

**MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, June 19, 2008
PCA Conference Room**

EQB Members Present: Dana Badgerow, Jonathon Bloomberg, Julie Goehring, Mark Holsten, Randy Kramer, Susan McCarville, Dan McElroy, Brad Moore, Thomas Sorel, and Dennis Wenzel

EQB Members Absent: Gene Hugoson, Sanne Magnan and Glenn Wilson

Others Present: Robert Roche, Aaron Snyder and Deb Swackhamer

EQB Staff Present: Mike Sullivan, John Wells and David Arbeit

In the absence of Chair Hugoson, the meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Jonathon Bloomberg, Vice Chair.

I. Adoption of Consent Agenda and Minutes

McCarville moved and Moore seconded approval of the consent agenda and minutes of the May 15, 2008 EQB meeting. The motion was approved.

II. Chair's Report

Bloomberg reported that the Subcommittee on EQB Future Directions has prepared a report that will be presented to the Governor's office by Chair Hugoson. Among other issues, the report suggests changing EQB meetings from monthly to quarterly, with the next EQB meeting to be scheduled for September 18, 2008. Bloomberg asked that members pass along any possible concerns to EQB staff director John Wells.

III. EQB Staff Report

Staff expects the Governor's Office to consider approval of the Phase 2 Rule Amendments shortly. EQB staff and technical committee representatives are revising the current EAW form.

IV. Legal Counsel Report

Roche reported that the Appeals Court has dismissed the Santos Group feedlot case and there is no issue left in the suit that involves the EQB.

V. Water Availability Project update

Wells reported on activities of the work group and advised the board on the three components of the work group: 1) taking a broad look at water availability and appropriations and consider ways the state could put large scale water users (ethanol and others) in a broader framework; 2) find ways for the state to establish protective and achievable standards to address water uses; and 3) summarize the needs and options for collecting additional data important to the analysis of water uses. The work of the committee is continuing on schedule.

VI. Minnesota River Basin Watershed Feasibility Study

Wells and Aaron Snyder, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, explained the broad range of and value of potential in-kind projects currently on record and available to be used as match for the study. Staff also discussed the commitments the board is asked to make as lead project co-sponsor. In addition to its role in identifying and accounting for the non-federal match, the board would take the lead in determining, collectively, directions the project should take. These two jobs will require, beginning July 2009, a new half-time position at the EQB. A motion was made by member Wenzel and seconded by member McCarville as follows: That the Board authorize the Chair to sign the federal cost-share agreement on its behalf after any state issues or concerns are satisfactorily addressed and subject to state contracting procedures. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

VII. Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan

Deb Swackhamer, Professor and Interim Director of the Institute on the Environment, University of Minnesota, provided board members with a comprehensive review of the completed plan, which is on schedule for submission to the Legislature by June 30, 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.