

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MINNESOTA WATER POLICY

October 3, 2023

9:00 am

Jim Stark, Director

MEETING AGENDA

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MINNESOTA WATER POLICY: OCTOBER 3, 2023, 9:00 AM

- 1. CALL TO ORDER: REP. AMANDA HEMMINGSEN-JAEGER PRESIDING**
- 2. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 13 MINUTES**
- 3. PRESENTATION: ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS' PETITION TO U.S. EPA, SOUTHEAST MN**
 - LEIGH CURRIE, CARLIE GRIFFITH: MN CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY**
 - JEFF BROBERG: MN WELL OWNERS ORGANIZATION**
- 4. RESPONSE TO PETITION: WARREN FORMO, EX. DIR:MN AG WATER RESOURCES CENTER**
- 5. TESTIFIER: LORI COX, ROOTS RETURN HERITAGE FARM**
- 6. QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK: ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY STAFF- INVITED**
- 7. METRO WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK: MET COUNCIL, JUDY SVENTEK**
- 8. OVERVIEW OF WATER ISSUES IN MINNESOTA: JIM STARK**
- 9. OUTLINE OF A SUBSET OF BILLS FOR CONSIDERATION: JIM STARK**
- 10. ADJOURN**

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

➤ SENATE MEMBERS

➤ SENATOR WEBER*

➤ SENATOR HAWJ

➤ SENATOR KUPEC

➤ SENATOR LANG

➤ SENATOR PUTMAN

➤ SENATOR WESENBERG

HOUSE MEMBERS

➤ REPRESENTATIVE HEMMINGSEN-JAEGER*

➤ REPRESENTATIVE JACOB

➤ REPRESENTATIVE FISCHER

➤ REPRESENTATIVE REHM

➤ REPRESENTATIVE SCHULTZ

➤ REPRESENTATIVE SKRABA

➤ * CO-CHAIRS

PRESENTATION

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS' PETITION TO U.S. EPA, SOUTHEAST MN

- **LEIGH CURRIE, CARLY GRIFFITH: MN CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY**
- **JEFF BROBERG: MN WELL OWNERS ORGANIZATION**

RESPONSE

➤ **WARREN FORMO**

➤ **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MN AG WATER RESOURCES
CENTER**

TESTIFIER(S)

➤ **LORI COX, ROOTS RETURN HERITAGE FARM**

QUESTIONS

➤ **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

➤ **STATE AGENCY STAFF INVITED**

➤ **MPCA**

➤ **MDH**

➤ **MDA**

PRESENTATION 2

➤ **METRO WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK: ISSUES AND PLANS**

➤ **MET COUNCIL, JUDY SVENTEK**

BRIEFING

OVERVIEW OF CURRENT WATER ISSUES IN MINNESOTA: JIM STARK

BRIEFING

- **THE NEW YORK TIMES:**
 - **EXTENSIVE EXAMINATION OF GROUNDWATER DEPLETION IN THE US**
 - **BIG FARMS AND FLAWLESS FRIES ARE GULPING WATER IN THE LAND OF 10,000 LAKES**
- **EQB: PUBLICATION OF MEPA TURNS 50**
- **DNR: BLAINE'S WATER SUPPLY WELLS CAUSED PRIVATE WELL INTERFERENCES**
- **BUGS ENLISTED TO CLEAN WATER: COLD SPRINGS: BACTERIA USED IN \$6.5 MILLION NITRATE REMOVAL PLANT. IT'S THE STATE'S FIRST BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT**
- **MINNESOTA GROUNDWATER ASSOCIATION PUBLISHED THEIR REVIEW OF THE 1989 GROUNDWATER PROTECTION ACT**
- **DNR FUNDS FURTHER ANALYSIS OF WATER USE CONFLICT SOLUTIONS IN LITTLE ROCK CREEK AREA TO DEVELOP DESIGNS AND COST ESTIMATES FOR POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS**

BRIEFING

- **MET COUNCIL DEVELOPING PLAN TO ENSURE COMMUNITIES IN THE WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA HAVE DRINKING WATER TO ALLOW FOR GROWTH AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY**
- **UM BEGINNING THE PROCESS OF A 50-YEAR STATE WATER PLAN**
- **ST ANTHONY FALLS CUTOFF WALL SAFETY- UM PROJECT BEGINNING**
- **MDH: RESIDENTS CAN CHECK IF THEIR SYSTEM'S WATER HAS ANY LEVEL OF FOREVER CHEMICALS**
- **2023 MINNESOTA WATER RESOURCES CONFERENCE IS TAKING PLACE AT THE ST. PAUL RIVER CENTRE, OCTOBER 17–18, 2023.**

BRIEFING

OUTLINE OF A FEW BILLS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE

VOLUNTARY PRIVATE WELL TESTING

- **SUPPORT VOLUNTARY PRIVATE WELL TESTING PROGRAM**
- **AN APPROPRIATION, TO MDH, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE UM AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**
- **PROVIDES FOR:**
 - **VOLUNTARY PRIVATE WELL TESTING**
 - **WATER TREATMENT OPTIONS**

REVISION OF WATER APPROPRIATION PERMIT PRIORITIES

- **THERE IS A MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL WATER APPROPRIATORS ,AND HOW THEY RELATE TO DOMESTIC USES OF WATER AS DEFINED IN PRIORITY ONE OF THE APPROPRIATION RULES.**
- **UNCLEAR WHETHER SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS ARE INCLUDED IN THE FIRST WATER USE PRIORITY, OR IF THEY ARE COMMERCIAL USERS**
- **THIS HAS ARISEN IN THE WHITE BEAR LAKE PROCESS**
- **SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR IN APPROPRIATION PRIORITY RULES**
- **DEFINITIONS SHOULD BE STANDARDIZED**
- **LEGISLATION NEEDED TO CLEAR THIS UP**

SUMMARY AND ADJOURN

- **NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 6, 9 AM**
- **REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE BILLS FOR NEXT SESSION**
- **MOTION TO ADJOURN**