

# **SUBCOMMITTEE ON MINNESOTA WATER POLICY**

**SEPTEMBER 22, 2021**

**9:00 AM: VIRTUAL MEETING**

**Co-Chairs:**

**Sen. Chris Eaton (presiding)**

**Rep. John Poston**

**Jim Stark, Director**

**Subcommittee Support: Sandy Most**

# AGENDA

- **CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES FROM JULY 21 AND AUGUST 18.**
- **PRESENTATION: CLEAN WATER COUNCIL: STRATEGIC PLAN AND PRIORITIES: PAUL GARDNER, (ADMINISTRATOR), JOHN BARTON (CHAIR, POLICY COMMITTEE)**
- **UPDATE: DROUGHT PLAN AND DROUGHT UPDATE: CARMELITA NELSON, MDNR**
- **SUBCOMMITTEE LEGISLATIVE PROGRESS UPDATE- JIM STARK**
- **STAKEHOLDER TESTIMONY: LEGISLATIVE ISSUES**
- **ADJOURN**

# **PRESENTATION**

- **PRESENTATION: CLEAN WATER COUNCIL: STRATEGIC PLAN AND PRIORITIES**
- **PAUL GARDNER, (ADMINISTRATOR), JOHN BARTON (CHAIR, POLICY COMMITTEE)**

# **PRESENTATION- DROUGHT**

- **Drought and drought planning**
- **Carmelita Nelson, MDNR**

# Legislative Process

- **Fifty + recommendations have been studied and evaluated**
- **Source: subcommittee Members, legislators, stakeholders**
- **Details are available of each**
- **Surveys used to prioritize--500+ on list-server**
- **Three stakeholder meetings--additional prioritization and input**
- **Legislative issues:**
  - **Water policy**
  - **Water governance**
  - **Other topics**

# Legislative Process

- **Working with survey results and meeting comments**
- **Early October: bill narratives (about 10) for your review**
- **October meeting: Subcommittee decisions about legislative agenda**

## **LIKELY LEGISLATIVE TOPICS- POLICY**

- **Protect Priority Lakes in the Upper Mississippi: A plan to move the needle**
- **Water retention-both urban and rural**
- **Environmental justice: Lead and other drinking water issues**
- **Enhanced GW recharge policy– Why, where and when?**

## **LIKELY LEGISLATIVE TOPICS- GOVERNANCE**

- **SWCD status and funding– finding a solution-- hearing needed**
- **Reactivation of Water Supply and Wastewater Advisory Council**
- **Reactivation of the Legislative Water Commission**

# **OTHER TOPICS: SURVEY PRIORITIES**

- **Enhanced geological atlas products—defining sustainable use limits within 1W/1P**
- **Voluntary well testing support- private wells**
- **Water safety planning for cities— a pilot- UM/MDH report**
- **Assessment of vulnerable aquifers**
- **Forever chemicals in food waste compost**
- **Promote healthy soil and healthy water**
- **Research and outreach: Promoting precision agriculture**
- **Tax credit for riparian buffer lands**

# NEXT STEPS

- **Incorporate stakeholder comments**
- **Prepare bill narratives**
- **Consensus from subcommittee**
- **Seek willing authors**
- **Prepare bills for fall**
- **Solicit additional bill input from stakeholders**

## TESTIFIERS

- Matthew Spellman [mspellman@mnrealtor.com](mailto:mspellman@mnrealtor.com): Minnesota Realtor's Association
- Rob sip [rob.sip@rrwmb.org](mailto:rob.sip@rrwmb.org): Red River Water Management Board
- Jeffrey Broberg [brobergmnwoo@gmail.com](mailto:brobergmnwoo@gmail.com): Minnesota Well Owner's Organization
- Lawrence Baker [baker127@umn.edu](mailto:baker127@umn.edu): University of Minnesota  
Jack Mackenzie: Minnesota Golf Course Superintendent's Association  
[jack@mgcsa.org](mailto:jack@mgcsa.org) ( written testimony)

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND QUESTIONS?**

- **East Metro drinking water plan: MPCA/MDNR**
- **Clean Water Council Field Trip, September 12-13**
- **MN Rural Water Association: technical conference, August 24-26; Lori  
UM Water Resources Conference: October 18 and 19**
- **Next meeting– Mid October– Requests/offers to testify to:  
MN Water Well Association, Northern Water Alliance**