

Legislative Water Commission Update 03/02/2018

ERRORS? OMISSIONS? If found, please notify jim.stark@lcc.leg.mn.

Interested reader: It is my honor to follow Barb Huberty as the Director of the Legislative Water Commission. I'll continue to follow Barb's lead in gathering information for Legislative Water Commission Members to help keep them apprised about water issues in Minnesota. This update contains a roundup of Minnesota water news, as well as articles from beyond Minnesota that may inform members. 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.

It has been my good fortune to have worked with many of you during my tenure with the U. S Geological Survey. If we have not met, I hope to meet you soon. I look forward to continuing to work on water issues that are so important to all of us in Minnesota

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MN NEWS

WATER ACTIONS

- ✓ MASWCD: [2017 award winners](#)
- ✓ Governor Dayton releases new water-quality report and urges investment to ensure clean water for Minnesota. Visit: <https://www.leg.state.mn.us/lr/mngov/stateofstate>
- ✓ Minnesota settles water pollution lawsuit against 3M. Visit: <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2018/02/21/3m-settlement-what-you-need-to-know>

SURFACE WATER/STORMWATER

- ✓ GoMN: [Antibiotics are ending up in Minnesota's lakes, so here's how to dispose of them properly](#)
- ✓ The Dickenson Press: [Flood diversion task force finds common ground in some, not all cases;](#)
- ✓ MPR: [Saving the Fargo-Moorhead flood diversion project will be costly](#)
- ✓ Sleepy Eye Herald Dispatch: [Local students participate in Minnesota River basin water monitoring program](#)
- ✓ UMD: [Study: Too many nutrients make microbes less responsive](#)
- ✓ Star Tribune: [Minnesota briefs: Public comment sought on state's tainted waters](#)

FLOOD

- ✓ National Flood Forecast Center, North Central Region: The snowpack around the region was widespread as of February 13th, but amounts are relatively light. Snow depth is only an inch or less for portions of western Minnesota. Northern Minnesota had a snow pack of up to 7 to 12 inches, with higher amounts of 15 to 20 inches closer to the international border and in the Arrowhead region. A band of snow extends from southern Minnesota across Wisconsin, with depths as much as 8 to 12 inches, while another band stretches across Iowa, through southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois, and into lower Michigan. For details, visit: www.weather.gov/ncrfc
- ✓ National Drought Mitigation Center: Visit: <http://drought.unl.edu/>

GREAT LAKES

- ✓ DNR: [Great Lakes- St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact Annual Water Conservation and Efficiency Assessment](#)
- ✓ MPCA: ["It takes a \(shipping\) village: Duluth's harbor springs to life"](#)
- ✓ Lake Superior Lakewide Action and Management Plan—2017 Annual Report--The Lake Superior Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP) is a binational plan for restoring and protecting the Lake Superior ecosystem. This 2017 annual report highlights accomplishments and progress during the past year including outreach, monitoring, and protection and restoration actions. The LAMP is developed and implemented by the Lake Superior Partnership, which is led by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Environment and Climate Change Canada. The [Lake Superior Lakewide Action and Management Plan](#) was released in 2016. Visit: <https://binational.net/2017/10/24/lzar2017/>

WATER SUPPLY

- ✓ DNR: [New Water Conservation Reporting System](#); 360 municipal water suppliers have received their training to use this new tool; between 1/2/18 and 3/30/18, they will be loading their data to the system for the first time; once the data is in, DNR can run reports to create snapshots of the state of water conservation in MN
- ✓ Mankato Free Press: [Mankato water gets a fresh set of filters](#)

WASTEWATER

- MPR: [Minn. cities want a break as they face costly sewer work, new rules](#)
- Metropolitan Council: A workshop (March 1 in Brooklyn Park) and hearing (St. Paul, March 13) are being held on wastewater reuse and related policy, Contact Tim O'Donnelly at (651) 602-1477 for details.

AGRICULTURE AND WATER

- West Central Tribune: [Kandiyohi County adopts buffer enforcement ordinance](#)
- The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) has been evaluating the feasibility of developing a Working Lands Incentive Program to help advance research and implementation of perennial crops and cash cover crops. During a workshop, they discussed market opportunities and the bio-economy needed to support this shift. Participants were asked to share their ideas about a working lands incentive program. BWSR staff are taking this input back to their planning group to flesh out recommendations and next steps. The program is supported by an appropriation from the legislature.

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

- ✓ Minneapolis/St Paul Business Journal: [PolyMet offers \\$544 million to cover risks at Minnesota mine](#)
- ✓ Pioneer Press: [Minnesota PUC wants more details on Line 3 oil pipeline](#)
- The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources released a draft permit for PolyMet Mining, a major step forward for what's poised to be the first copper-nickel mine in the state. The project would spur a new mining industry on the Iron Range, but would carry with it new environmental risks in the most pristine corner of the state. Visit: <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2018/01/05/dnr-polymet-copper-nickel-mine-draft-permit-iron-range>

OPINIONS

- ✓ St Louis Dispatch: [Editorial: Clean water? Don't worry your pretty little heads about it](#)
- ✓ MinnPost: [Minnesota can have both mining and clean water](#)
- ✓ South Washington County Bulletin: [Rep. Tony Jurgens viewpoint: Investigating water pollution lawsuit](#)

BEYOND MINNESOTA

REGIONAL

- ✓ MLive: [Michigan bill proposes nation's lowest PFAS limit in drinking water](#)

NATIONAL

- ✓ USDA: [USDA Highlights \\$40 Million in Infrastructure Investments in Rural Communities](#)
- USGS: Pharmaceuticals in Water: The presence of pharmaceuticals in aquatic systems in the United States and Europe is well documented. Pharmaceuticals are designed to induce a biochemical response at very low concentrations, raising questions regarding the risk for unintended sublethal effects in exposed non-target organisms. **Visit:** https://toxics.usgs.gov/highlights/2017-10-17-prioritisation_of_pharmaceuticals.html.
- EurekAlert: [Landmark paper on global oceans garners international award](#); *"Five percent of all the nitrogen in the Gulf of Mexico comes from Minnesota and 11 percent comes from Iowa," said John A. Downing, director of the University of Minnesota Sea Grant"*

MEETINGS

The Legislative Water Commission met on February 26. During that meeting the Commission members discussed and prioritized action items for the upcoming year. Draft Minutes of the meeting may be found at: https://www.lcc.leg.mn/lwc/Meetings/2018/180226_Minutes_Draft.pdf

REPORTS

STATE OF MN WATER

- ✓ DNR: MN Stream Flow Report – ended for the year
- ✓ DNR: HydroClim Minnesota Visit: www.dnr.state.mn.us/hydroclim/index.html
- ✓ Mankato State University: Minnesota River weekly update: To sign up to receive the Minnesota River Weekly Update go to the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance's Bulletin Board at: <http://mail.mnsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/mrwa> By subscribing to the Bulletin Board you will receive the Weekly Update.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar 6-8: MRWA Water & Wastewater Technical Conference; St Cloud; more info to come
- Mar 19-20: DNR's The Science of Healthy Waters: The Ditching Dilemma workshop; Blue Earth, more info to come [here](#)
- April 12-14, 2018: Freshwater Society's: The State of Water Conference; details to come
- May 1-3: MN-ND-SD AWWA Surface Water Treatment Workshop; Courtyard by Marriott in Moorhead; info to come @ www.AWWAND.org
- May 10, 2018: Smart Water Technology Roundtable: Workshop for IOT Solutions in Water Treatment; Uponor, 5925 148th St W, Apple Valley; contact Steve.Riedel@state.mn.us for more info
- June 3-7, 2018: American Society of Civil Engineers World Environmental and Water Resources Congress; details to come at www.ewricongress.org
- July 10-12, 2018: US Water Alliance's One Water Summit will be at the Hyatt hotel in

downtown Minneapolis; details to come.

- WE ARE MINNESOTA WATER: The Minnesota Historical Center, in cooperation with several state agencies will have a display at the Capitol through March 11. The display will then go on tour across the state. Visit: [We are Water MN](#) for the tour locations and dates. For more information contact:
Margaret Wagner: 651-201-6488, margaret.wagner@state.mn.us
- The 2018 Rainy- Lake of the Woods Watershed Forum will be held at Rainy Lake Community College in International Falls in March 7-8. The Forum Program and Abstracts for the 2018 International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Forum are now available. Visit: www.lowwsf.com/watershed-forum
- The St. Louis River Summit brings together key audiences working in the region. The Summit actively fosters communication, networking and problem-solving on issues affecting the environmental health of the estuary and related community well-being. The Summit will be held at UW-Superior's campus. March 13 - March 14, 2018. <http://www.cvent.com/d/2tq1yf>
- Next meeting of the Legislative Water Commission: **March 26 at 6:00 pm.**