

Legislative Water Commission
October 23, 2014
Room 200, State Office Building

Meeting Minutes

Members Present

Sen. Chamberlain
Sen. Dahms
Rep. Dean
Rep. Fischer
Rep. Johnson
Rep. Hamilton
Rep. Persell
Sen. Ruud
Sen. Scalze
Sen. Schmit
Rep. Torkelson
Sen. Wiger

Senator Sandy Pappas, Chair, Legislative Coordinating Commission, convened the meeting of the Legislative Water Commission at 9:02 AM on Thursday, October 23, 2014 in Room 200 of the State Office Building.

A quorum was present.

Members and staff introduced themselves.

Election of officers

Members discussed the election of officers to the Commission.

Sen. Pappas designated Sen. Bev Scalze to take over chairing the meeting with the recommendation the Commission start on their agenda.

At 9:11 AM Sen. Scalze took the gavel.

Rep. Hamilton moved the Commission elect the officers today. Sen. Dahms seconded.

Rep. Fischer moved to amend the Hamilton motion to provide that the officers serve only until after the election. Rep. Fischer withdrew his amendment.

Rep. Hamilton amended his motion to state the Commission elect the officers today and in the event the chair does not return after the election, the Commission will hold an additional vote to replace that individual. THE MOTION PREVAILED.

Rep. Hamilton moved to elect Rep. Torkelson as chair of the Legislative Water Commission. Sen. Wiger moved to amend the Hamilton motion to nominate Sen. Scalze as vice chair. Rep. Hamilton accepted the Wiger amendment.

Members discussed the possibility of having a co-chair structure.

Rep. Hamilton temporarily withdrew his motion.

Sen. Schmit moved to elect Sen. Scalze as chair and task a subcommittee to discuss and identify possible co-chairs or vice chairs and come back to the Commission with ideas for an officer structure.

Sen. Scalze asked if there were any other Commission members interested in serving as chair or vice chair. Rep. Fischer stated he was interested in serving as chair.

Rep. Torkelson addressed the Commission on why he was interested as serving as chair.

Rep. Fischer addressed the Commission on why he was interested in serving as the chair.

Rep. Hamilton moved to elect Rep. Torkelson as chair of the Legislative Water Commission. Rep. Hamilton requested a roll call. There being 6 ayes and 6 nays, THE MOTION DID NOT PREVAIL.

Ayes: Chamberlain, Dahms, Ruud, Dean, Hamilton, Torkelson

Nays: Scalze, Schmit, Wiger, Fischer, Johnson, Persell

Sen. Schmit renewed his motion to elect Sen. Scalze as chair and task a subcommittee to discuss and identify possible co-chairs or vice chairs and come back to the Commission with ideas for an officer structure. Rep. Hamilton requested a roll call. There being 7 ayes, and 5 nays, THE MOTION PREVAILED.

Ayes: Chamberlain, Scalze, Schmit, Wiger, Fischer, Johnson, Persell

Nays: Dahms, Ruud, Dean, Hamilton, Torkelson

After the vote on the Schmit motion, there was discussion as to whether the motion was to elect Sen. Scalze as temporary or permanent chair.

Sen. Schmit offered to restate his motion so that the Commission could revote the Schmit motion.

Sen. Schmit moved to elect Sen. Scalze as the temporary chair for the first meeting and revisit the issue after a subcommittee meets, which will be held prior to the second Commission meeting. THE MOTION PREVAILED.

History of the Water Commission

Senator Len Price and Susan Schmidt, former Director of the Legislative Water Commission, presented on the Legislative Water Commission that was created in 1989, which included an overview on the

structure, composition and staffing of the Commission and an overview of the issues the Commission worked on.

Brief overview of water policy issues

Rebecca Flood, Assistant Commissioner for Water Policy, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and Professor Deborah Swackhamer, University of Minnesota Water Resources Center, presented the key water policy issues from the Clean Water Fund Interagency Coordination Team.

Mike McKay, Clean Water Council Chair, and Pam Blixt, Clean Water Council member, presented on the Clean Water Council including the Council's guiding principles, funding priorities and policy recommendations.

Member discussion: Issues and priorities

Members discussed and volunteered to serve on the Legislative Water Commission Subcommittee.

Update on hiring process

Greg Hubinger, Director, Legislative Coordinating Commission, provided an update on the hiring process for the Director of the Legislative Water Commission.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.