



MINNESOTA

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

520 Lafayette Road North, Saint Paul, MN 55155 | www.eqb.state.mn.us
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October 16, 2019

Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee Meetings

Meeting Location: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Lower Level Conference Room

520 Lafayette Rd N

St. Paul, Minnesota

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

AGENDA

Meeting Time and Location

This month's meeting of the Environmental Quality Board Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee (ERIS) will take place in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Lower Level Conference Room Central at 520 Lafayette Road in St. Paul. The meeting is available for live viewing online by visiting our website: www.eqb.state.mn.us

The MPCA building is served by bus routes 64, 53, 860L, 61, and 74 and is accessible by bike. For more information about transit options please see <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/about-mpca/st-paul-office>

The Blue Parking lot is 2 blocks away, has many open spots, and is free/open for members of the public attending the EQB meeting. The Blue Parking Lot is located off University and Olive Streets. The Jupiter Parking Lot has limited spaces but is also free and open to public attending the EQB meeting. The Jupiter Parking Lot is located across from the Law Enforcement Center on Grove Street. <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/stpaulmap.pdf>

If you need an accommodation for this event (i.e., sign language interpreter, braille, wheelchair accessibility, etc.), this can be made available upon advance request. This material can be given to you in different forms, like large print, braille, or on a recording. Please contact EQB staff at least one week prior to the event at info.EQB@state.mn.us to arrange an accommodation.

Public Engagement Opportunities at Board and Subcommittee Meetings

EQB encourages public input and appreciates the opportunity to build shared understanding with members of the public. All EQB meetings include multiple ways for the public to be involved including either a public input period, community-building time, and in some cases, small group activities. More details about public participation are provided at the meeting.

Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee (ERIS) Meeting Agenda

All Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee agendas and materials may be found on the EQB web page using this link: <https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/content/environmental-review-implementation-subcommittee>

I. Introductions and Opening Remarks

II. Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee

EQB Executive Director and staff will provide organizational background and context for the work of the Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee.

Will Seuffert
Executive Director
Environmental Quality Board
651-757-2766

Denise Wilson
Director, Environmental Review Program
Environmental Quality Board
651-757-2523

Materials Enclosed:

Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee Charter

III. Climate Change and Environmental Review

EQB and RGU staff will provide background information and project examples for how current Environmental Review Program requirements are implemented to address potential climate impacts.

Denise Wilson
Director, Environmental Review Program
Environmental Quality Board
651-757-2523

Melissa Kuskie
Manager – Certifications, Environmental Review & Rules Section
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
651-757-2512

IV. Public Input and Discussion of Next Steps on Climate Change

Public input is invited to provide additional perspectives on how the Minnesota Environmental Review Program could be effectively used to consider potential climate impacts.

V. Adjourn

Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee Charter

Introduction

The purpose of the Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee is to:

- Provide more discussion time and access for anyone with a stake in the Environmental Review Program to provide their input on proposed program improvement initiatives.
- Create a transparent process for deliberation and decision-making that will result in an effective Environmental Review Program.

Justification and Background

Environmental Quality Board (EQB or Board) members have authorities and responsibilities that go beyond oversight of the Environmental Review Program. In the past year, Board meetings that included Environmental Review Program improvement recommendations resulted in significant public interest and identified the need for more time for broader discussion and deliberation.

Over the last 20-years members of the public, industry and government agencies identified elements of the Environmental Review Program that they concluded were outdated and ineffective. Since the 1990s, there have been approximately 16 separate initiatives that led to recommendations for Environmental Review Program improvement. Most recently, recommendations have been shared through:

- the Environmental Review Advisory Panel Report;
- the mandatory categories rulemaking process; and
- Board meetings that have included Environmental Review Program topics on the agenda.

More information on past reports and recent public input may be found using this link:

<https://www.eqb.state.mn.us>.

Competing priorities, resource constraints, and insufficient analysis etc. have prevented many of these initiatives from resulting in large scale changes. The Environmental Review Program should be evaluated to ensure alignment with the most recent technical information for climate impacts and human health concerns on a consistent basis; as well as improved technology for notification and engagement practices. An Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee can provide a venue for deeper discussion on these topics, and a bridge to implementation.

Guiding Principles

- Ensure that the State Environmental Review Program is
 - transparent,
 - accountable,
 - efficient, and
 - creates/sustains a healthy environment and strong economy for Minnesota
- On a continuous basis, seeks to strengthen relationships
- Considers relevant existing improvement recommendations and take steps to effectively implement changes

Project Contributors and Roles

EOB members

- Approve final decisions
- Direct staff to implement approved action steps

Subcommittee members

- Consider background information
- Consider public input
- Select action steps and make recommendations for Board approval
- Provide updates to the Board

EOB staff team

- Maintain Subcommittee webpage
- Work with Subcommittee chair to develop meeting agendas and meeting materials
- Publish agendas and meeting information
- Develop draft action steps for each selected priority topic
- Provide updates to Subcommittee members and Board members
- Other tasks, as directed by Subcommittee members

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