



Minnesota Watersheds
For more information, contact Jan Voit
507-822-0921

Memorandum

DATE: May 13, 2024
TO: Kayla Walsh, Environmental Quality Board (EQB) Environmental Review Program Administrator
FROM: Jan Voit, Executive Director
RE: Mandatory Categories for Environmental Assessment Worksheets (EAWs)

After review of your “Analysis of Feedback on Mandatory Categories”, we have concluded that watersheds need to ensure that our input is given for consideration by the EQB as members decide on their final recommendations on this important issue.

Watershed districts act as agricultural drainage authorities (M.S. Chapter 103E) or as water management authorities for other types of drainage (urban storm water drainage) under M.S. Chapter 103D. Our drainage regulatory function under these two statutes places us in a primary stakeholder role in all types of drainage issues.

To that end, I would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this issue in more detail in the next few weeks.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to meeting with you.



SIERRA CLUB

NORTH STAR CHAPTER

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May 14, 2024

Dear members of the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments for your upcoming May 15 meeting.

We are writing to express support for recommendations to improve transparency and accountability of state agencies to the EQB.

These recommendations include:

- Provisions to retain and preserve records rather than discarding them.
- Improve documentation of decisions and policy to reduce the need for Data Practices Act (DPA) requests, and the costs of searching for documents when requests are made.
- Retention of documents related to task forces, studies, policy actions, intragovernmental and intergovernmental communications, rule making, and meeting documents; in a way that can be easily retrieved and searched.
- Retention of documents related to public health exposure testing. Public health exposure testing, including but not limited to testing of the concentration of mercury in fish and monitoring of ambient air quality near emissions sources, must be posted online and be fully searchable and accessible to the public.
- Prompt responses to DPA requests within 30 days or sooner, without unreasonable or excessive fees.

Thank you for your consideration of these important measures.

Sincerely,

Mathews Hollinshead
Conservation Chair
Sierra Club North Star Chapter

Margaret Levin
State Director
Sierra Club North Star Chapter