

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER POLICY

December 3, 2024

Noon

Jim Stark, Director

MEETING AGENDA

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MINNESOTA WATER POLICY: DECEMBER 3

- 1. CALL TO ORDER: CHAIR: REPRESENTATIVE HEMMINGSEN-JAEGER**
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 24**
- 3. ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING PROCESS IN MINNESOTA AND ADJACENT STATES:
SEAN O' NEIL AND JENNIFER BYERS, MINNESOTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
FOUNDATION**
- 4. REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION--STAKEHOLDER REQUESTS: JIM
STARK**
- 5. RESPONSE TO MDH STATE DRINKING WATER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS- DR PETER
CALOW- UM-HUMPHREY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**
- 6. UPDATE ON RAPIDAN DAM FAILURE- GREG GENZ- FRIENDS OF POOL 2**
- 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADJOURN**

PRESENTATION-1

Environmental permitting process in Minnesota and adjacent states

Sean O'Neil and Jennifer Byers

Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Foundation

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES FROM STAKEHOLDERS

1. Voluntary private well testing
2. Water safety plans for cities– a pilot
3. Water Retention—Urban Storm
4. Improved Water and Agriculture
5. Tax credit for private riparian buffer lands
6. Change water highest priority water allocation priorities to include Schools and Hospitals
7. Adjusting water appropriation priorities for commercial entities with conservation plans
8. Defining sustainable groundwater limits using technological advances.
9. Enhanced Groundwater Recharge
10. Complete land management preservation goals for the Upper Mississippi
11. Keep our Lakes Clean Initiative
12. Carbon capture
13. Salt applicator voluntary certification and limited liability for applicators
14. Aquatic Invasive Species Funding:
15. Wake Surfing Issues and
16. Red River Water Storage
17. Establish a Minnesota River Board
18. Zippel Bay State Park Friends Group

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES-1

KEEP OUR LAKES CLEAN INITIATIVE

1. Lake use has changed --winter has become a popular time for recreation
2. Lakes have become recreational vehicle campgrounds
3. No rules or services for trash and human waste
4. DNR to coordinate outreach, develop a grant program to prevent water pollution
5. Bi-partisan support: Reps Skraba, Hemmingsen-Jaeger and Sen Putnam

REDUCE SALT USE- SAVE OUR LAKES

1. Salt applicator-- voluntary certification and limited liability
2. Requires training and certification
3. Bi-partisan support: Sen Putnam, Reps Fischer and Hemmingsen-Jaeger

WATER ALLOCATION PROCESS

1. Changes highest water allocation priorities to include schools and hospitals
2. White Bear Lake” Judges order identified this problem
3. History, 2024: Rep Fischer introduced the house bill

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES-2

LAKE AND STREAM PROTECTION IN THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI

1. Provides policy and plans to protect our most highly valued waters
2. DNR-- maintaining 75 % of forestland is critical for water quality
3. This would also protect the source for our drinking water in the Metro
4. Initiative focuses on priority lakes and streams located in the Upper Miss
5. Supports CWC's goal of protecting 100,000 acres of private forestland
6. Sets aside \$8m/yr over 10 years to complete the plan
7. 50-50 split, half the 90,000 acres protected with conservation easements
8. The rest, protected by the Sustainable Forest Incentives Act (DNR)
9. Request is for \$5 M to begin the process and increase private forested
10. Introduced in both bodies in 2024: HF1394;SF2192;Rep Fischer/ Sen McEwen

TAX CREDIT FOR PRIVATE RIPARIAN BUFFER LANDS

1. Provide a tax credit to landowners for riparian buffer lands taken out of agriculture
2. Supported in the past, including Rep Fischer and Sen Weber

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES-3

RED RIVER WATER STORAGE

1. Minnesota needs to make an investment to address flooding in the Red River Valley
2. Need is \$271 million over the next 10 YEARS
3. Local funding to the RRWMB needs to be increased and maintained at a two-mil levy
4. Sponsor: RRWMB

ENHANCED GROUNDWAER RECHARGE

1. Legislature funded a feasibility about expanded groundwater recharge
2. Policy and funding is needed to encourage recharge where needed
3. Bi-partisan support in the past including Sen Kupec” Reps Rehm, Hemmingsen- Jaeger, Fischer and Skraba: HF1392

VOLUNTARY PRIVATE WELL TESTING

1. Water from domestic wells needs to be safe
2. Allocation to MDH/UM to support private well water testing clinics by non -profits
3. 2023: BI-partisan support included Rep Fischer and Sen Morrison

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES-4

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES FUNDING

- 1. Great need for funding to manage and to control invasive aquatic plants**
- 2. Ask is to supplement contributions from local governments for AIS--education**
- 3. Sponsor: Minnesota Lakes and Rivers**

WAKE SURFING ISSUES AND CONTROVERSY

- 1. Addresses the growing popularity of wake surfing**
- 2. Problem: conflicts and environmental concerns**
- 3. Examples : erosion, damage to docks, and ecological disturbances**
- 4. St Anthony Fall Lab has conducted research on impacts**
- 5. The focus is on impacts and educating the public and local ordinances**
- 6. Will result in guidelines for wake surfing**
- 7. Support for educational programs is needed**
- 8. Sponsor: Minnesota Lakes and Rivers**

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES-5

ESTABLISH A MINNESOTA RIVER BOARD

1. **A new structure is needed to ensure government accountability and citizen participation in meeting Minnesota River cleanup goals**
2. **The citizens' advisory committee proposes the creation of the Minnesota river commission**
3. **Commission would not be involved in the day-to-day operations of agencies**
4. **Would be accountable to the governor and the Legislature**
5. **Details about the proposal and the proposed organization are on the subcommittee website**
6. **I've discussed with non-partisan staff, and they suggest that details need to be worked out before a bill could be prepared.**
7. **Suggesting that a process, with help from the subcommittee, be initiated to prepare a bill for consideration at the next session**

KEEP IT CLEAN INITIATIVE



TESTIMONY-1

Response to MDH State Drinking Water Plan Recommendations

**Dr Peter Calow- UM-Humphrey School
of Public Affairs**

TESTIMONY-2

Rapidan Dam failure

Greg Genz- Friends of Pool 2

ADJOURN

- **NEXT MEETING? EARLY JANUARY?**
- **FOCUS ON REQUESTS FOR LEGISLATION**
- **ADJOURN**