

Legislative Water Commission Update 04/30/2018

ERRORS? OMISSIONS? Please notify jim.stark@lcc.leg.mn.

This update is a roundup of Minnesota water news, as well as articles from beyond Minnesota, that may inform members. It also includes summaries of meetings and reports 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.

I look forward to continuing to work on water issues that are important to all of us.

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- **Next meeting of the Legislative Water Commission: June: date to be determined**
- **The Commission met on April 23. Minutes are available at:** www.lcc.leg.mn/lwc/
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MINNESOTA NEWS:

Pictures of local flooding—Cottonwood River at New Ulm, WCCO

<http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/photo-galleries/2018/04/24/spring-flooding-in-new-ulm/>

KSTP: Crews closed a portion of Highway 7 in Watertown Township on April 25, due to a spill of ethanol.

<http://kstp.com/traffic/kstp-traffic-round-up-tipped-semi-truck-closure-highway-7-watertown-township-carver-county/4880067/>

Minnesota Water Action Day, May 2, 8-4 pm at the State Capitol. Learn about the most important water issues facing Minnesotans today, meet legislators, or join the rally. Sponsored by Friends of the Mississippi River and other environmental organizations. Learn more on the [event page](#).

2018 Clean Water Fund Performance Report Minnesota agencies released their fourth report to help Minnesotans clarify connections between Clean Water funds invested, actions taken and outcomes achieved. Measures provide a snapshot of how Clean Water Fund dollars are being spent and what progress has been made. The measures are organized into four categories: investment, surface water quality, drinking water protection, and external drivers and social measures.

Cleaning up polluted water is tough, but possible. Here's how:

Once a body of water gets dirty, it's difficult to clean up. Removing pollutants from a body of water is costly, time-consuming and rare. But it's not impossible. MPR

WATER ACTIONS

The Legislative Water Commission met at an April 23 and heard a presentation on the County Geologic Atlas Program. The agenda also included the following topics: 2018 Clean Water Fund Performance Report, 25 by 25 Town Hall Summary, 2018 LWC recommendations, 2019 LWC priority issues and process, LWC engagement summer tour schedule, and updates on water-related bills.

Clean Water Council: The Clean Water Council Stakeholder's meeting met on April 23. Meeting highlights included recommendations on future programs being funded by the Clean Water Fund. Contact Deepa deAlwis (651) 757-2572

BWSR Board: The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Buffers, Soils, and Drainage Committee met in St. Paul to review public comments on a draft amendment to the Administrative Penalty Order Plan (APO) for Buffer Implementation. Based on comments received via the public notice, the Board Committee voted unanimously to reject the proposal. **Read the press release here. Read the letter Executive Director John Jaschke shared with Ag groups earlier this week here.**

One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants: The Board of Water and Soil Resources is accepting proposals for One Watershed, One Plan planning grants using funds appropriated from the Clean Water Fund. This grant application period will run from April 2 through July 2, with funds awarded at the Board's August meeting. Please visit the **Apply for BWSR Grants page** for more information.

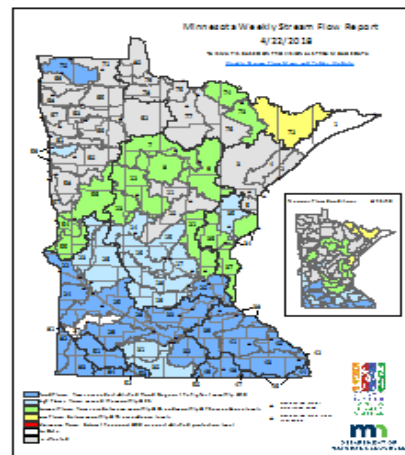
GROUNDWATER

Viruses in Groundwater: Jim Walsh (MDH) describes a cooperative study with the USGS and the U. S. Department of Agriculture to a group at the Minnesota Geological Survey. The team is finding widespread detections of virus indicators in groundwater throughout the state. Some of these viruses have the potential to cause gastrointestinal illnesses in drinking water. It appears that these are related to precipitation events, vertical fractures in geologic materials, or to poor well construction. Contact: james.f.walsh@mn.state.us

SURFACE WATER/STORMWATER

National Flood Forecast Center, North Central Region: Due to spring snowfall and recent warm temperatures, there are areas where the potential for flooding is occurring. For details, visit: www.weather.gov/ncrfc

DNR: Maps and tables are available on stream flow conditions found throughout Minnesota. Current stream flows are compared with historical flow data and watersheds are ranked in the following categories (flood, high, normal, low, protected flow). Weekly stream flow maps and tables are generated on Mondays from April to October. [Weekly Stream Flow Reports | Minnesota Department of Natural Resources](#)



WATER AND AGRICULTURE

Freshwater Society has a new report about the impacts of agriculture on groundwater. The report urges State support to encourage new practices in order to transition to a more sustainable agricultural system. Visit: https://freshwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/GW3_Final.pdf

NORTHERN BORDER LAKES

The Binational Rainy Lake-Lake of the Woods. Rule curves have been revised for ecological discharge targets for the Rainy River and have been adopted by the IJC. The Board has recommended that Ontario and Manitoba adopt the Minnesota TMDL phosphorus load-reduction goal of 18.4 percent and the IJC has endorsed this recommendation. An aquatic and ecological health report for the watershed is in progress as are coordinated water quality objectives and standards. The Minnesota TMDL is held in high regard. There is a need for the IJC and the Board to coordinate with the state and with the provinces. Contact: jim.stark@lcc.leg.mn

WATER SUPPLY

A Water Efficiency and Conservation State Scorecard was recently released. Various state agency staff were responsible for completing the national survey. Minnesota received a “B” grade of water conservation laws... The scorecard is based on work for the Alliance for Efficiency. Visit: <http://www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org/Resource-Library-2017StateScorecard.aspx>

WASTEWATER

MPR: [Minn. cities want a break as they face costly sewer work, new rules](#)

AGRICULTURE AND WATER

Pioneer Public TV recently produced a segment on Minnesota’s public-private partnerships to address agricultural water quality. <https://video.pioneer.org/video/3010886689/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 1-3: **The 2018 Surface Water Treatment Workshop** is scheduled for May 1-3, at the Courtyard by

Marriot in Moorhead, MN. The event is put on by the ND, MN, and SD sections of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) every other year. The conference provides current regulatory, technical, process, and operational information to around 200 engineers, scientists, municipalities, and end users of water treatment facilities with an emphasis on surface water. For more information, go to <http://www.mnawwa.org/page/SWTWHome>

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.**

The International Association of Great Lakes Research and Michigan Technological University have announced the 2018 State of Lake Superior (SOLS) Conference will be held October 9-12 in Houghton, Michigan. Hosted on the MTU campus, SOLS will be a multi-day conference and include invited sessions and abstracts, plenary sessions, field trips, and associated meetings. Stay tuned for more details and the Call for Sessions in coming weeks at iaglr.org/sol/sols18.

The biennial 2018 Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC) will be a Joint Conference with the North American Invasive Species Management Association, **October 15-18, 2018** at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester, MN. Abstract Submission Is Open. Deadline to Submit an Abstract for Presentation: Wednesday, April 11, 2018. They are expecting about 700 people to attend. See <https://www.umisc.net/> or contact Doug Jensen, conference co-chair.

WE ARE MINNESOTA WATER: The Minnesota Historical Center, in cooperation with several state agencies have a display which is touring across the state. Visit: [We are Water MN](#) for the tour locations and dates. For more information contact: Margaret Wagner: [651-201-6488](tel:651-201-6488), margaret.wagner@state.mn.us

Minnesota Water Resources Conference: October 16–17, 2018, Saint Paul River Centre : The Minnesota Water Resources Conference presents innovative, practical, and applied water resource engineering solutions, management techniques, and current research about Minnesota's water resources. For More information contact: Nichole Salinas, College of Continuing and Professional Studies, University of Minnesota, [612-301-2448](tel:612-301-2448), ccapsconf3@umn.edu

Clean Water Brownbag: Arsenic in Minnesota's private drinking water wells: new understanding about sampling protocols and temporal geochemical changes (May 16 at noon). A study between MDH and the US Geological Survey has resulted in important new understanding about arsenic concentrations in newly constructed private drinking water wells. A major finding is that water sampling protocols—filtration, timing, and sample point—influence variability in arsenic concentrations in new drinking water wells ([study publication](#)). Contact sue.lang@state.mn.us

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts Summer Tour: June 20-22: the tour will focus on the lower Minnesota River. Visit: mnwatershed.org

2018 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE; INFORMATION AND PROGRESS ON BILLS THAT RELATE TO WATER

SF 3077: The Senate Taxes Committee will meet at 8:30 AM to hear a number of bills including SF 3077 (Lang) which modifies watershed districts levy authority.

SF 3141: The Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance rolled out its omnibus bill (SF 3141), took testimony and amendments, and passed the bill to the Senate Finance Committee. The following provisions involve water issues:

- \$425,000 for grants to lake associations to manage AIS in partnership with local governments.
- Policy to better coordinate local water planning processes and streamline reporting requirements.
- Provision clarifying that a soil loss ordinance is only applicable in counties that have adopted a soil loss ordinance (the language was removed in 2015 and this adds it back to statute).
- Discontinuance of Ramsey County SWCD.
- Moratorium for Muskie stocking in Otter Tail County.
- Drainage Work Group recommendations.

SF 3969 (Chamberlain): A bill for an act relating to waters; creating certification program for new wastewater treatment technology; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes.

SF 4001 (Utke): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; restricting authority of Board of Water and Soil Resources to amend plan for administrative penalty orders.

HF 2887: Groundwater Protection Measure (HF 2887, SF 2720). The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and Governor Dayton have proposed Groundwater Protection Measure to limit nitrate pollution in drinking water. A bill to forbid the MDA from implementing the Groundwater Protection Measure has been moving through both the House and the Senate.

HF3122 (Urdahl) / SF2668 (Dahms) - Public facilities authority clean water bond issue and appropriations for \$167 million

HF3332 (Urdahl) / SF3075 (Westrom) -- Wastewater infrastructure projects supplemental grant bond issue and appropriation (relates to statutes 446A.072 and 446A.073)

HF 3352 (Heintzeman) / SF 2934 (Westrom)—ML2018 FY2019 ENRTF funding bill

HF-3502: The House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance walked through and took testimony on its omnibus bill (HF 3502), considered amendments and passed the bill to the Ways and Means Committee on Thursday. Key provisions in the bill include:

- Policy to better coordinate local water planning processes and streamline reporting requirements.
- Discontinuance of Ramsey County SWCD.
- Pared down Drainage Work Group recommendations.

(HF 3577, SH 3199): Legislation would provide liability relief for **salt applicators** who have completed certified training through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. This bill has passed with bipartisan support through several House committees and one Senate committee.

HF-3836: Engrossment, Rep. Torkelson, Chief Author, (Drainage Working Group) recommendations,

companion bill to SF-3410):

The House Legacy Finance Committee took testimony, considered amendments, and passed its omnibus bill (HF 4167) on Monday of last week. The bill includes appropriations from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, Clean Water Fund, and Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. The bill also includes a requirement for notification to counties for fee-title land acquisitions funded from the LSOHC.

HF 4443 (Lee): A bill relating to the environment; providing for offers of supplemental environmental projects in conjunction with certain enforcement actions against polluters; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 116.

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

USGS: Release of National Water Quality Program Circular 1437, “**Understanding the influence of nutrients on stream ecosystems in agricultural landscapes**”. This circular summarizes important findings on nutrients and their effects in agricultural streams in eight study areas, all of which were part of the Cycle II Nutrient Enrichment Effects Study. USGS Circulars are well illustrated reports meant for wide distribution: U.S. Geological Survey Circular 1437, 80 p., <https://doi.org/10.3133/cir1437>.