); register [here](#)
- 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 10<sup>th</sup>
- Apr 10-12: International Biomass Conference & Expo; Minneapolis Convention Center; more info [here](#)
- 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); register [here](#)
- Apr 19: **Water Action Day**; 8-4 pm meet with legislators, rotunda rally @ 1 pm; more info [here](#)
- Apr 24: **LWC Meeting**, 6-8 pm, State Office Building basement hearing room; details to come
- Apr 25: Freshwater Society Moos Family Lecture: **The Death and Life of the Great Lakes** by Dan Eagan; St Paul Student Center; reception at 5:30 pm & lecture at 7:00 pm; free but registration is required [here](#)
- Apr 26: MGWA Spring Workshop: **Management, Analysis, and Optimization of Groundwater Data**; 8 am - 4:30 pm; U of MN Continuing Education and Conference Center (1890 Buford Ave, St Paul); \$145 member/\$195 nonmember; register [here](#)
- May 5: **N & E Metro Groundwater Management Area Project Advisory Team Meeting**; 8:30-11:30; DNR Central Office, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul,
- May 9: Minnesota Day at the **National Climate Adaptation Forum**; registration can be found [here](#)
- May 18: **MN River Congress**; Redwood Falls Community Center; details to come
- Aug 7-9: **WaterWorks! Drinking Water Institute for Educators**; Lakeville; details [here](#)