

LCC Subcommittee on Minnesota Water Policy: January 2020

Members,

This is a request for your input on a second set of priority issues.

The following issues are in addition to the topics you have been considering over the fall. The issues have come to our attention during the past several months. During our December meeting you asked for an opportunity to review these issues and to prioritize them in order to move forward with some of the issues bills or by using informational hearings **If you have not already done so by email, please rank the priority of the topics with a H (high), M (medium) or L (low) priority and leave them on the table. There is more detailed information on each available.**

Thanks,
Jim

___ **Emerging Contaminants Sentinel Monitoring Program: Provide** direction and minimal funding to design a monitoring network and sampling plan that includes the forever chemicals and other unregulated contaminants (Source: discussion with agency staff) (1)

___ **Create a Research Program that promotes environmentally responsible mining in northeastern Minnesota:** Direct the preparation of the implementation plan, from the University of Minnesota, and provide funds for the development of plan. (Source: request from legislator) (2)

___ **Forever Chemicals (PFOA and PFOS) in food waste compost:** Provide policy to support the continuation of the food compost industry and the continued recycling of food waste (source: request from legislator) (3)

___ **Policy to address the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule & Section 401 of Clean Water Act Certification:** Examine and provide policy (Source: discussion with agency staff) (4)

___ **Drinking Water Safety for Private Well Owners:** Provide support for and educational program to provide well owners. (Source: request from environmental organization) (5).

___ **Monitoring Beach Health:** Provide policy and funding for an agency plan that would results on a program for beach-health monitoring at the Minnesota Department of health (source: discussion with agency staff) (6)

___ **Generic Environmental Impact Statement: s (GEIS)** are tools that can be used to understand complex and regional environmental issues. They could be used with greater efficiency. Support the potential benefits of the GEIS process by funding a pilot of one of the priority issues. (Source: discussion with agency staff) (7)

___ **Compensation for Agricultural Buffers: Propose a compensation mechanism and a process** (source: discussion with legislator) (8)

___ **Flushable wipes clog our waste-water treatment plants:** Legislation to ban flushable wipes, to change labeling language, and to provide accurate consumer education (source: discussion with Met Council staff) (9)

___ **Encourage pilot watershed-scale pollutant trading and banking programs as a management practices to reduce nutrients and sediments in rivers and lakes:** Legislation to enable for third-party brokers (source: discussion with agency staff) (10)

___ **Policy that encourage enhanced groundwater recharge?** In order to capitalize on the results of a recent study, the legislature could adopt policy to encourage the practice, with restrictions. (11)

___ **Legislative policy to determine whether, and where, storm water infiltration should be encouraged or discouraged by funding a report from the MPCA.** (12)

___ **Appropriate use of models and estimators for best management prioritization:** Policy that provides for and expert panel to suggest and limit the number of models and tool options available to local and state agencies for projects funded by clean water programs. Provide a report to the legislature (13)

___ **Is there a need for policy based on the recent water train controversy?** Explore statues and provide policy that may be needed to protect the state from future similar initiatives. (Source: discussion with legislator) (14)

___ **Evaluate and increase state funding for the MDA's Ag BMP Loan Program.** Direct additional funding from sources other than the Clean Water Fund

___ **In cooperation with the Minnesota Groundwater Association, prepare an evaluation of the 1989 Groundwater Act that includes accomplishments, short comings and future needs.**