

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Executive Department



Governor Tim Walz

Executive Order 19-17; Rescinding Executive Orders 00-02 and 12-04

Continuing Wetland Protection, Enhancement, and Restoration

I, Tim Walz, Governor of the State of Minnesota, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, issue the following Executive Order:

Wetlands provide important benefits to Minnesota by protecting and preserving surface water and groundwater, providing for natural storage and retention of flood waters, serving as transition zones between dry land and lakes and rivers, retarding soil erosion, functioning as nature's biological filters, providing essential habitats for fish and wildlife, providing aesthetic and recreational opportunities, providing outdoor educational resources, and adding to Minnesota's ecological diversity.

Over 80 percent of the State's original prairie pothole wetlands have been drained and over 60 percent of the State's total original wetland base has been drained, filled, or otherwise diminished. It is in the public interest to protect the functions and values of wetlands and to restore lost wetland functions and values where feasible.

In recognition of the importance of Minnesota's wetlands, our State has enacted laws and regulations to protect wetlands and other water resources. The Department of Natural Resources, Board of Water and Soil Resources, and Pollution Control Agency are primarily responsible for administering these state laws, which include connections to federal wetland and water resource protections.

Economic activity and growth are important to the standard of living, well-being, and financial security of Minnesota's citizens. The protection of Minnesota's wetlands and water resources and the promotion of economic growth are compatible goals.

Our State, through public agencies and units of government, must provide leadership in the stewardship of wetlands and the effective and efficient implementation of state wetland protection and restoration programs to best serve the public interest.

For these reasons, I order that:

1. All responsible departments and agencies must:
 - a. Protect, enhance, and restore the quality and extent of Minnesota's wetlands to the fullest extent of their authority in accordance with the goal of "no-net loss" of wetlands in the State.
 - b. Pursue opportunities to improve the effectiveness of the State's wetland and related water resource protections.
 - c. Where consistent with items a) and b) above, collaborate with federal agencies, local governments, and private sector organizations to:
 - i. Coordinate implementation of wetland and related water resource regulatory and restoration programs.
 - ii. Pursue simplification and cost-effectiveness measures to benefit landowners, permit applicants, local governments, and agency operations.
2. Executive Orders 00-02 and 12-04 are rescinded.

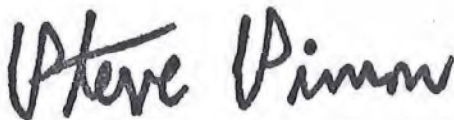
This Executive Order is effective fifteen days after publication in the State Register and filing with the Secretary of State. It will remain in effect until rescinded by proper authority or until it expires in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 4.035, subdivision 3.

Signed on April 1, 2019.



Tim Walz
Governor

Filed According to Law:



Steve Simon
Secretary of State

