

Weekly LWC Update 3-3-17

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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Here is the full roster of LWC members for the 2017-2018 biennium:

Senate Members

[Senator Kent Eken](#)
[Senator Jason Isaacson](#)
[Senator Andrew Lang](#)
[Senator Carrie Ruud](#)
[Senator Bill Weber](#)
[Senator Charles Wiger](#)

House Members

[Representative David Bly](#)
[Representative Peter Fischer](#)
[Representative Glenn Gruenhagen](#)
[Representative Clark Johnson](#)
[Representative John Poston](#)
[Representative Paul Torkelson](#)

LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEES ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

In the Senate:

- The Agriculture, Rural Development and Housing Policy Committee heard three bills: SF835 (re-referred to the Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance Committee), SF111 (re-referred to Taxes), and SF1016 (re-referred to the Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance Committee)
- The Energy and Utilities Committee heard and laid over SF316
- The Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee heard SF1131 and re-referred it to the Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance Committee
- The Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance Committee heard SF1087 and re-referred it to the Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee

In the House:

- The Civil Law and Data Practices Committee heard HF1291 and re-referred it to Gov Ops
- The Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee heard testimony on: HF1291 (re-referred to Civil Law), HF1557 (laid over), HF1673 (passed to the general register) and HF1466 (re-referred to Taxes)
- The Government Operations Committee acted on 3 water-related bills: HF1003 (passed to the general register), HF1285 (laid over), and HF1835 (re-referred to State Government Finance)

- The Job Growth Committee heard and laid over HF485
- The Legacy Funding and Finance Committee laid over HF710 and HF717 for possible inclusion in a future omnibus bill
- The Property Tax and Local Government Finance Committee laid over HF200
- The Taxes Committee laid over HF893

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

House File	Chief/LWC Authors	Committee Assignment	Senate File	Chief/LWC Authors	Committee Assignment	Description (as introduced, not as amended)
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
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)
200	Lien, C Johnson, Bly	Ag Policy -> Prop Tax -> laid over	111	Eken	Ag & Rural Dev -> taxes	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)
None	None	None	210	Senjem, Eken	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
457	Howe	ENRPF -> laid over	233	Fischbach	ENRF -> laid over	Extends availability of grant money to remove and prevent aquatic invasive species
710	Uglen	ENRPF -> Legacy-> laid over	262	Ingebrigstson, Ruud	ENRP&LF	\$103,978,000 in 2018 and \$585,000 in 2019 from the outdoor heritage fund to various recipients
284	Hamilton	Ag Finance	315	Westrom	Ag, RDP -> Ag, RDF -> Finance	\$2.218M general fund to MDA to equip ag laboratory
None	None	None	316	Dziedzic	Energy & Utilities -> laid over	\$___ general fund to DOC to establish a green roof advisory task force
431	Norness, Johnson, Torkelson	ENRPF	371	Ingebrigstson, Ruud	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, <i>Torkelson</i>	ENRPF -> W&M (1st Engr) -> gen reg - passed (126-0)	326	Ingebrigste n, <i>Lang</i>	ENRP&LF -> Transp F&P - > ENRF -> Finance -> general orders	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 [note: SF 326 amended to include \$1.4M fire remediation for Madelia and \$296K fire remediation for Watsonwan Co; see HF468/SF627]
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
495	Sundin	Job Growth - laid over	361	Lourey	Cap Invest	\$2.2M bond proceeds to PFA for grant to Big Lake Area Sanitary District for wastewater connection to WLSSD connector in Cloquet
552	Green, <i>Poston</i>	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, Eken	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 register	396	Senjem	Cap Invest	Lanesboro dam project exempted from a nonstate contribution
653	Gunther, <i>C. Johnson, Poston</i>	Job Growth - > laid over	391	Jasinski, <i>Lang</i>	Cap Invest	\$15M bond proceeds to DEED for grants under the Greater MN business development public infrastructure program
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
702	O' Driscoll, <i>Poston, Gruenhage n</i>	ENRPF	695	Newman, <i>Eken</i>	ENRP&LF -> state gov't	provides for expert review of agency actions and prohibits use of unadopted rules
706	Gunther	Legacy -> W&M	565	<i>Ruud</i>	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	<i>Ruud</i>	ENRP&LF	\$50K from the Legacy and Environmental Trust Funds to LCC in FY18 to maintain the dedicated funding website
717	Green	Legacy -> laid over	643	Johnson, <i>Ruud</i>	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
766	Swedzinski	ENRPF -> laid over	672	<i>Ruud, Weber, Eken</i>	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
None	None	None	717	B Anderson, <i>Weber</i>	ENRPF - no action	MPCA must review wastewater treatment projects receiving financial assistance to ID wastewater discharge impact on geographic aquifer; definitions added
1003	Lueck	ENRPF -> Gov Ops -> Gen Reg	737	<i>Weber, Ruud, Eken</i>	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
1858	Miller	ENRPF	835	Draheim, <i>Weber</i>	Ag & Rural Dev -> ENRP&LF	buffer law compliance practices must use only seed mixes grown & processed in MN
761	Hamilton, <i>C Johnson</i>	Ag Policy -> Gov ops -> gen register	960	Westrom	Ag, Rural Dev -> general orders	extends the ag fertilizer research and education program and council

1456	Swedzinski	Ag Policy	1016	Weber	Ag, Rural Dev -> ENRP&LF	modifies public comment and environmental review provisions for CAFOs; mandatory EAW not required for CAFOs <2K animal units; public notice concurrent with CUPs notice by LGU
1291	Fabian	ENRPF -> Civil Law -> Gov Ops	1087	Ingebrigsten, Ruud	ENRP&LF -> Judiciary	modifies permitting, rules, and environmental review processes for DNR & MPCA; eliminates the EQB & transfers duties to the MPCA and gives some duties to the CWC
1387	Newberger, Torkelson	ENRPF -> laid over	1290	Mathews	ENRP&LF	modifies groundwater appropriation permit requirements and well interference claim requirements
1433	Kresha, Torkelson	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
1466	Torkelson	ENRPF -> Taxes	1395	Westrom, Eken	ENRF	\$10M gen fund to Dept of Revenue to make payments to LGUs that assume jurisdiction for implementation and enforcement of the buffer law
1498	Loonan	ENRPF	1131	Hall	ENRF -> ENRP&LF	\$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
1557	Drazkowski	ENRPF -> laid over	1351	Goggin	ENRP&LF	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
1673	Fabian	ENRPF -> gen reg	1695	Ruud	ENRP & LF	DNR game and fish bill; includes a change to 103G.411 re: stipulation of low water mark no longer requires approval of attorney general
893	Davids	Taxes -> laid over	726	Chamberlain	Taxes	Tax bill; includes provision for farmers to receive \$40/tillable acre converted to a public waters buffer

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
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This coming Friday, March 10th is the deadline by which a bill has to be heard in at least one body if it is to see further action this year.

WATER BILLS

The table below shows the water-related bill introductions for the 9th week of session (through 3/3/17). The gold shaded cells are bills introduced this week that are companions to bills introduced previously. Click on the File # hyperlinks for more details. As of 3/3/17, 282 of 3,800 introduced bills (7%) are water-related.

House File	Chief/LWC Authors	Senate File	Chief/LWC Authors	Description (as introduced, not as amended)
1859	Miller	465	Draheim, <i>Lang, Weber</i>	extends deadlines to install buffers on public waters and public ditches by 2 years
1858	Miller	835	Draheim, <i>Weber</i>	buffer law compliance practices must use only seed mixes grown & processed in MN
1058	Hamilton	1516	<i>Eken</i>	\$100K gen fund to LWC to convene independent scientific reviews of MPCA regulatory decisions
1465	<i>Torkelson</i>	1595	Newman	provides for emergency preparedness for RR oil & haz mat spills
1568	Hoppe	1486	<i>Ruud</i>	\$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	1484	<i>Eken</i>	\$16.19M bond proceeds to DNR for flood hazard mitigation grant to Buffalo-Red River WD
1644	Pryor	1536	Eaton	nonwoven personal care disposable products (i.e. "wipes") must not be advertised, packaged or labeled as flushable, septic safe, or sewer safe
1780	Fabian	1330	Johnson, <i>Eken</i>	\$20M bond proceeds to DNR for flood hazard mitigation grants for capital improvements to prevent or alleviate flood damages
893	Davids	726	Chamberlain	Tax bill; includes provision for farmers to receive \$40/tillable acre converted to a public waters buffer
916	Hilstrom	743	Eaton	requires county sheriffs to maintain collection boxes for drugs
1796	<i>C Johnson, Bly</i>	1417	<i>Ruud</i>	establishes 25% water pollution reduction goal by 2025
2029	<i>Fischer</i>	1450	<i>Wiger</i>	\$178K bond proceeds to DEED for grant to Willernie it improve sewers (& streets & city hall)
1863	Dettmer, <i>Fischer</i>	1458	Chamberlain	modifies wetland replacement requirements by defining 80% wetland bank replacement areas

None	None	1462	Lang	\$500K bond proceeds fund to DEED for grant to Lake Lillian to construct a water tower
1807	Lueck	1482	Tomassoni	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
None	None	1569	Westrom	At least 25% of OHF and CWF must be appropriated for buffer easement acquisition
None	None	1570	Westrom	buffer compliance deadlines extended by 2 yrs
None	None	1571	Westrom	\$20M CWF to BWSR for grants to SWCDs to reduce water pollution from rural lands via water conservation measures addressing local needs determined by farmer-led councils appointed by SWCDs
1717	P Anderson	1674	Weber	MDA policy bill; includes modification of MnStat Ch 18B provisions related to experimental pesticide use and treated seeds
1729	Fabian	1592	Ingebrigsten	\$400K gen fund to BWSR to negotiate draft agreements to negotiate draft agreements with EPA & ACE to assume administration of the CWA's Section 404 wetland permit program
1731	Torkelson	1734	Ruud	\$220.514M CWF to MDA, PFA, MPCA, DNR, BWSR, MDH, Met Council, U of MN, LCC
1747	Wagenius	None	None	Met Council must not impose a sewer availability charge on a LGU for existing eating/drinking establishment due to expansion of outdoor seating 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
1813	Thissen	None	None	when a recipient receives >\$25K in Legacy funding, they must prepare a disparities impact report to identify actions taken to decrease or not increase relevant disparities
1846	Thissen, Bly	None	None	MDH & 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
1698	Fenton, Fischer	1561	Nelson	MDH & MDE to develop a model plan to test for Pb in water in K-12 buildings, testing shall be done annually for the 1st 3 yrs and every 5 yrs thereafter
1939	Kresha	1584	Gazelka	\$3.6M bond proceeds to PFA WIF program for grant to Grey Eagle for wastewater system improvements

None	None	1646	Weber, Ruud	\$300K gen fund to MPCA for a grant to Shell Rock River WD for a pilot project for a water quality credit trading program for stormwater
None	None	1647	Weber, Ruud	\$300K CWF to MPCA for a grant to Shell Rock River WD for a pilot project for a water quality credit trading program for stormwater
1943	Nelson	None	None	reenacts sewer availability charge transfer provisions of MnStat 473.517; clarifies application to 7 metro counties
1994	Torkelson, Gruenhagen	1693	Weber	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
2028	Fischer, Torkelson, C Johnson	1731	Ruud, Wiger	exempts stormwater reuse projects from water-use permit requirements
1949	Sundin, C Johnson	None	None	provides for abandonment of pipelines in a manner that protects water quality
1977	Ecklund	None	None	\$1.3M bond proceeds to DEED for grant to Ely for sewer, water, et al infrastructure for business & industrial parks and Vermillion Community College
1986	Bernardy	None	None	\$15K CWF to DNR for grant to New Brighton for aquatic invasive species control & education
1987	Bernardy	None	None	\$900K gen fund to DNR for grants to LGUs & lake associations to control invasive plants under an invasive aquatic plant management permit
2015	Gunther	None	None	DNR must waive the limits for appropriations from water basins serving as the primary municipal water supply source if the basin volume has been increased >20% or the basin watershed is >10 sq mi

MN NEWS

WATER ACTIONS

- Strib: [Proposed EPA cuts would hit Minnesota hard](#) [see related articles in the National section, below]
- Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative: [Mississippi River Mayors Present Infrastructure Plan to White House and Congress to Mitigate for Disaster Impacts](#)
- U of MN: [Become an AIS Detector](#) ; 16 hrs of online and in-person training, held throughout the state (Andover 4/21, Mankato 4/28, Detroit Lakes on 5/4, Alexandria on 5/5, Grand Rapids on 6/2, Bemidji on 6/9, and Brainerd on 6/16); \$175; register [here](#)
- MPCA: [Wade into water monitoring: Find a site](#); find lakes or streams that need volunteer monitors

- Strib: [Minneapolis to sell \\$25 trees to promote better air and water quality](#)
 - Minnehaha Creek Watershed District: [2016 Year in Review](#)
 - DNR: Seven County Geologic Atlases Released
The MN Geological Survey published Part A (Geology) atlases, showing the geology and mineral and groundwater resources for the following counties:
 - [Redwood County](#)
 - [Wadena County](#)
 - [Brown County](#)
 - [Becker County](#)
- The DNR published Part B (Hydrogeology) atlases including groundwater conditions and pollution sensitivity for the following counties:
- [Anoka](#)
 - [Nicollet](#)
 - [Sibley](#)

SURFACE WATER/STORMWATER

- MPR: [Solved: the mystery of Devil's Kettle Falls](#); Pioneer Press: [The mystery of Minnesota's Devil's Kettle has been solved, DNR says](#); Strib: [Scientists think they've solved the mystery of Devil's Kettle Falls](#)
- BWSR: [Public Meeting Notice Minnesota Wetland Bank Program](#)

GREAT LAKES

- Strib: [Great Lakes Commission: Billions needed for water upgrades](#); WCCO: [Great Lakes Commission Says Billions Needed For Water Upgrades](#); NBC: [Great Lakes Commission: Billions needed for water upgrades](#); at the top of the list: \$100B for drinking water, \$73B for wastewater, and \$5B for stormwater



WATER SUPPLY

- Pipestone County Star: [LPRW finds solutions to rising nitrogen levels in drinking water](#)
- WCCO: [Big Lake Police: Vandals Released 600K Gallons Of Water](#) and Strib: [Vandals tamper with 8 Big Lake fire hydrants, release 600K gallons of water](#)
- ABC: [New Measures Would Require Minnesota Schools to Test Water for Lead](#)

AG & WATER

- Minnesota Conservation Volunteer: [The Waters Downhill-Along with crops and cattle, this farmer nurtures a conservation ethic for the watershed](#)
- Water Efficiency: [Smart Irrigation Reduces Nitrogen Leaching](#)
- KLGR: [Adam Birr – Minnesota Corn Growers Association](#); buffer clarifications are on their radar (e.g., private ditches mapped as public waters, alternative practices guidance, and compensation to landowners and local program staff); they have a sustainability vision related to people, the planet, and profits.
- Waseca County: [2017 Farmers' Forum](#), March 9th
- House Public Information Services: [Bill called 'clear message' to farmers on concerns over buffer requirements](#)
- WNAX: [Minnesota Farm Groups Work With Lawmakers to Tweak Buffer Law](#)

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

- MPR: [Iron Range residents sue Dayton over mining near Boundary Waters](#)

OPINIONS

- Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: [U.S. Steel, environmental groups at odds with regulator](#)

BEYOND MINNESOTA

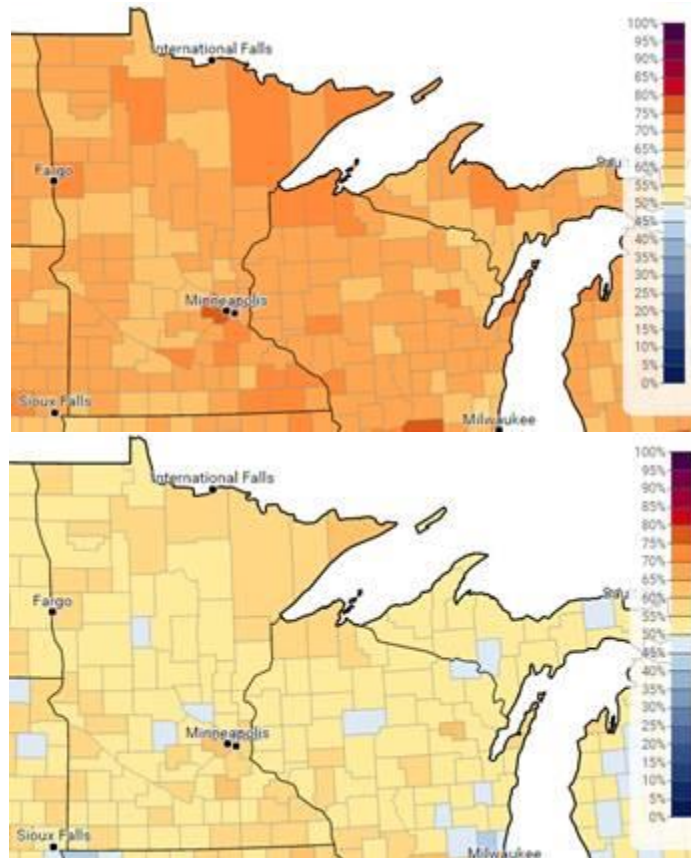
REGIONAL

- ABC News: [Water main break in New Jersey creates sinkhole, swallows SUV](#)
- WPR: [Bayfield County Presses State For More Authority To Protect Water Resources From Farm Runoff](#)
- The Daily Republic: [For wildlife and clean water, Legislature OKs a tax break for agricultural buffer strips](#)
- NBC: ['A Tragedy': Hundreds of Thousands of California Residents Exposed to Contaminated Water](#); rain may have returned, but aquifers aren't recharged
- Water Deeply: [Day of Action Targets Data on California's Water Rates](#)
- NPR: [To Keep Future Droughts at Bay, Oklahoma Looks to Store Water Underground Before it Flows Away](#)
- The Des Moines Register: [Water utilities bill heads to the Iowa House floor](#)

NATIONAL

- Strib: [New EPA chief delays mining rule after industry objects](#)
- Pioneer Press: [White House proposes cutting EPA staff by one-fifth, eliminating key programs](#); The Oregonian: [Here are 42 of President Donald Trump's planned EPA budget cuts](#); the expectation is to focus on clean water, clean air and other core activities required by law; however, 30% cuts in state air and water program grants are planned
- Strib: [Lawmaker says Trump infrastructure plan not all gov't money](#); The State: [Despite Trump's pledge, governors expect little federal spending on infrastructure](#)
- NPR: [Trump Aims To 'Eliminate' Clean Water Rule](#); CNBC: [Trump executive order seeks to roll back controversial Obama water rules](#); KLGR: [Amber Hanson – MFBF Policy Director – WOTUS](#); Strib: [AP Explains: Trump executive order on water protection](#); NCSL: [Trump's Executive Order Puts WOTUS on Notice](#); AJOT: [WOTUS rollback welcome relief for farmers](#)
- Environmental Defense Fund: [How Congress can help farmers stay profitable and resilient](#)

- Yale Program on Climate Change Communication: [Yale Climate Opinion Maps – U.S. 2016](#); nationally about 70% of US adults think global warming is happening, but only 58% are worried about it (MN #s are slightly below the national averages, at 69% and 56%, respectively)



MEETINGS

CWC

The Governor’s three new appointments to the Clean Water Council were introduced at their February meeting: Steven Besser (represents statewide fishing organizations, replaces John Underhill), Douglas Losee (represents business organizations, replaces Patrick Flowers), and Rylee Main (represents environmental organizations, replaces Gene Merriam). Sen Ann Rest and Sen David Osmek are the Senate’s non-voting members and Rep Paul Torkelson and Rep Jean Wagenius are the House’s non-voting members. New leaders were elected: Chair – Frank Jewell and Vice Chair – Pam Blixt,

BWSR staff gave an update on the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, which marries the Reinvest in MN program with the Conservation Reserve Program in order to leverage funding. Of the \$150M state share needed to fulfill the MN-USDA agreement, \$55M has already been secured and appropriations for this Session have been recommended as follows: \$15.7M Outdoor Heritage Fund, \$33.5M Clean Water Fund, \$6M Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, and \$30M bonding. That leaves a gap of \$9.2M, which, if not appropriated this year, will be requested next year. BWSR wishes to get as much of the state funding committed upfront so that they can rapidly enroll interested farmers. Their goal is to enroll 60,000 acres within 5 years.

SWCD staff from Lake and Cook Counties gave an overview of the approved [Lake Superior North One Watershed One Plan](#), which puts more emphasis on resource protection vs restoration.

Staff from Land 'O Lakes made a presentation to describe the steps they are taking to partner with businesses, non-profits organizations, and government agencies to increase the sustainability of agricultural production by adding the delivery of precision conservation advice to precision agriculture services. Since Land 'O Lakes has a connection to many producers and ag acres in MN, they want to use that network to learn how they can effectively broaden the scale conservation efforts to help farmers bottom line while protecting the environment. Ms Kenow recommended that fewer Clean Water Fund dollars be spend on studying, monitoring, and planning and that more CWF dollars be put toward implementation.

Anna Henderson, the Governor's Water Advisor, gave a brief overview of the Governor's 2016 Water Summit in St Paul, his 2017 Water Summit in Morris, his call to action for "25% improvement in water quality by 2025", and his plan for a series of 8-10 Town Hall Water Summits across the state between July and October, 2017. The intent of these public meetings is to have a transparent process that can be used to stimulate local conversations that result in citizen input on local water priorities and suggestions for how to speed project implementation to meet those priorities. The process will culminate in another Summit in January 2018 from which legislative proposals will be developed. Anna has asked the CWC to provide input on the Summits, so far, as well as their proposed process and the role the CWC might play in it. Some ideas were offered but more will be gathered and presented more formally at a later CWC meeting.

FORGING WATER TECH EFFICIENCIES

The U hosted a Water Technology Listening Session this week to explore ideas and partnership structures that can help agencies, businesses, and utilities overcome barriers to accessing new technology and piloting new processes or equipment. About 20 people shared their experiences and ideas for creating a public-private partnership to promote faster and easier testing of new water technologies that can benefit utilities, users, and technology companies. According to the session conveners, there is support for the developing a collaborative network, although structure and funding ideas have yet to coalesce. Additionally, a need was identified to have this network serve in an educational role to help overcome barriers of public perception and to advance regulations that are behind the pace of technology advances.

WATER CONSERVATION ON THE MOVE

Momentum is gaining in efforts to advance water conservation. This week, the League of MN Cities hosted a GreenStep Cities event about water conservation and reuse. The [MN GreenStep Cities](#) program is a voluntary challenge, assistance, and recognition program designed to help cities achieve their sustainability and quality-of-life goals. Water conservation has recently been integrated into the GreenSteps program. About 50 people attended the event either in person or via webinar.

Their first speaker was Carmelita Nelson, DNR, who described the Water Supply Plans required to be developed by municipalities. These plans must include what steps a city will take to promote water conservation by consumers, as well as how they will improve efficiency to reduce demand on the supply side of the equation. DNR has recognized the need to improve water conservation reporting so it is meaningful and efficient. They are embarking on an effort to develop a more automated Water Conservation Reporting System that will help water suppliers take credit for their efforts, identify options for improving conservation, and benchmarking water conservation progress. Seminar participants offered many good suggestions to assist DNR with this task.

Next up, Brian Davis of Met Council, explained the water demand trends in the metro area and how they are related to lawn and turf irrigation. He noted there are some metro communities that are already doing a good job of conserving water, but there are cities where it makes good financial sense to conserve water. For instance, if increases in water use can be off-set by conservation, the avoided cost

of a new well and its associated system could be in the neighborhood of \$2M. Triggers for increased conservation could be: increasing residential use (in gallons per capita per day, especially where residential use is already in excess of 75gpcd), a peak summer to winter use of >2:1, or cities with the highest projected population increases.

Kay Qualley, City of Fridley, described urban landscaping alternatives that are less water dependent and city ordinances to support them. Urban food production is an emerging trend for some cities that may affect water use.

Anne Gelbmann, MPCA, explained the Stormwater Reuse and Resilience section of the MN Stormwater Manual. In her presentation, she shared examples of existing and proposed public and private stormwater reuse projects. The Water Reuse Task Force is scheduled to share the results of a health risk assessment of practices this coming July.

WASHINGTON CO WATER CONSORTIUM

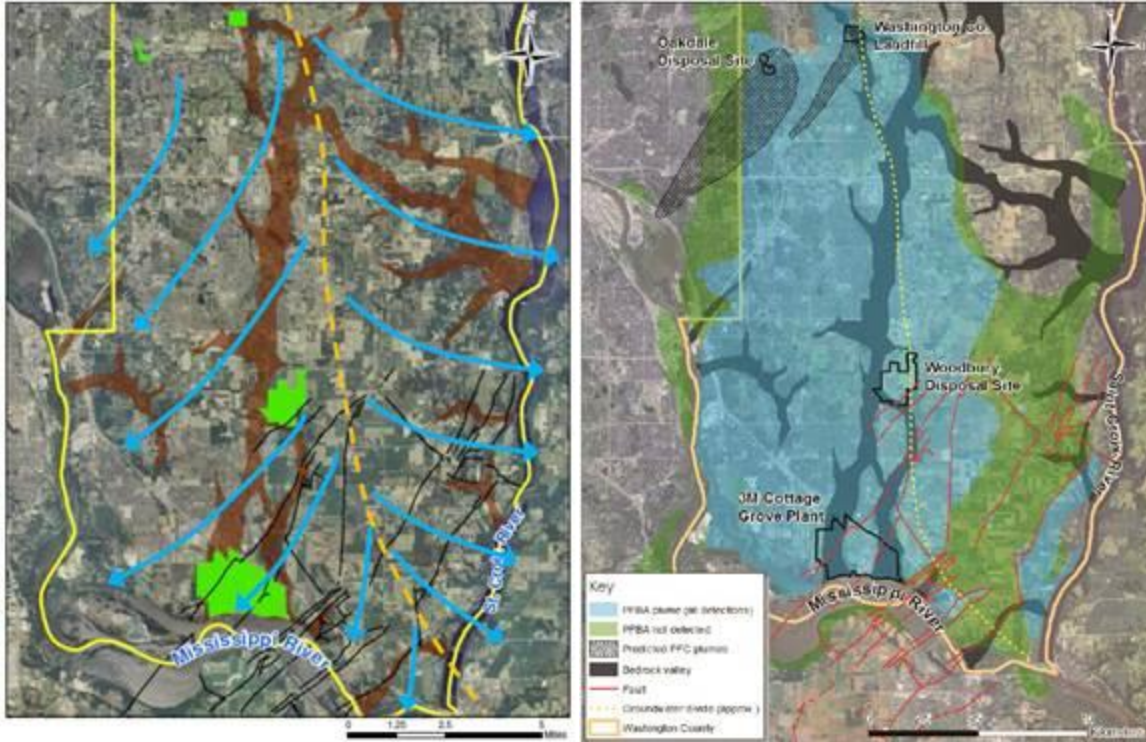
For many years, Washington County staff have hosted meetings to help local government staff and stakeholders stay apprised of surface water and groundwater efforts affecting the county. At this month's meeting, water supply sustainability and perfluorochemicals (PFCs) in groundwater were the topics that drew nearly 40 participants.

Brian Davis (Met Council Sr. Engineer) and Chris Larson (S.E.H. Project Manager) described the findings of their recently published [Washington County Municipal Water Coalition – Water Supply Feasibility Assessment](#). Nine communities were included in this study and their population is expected to increase from 70,000 people to 216,000 people in 2040. The Jordan bedrock unit is the primary aquifer in use today and it has issues with contamination, aquifer decline, and impact on connected trout streams. This was an evaluation of 4 approaches to determine their cost effectiveness:

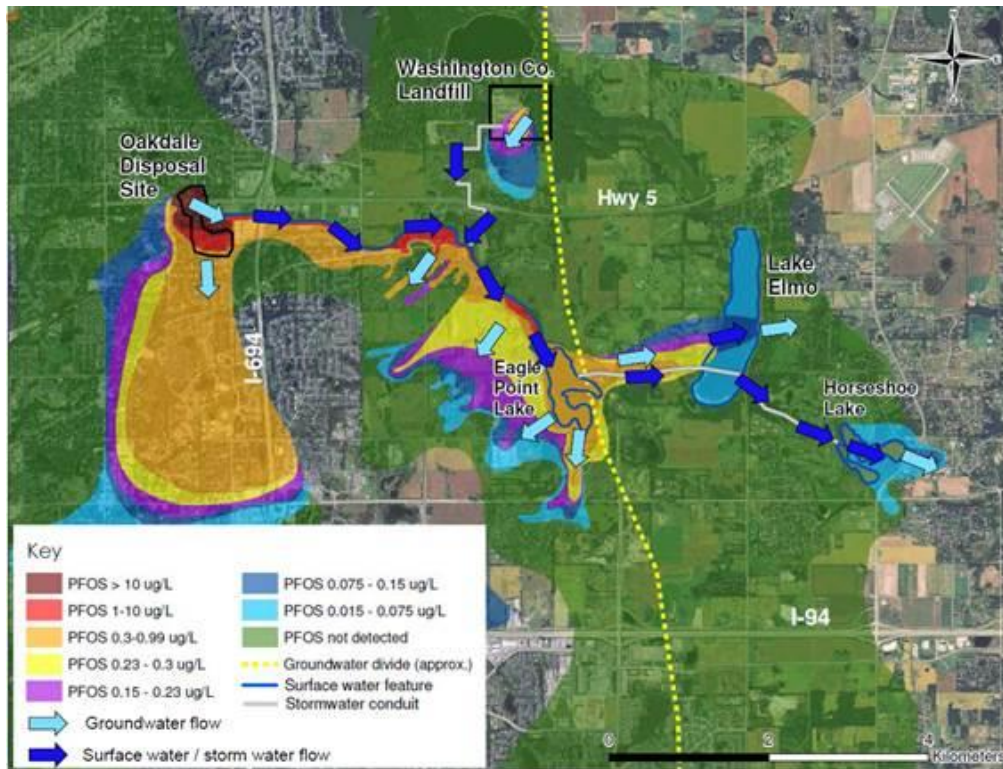
1. Reusing groundwater pumped to contain 3M contamination
2. Using river water from the St Croix or Mississippi rivers in conjunction with groundwater
3. Connecting to St Paul Regional Water Services
4. Drilling new wells and optimizing well fields

As the report explains, there are pros and cons to each option, but the 4th option is the lowest cost. One outcome of the stakeholder process to develop this report was the desire to proceed with an efficiency study to analyze each city's water use and conservation measures to identify what water efficiency and conservation options remain untapped. This report should be ready in June 2017.

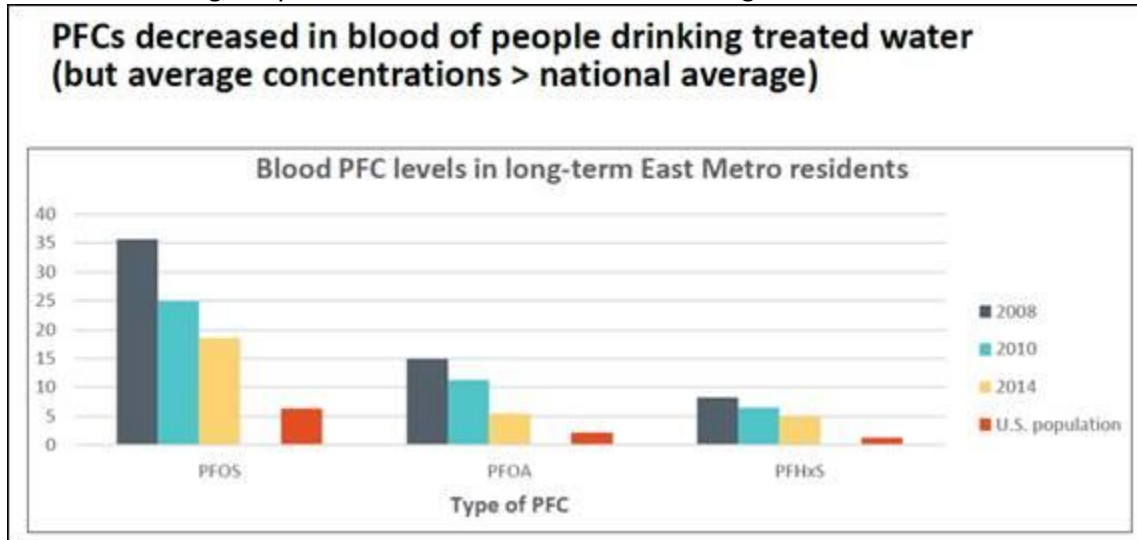
Ginny Yingling, a hydrogeologist at MDH, described PFCs as a broad class of chemical compounds manufactured for use in many industrial and commercial applications needing "non-sticking" properties, such as firefighting foams, stain resistant coatings, and chromium plating. Their use began in the 1940's and 3M has been a leading manufacturer of these compounds and products in MN. The chemical structure of this class of compounds means they don't break down in the environment, they don't adsorb readily to aquifer materials, and they are readily absorbed into blood serum. Exposure to very small concentrations can lead to negative developmental and immune system effects. PFCs were first detected in Washington County groundwater in 2002 and the resultant contaminated groundwater plumes are linked to 4 disposal or manufacturing sites used by 3M (see maps below). Movement of the contamination has been affected by the direction of groundwater flow (blue lines), the location of buried bedrock valleys (brown areas), the presence of geologic faults (black lines) and fractures (not shown) in the bedrock, resulting in a large plume of contamination (blue area).



Complicating matters further, MDH hydrogeologists have also discovered that strong surface water – groundwater connections near the Oakdale and Washington Co landfill sites have extended contaminant transport into areas that would not have been expected if only groundwater transport pathways were considered.



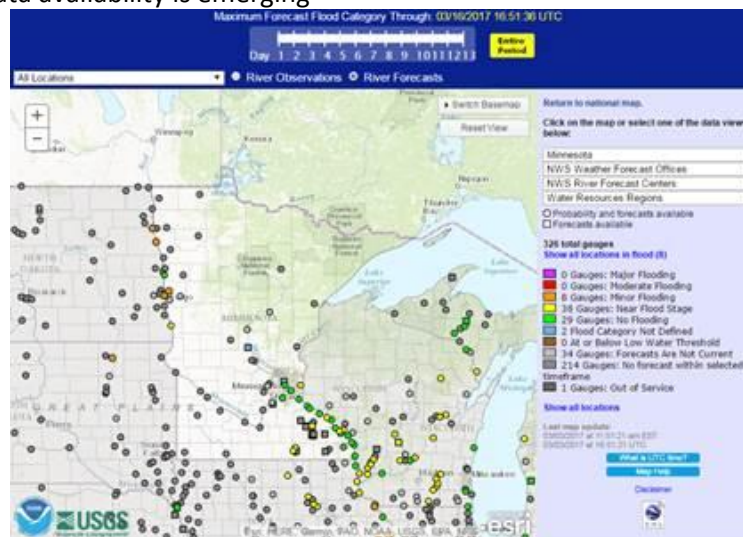
Before last August, 3M has paid to have contaminated wells in this area outfitted with granulated activate carbon filtration to protect public health. In August, EPA issued a lower health advisory limit (70 ppt, alone or combined), which meant that MDH and MPCA have had to retest unfiltered wells to see if the exposure limits met this new threshold. Over 500 wells have been sampled, resulting in 175 new well advisories. Until these new sites can be connected to city water or provided granuated active carbon filters, they are being supplied bottled water. Although the blood levels of PFCs in east metro residents are declining, they are still well above the national average.



REPORTS

STATE OF MN WATER

- DNR: Stream Flow Report – discontinued until spring
- DNR: [HydroClim Minnesota for Early March 2017](#); an early spring expected with the spring leaf index being 2-3 weeks ahead of normal
- National Drought Mitigation Center: 2/28/17 [MN Drought Monitor](#)
- NOAA-National Weather Service: [Maximum Forecast Flood Category Through: 03/16/2017](#); flood forecast data availability is emerging



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 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 20: **MnDRIVE 2017 Research Symposium – Advancing Industry, Conserving the Environment**; 1-5 pm, U of MN – Walter Library Digital Technology Center; more details to come
- 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](#)
- 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](#)
- 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](#)