



Environmental Quality Board

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To: Interested Minnesotans
Fr: Dave Frederickson, Chair
Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

Re: Progress on shaping the new EQB

The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board began a conversation this summer to consider how it might best help the state serve the long term interests of Minnesotans and the environment. This dialogue considered the suggestions made by two separate EQB subcommittees that have tackled this question (in 2007 and 2010). Both committees concluded that the board is in a unique position to serve the state's long term interests by coordinating statewide environmental and strategic planning activities. No other forum can provide this function, which is as important in today's era of budgets constraints and needed efficiencies as ever. The two reports can be viewed at: http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/documents/EQB%20subcommittee%20report%20-%202010_12_20-final+att.pdf .

In September, the board heard the valuable public testimony of many interested parties. Based on the input it received during the meeting and subsequent to it, EQB will developing an agenda - a plan for the future - that will build on the ideas that have been raised so far. Late this year or early next, EQB will invite the public to comment on the proposed directions, with the goal of adopting a plan of action early next year.

Also, as you may have heard, the Commissioner of Administration transferred EQB staff from the Department of Administration to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency effective August 1. Having its staff housed in the MPCA does not alter in any way the powers and duties of the EQB. Rather, the transfer merely shifts those support and administrative functions to the MPCA. Care will be taken to ensure that the EQB continues to receive high quality support from staff that acts in the interest of the board rather than in the interest of any one agency.

As the Governor's representative and board chair, I look forward to engaging with you as we focus EQB on what it is uniquely designed to do: unify Minnesota's approaches to meeting our most pressing environmental and economic needs.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss these recent activities, please contact me at dave.frederickson@state.mn.us, or by phone at 651-201-6219.