

## June 2023 Environmental Quality Board meeting

**Wednesday, June 21 from 1 – 4 p.m.**

### Join in person or online

- In person: [520 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155](#), lower level conference rooms
  - Online: For the meeting link and more information, visit the [board meeting webpage](#).
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### Participating in board meetings

#### Attending in person

The Environmental Quality Board (EQB) will convene its meeting in person in the lower level conference rooms at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency St. Paul office building. All visitors must sign in at the front desk. Transportation options:

- Bicycle: Visit the [Saint Paul Bike Map](#) webpage for route information. Outdoor bicycle parking is available to the left of the front doors near the loading dock.
- Transit: Use [Metro Transit's Trip Planner](#) to determine the best routes and times.
- Car: You may park in a Visitor Parking space in the parking lot just outside the front door, or park in one of the visitor lots. The visitor lots are the Blue Lot (Olive St. and University Ave.) and the Jupiter Lot (on Grove St. across from the Ramsey County Law Enforcement Center); please see the [parking map](#). Parking in these lots is free of charge. You must register your vehicle at the front desk upon arrival.

#### Attending virtually

Members of the public may join the meeting virtually using the Teams link at the board meeting webpage link above. Please review the [Guide to Teams Participation](#) for additional information.

#### Accessibility

Please contact Environmental Quality Board (EQB) staff at least one week prior to the event at [info.EQB@state.mn.us](mailto:info.EQB@state.mn.us) to arrange an accommodation. Meeting materials can be provided in different forms, such as large print, braille, or on a recording.

## Public engagement opportunities at EQB meetings

EQB encourages public input and appreciates the opportunity to build shared understanding with members of the public. The opportunities for public engagement for this meeting are below.

### Oral public comment

In this meeting, EQB will accept oral public comment during agenda item 6.

Procedure and guidelines for giving oral public comment:

- If you wish to speak:
  - In person: sign up at the welcome table before the meeting starts.
  - Virtual: when prompted, use the “raise hand” feature in Teams, located at the top of your screen.
- Your remarks will be limited to two (2) minutes. When necessary, the chairperson may limit commenters’ time for remarks to ensure there is equal opportunity for the public to comment.
- When the chairperson calls on you to speak:
  - Introduce yourself before beginning your comment.
  - Please keep your remarks to those facts which are relevant and specific, as determined by the chairperson, to the agenda item at hand.
  - Please be respectful of board members, staff, and other meeting participants. Avoid questioning motives. The chair, vice-chair, or other presiding officer will not tolerate personal attacks.
  - Please note that the chair will use their discretion for directing public comment to ensure the board’s ability to effectively conduct business.

### Written public comment

You may submit written comment to EQB by emailing your letter to [info.EQB@state.mn.us](mailto:info.EQB@state.mn.us) or mailing to: Environmental Quality Board, 520 Lafayette Road, Saint Paul, MN 55155. Comments must be received by EQB staff **by noon the day before the meeting**.

Staff will compile letters, make them available to members and the public online, and attach them to the public record. Any written comments received after this deadline will be included in the next EQB meeting packet.

All comments will be made available to the public. Please only submit information that you wish to make available publicly. EQB does not edit or delete submissions that include personal information. We reserve the right to not publish any comments we deem offensive, intimidating, belligerent, harassing, bullying, or that contain any other inappropriate or aggressive behavior.

# Agenda

## 1. Welcome and roll call

Nancy Daubenberger – Chair, EQB; Commissioner, Department of Transportation

## 2. Approval of consent agenda

- Meeting minutes from the May 17, 2023, Environmental Quality Board meeting on packet page 5
- Preliminary agenda for the June 21, 2023, Environmental Quality Board meeting

## 3. Executive Director's report

Catherine Neuschler – Executive Director, EQB

## 4. Continuous improvement tool finalization

**Type of Item:** Decision

**Summary:** The board will hear an update from staff and consultants regarding the Environmental Review Program continuous improvement effort, including a ranked list of improvements. The board will review the continuous improvement process steps and vote on whether to use them moving forward. More information can be found on board packet page 13.

**Outcome:** Decision on whether to use the CI process steps to continue in evaluating the improvements EQB has received.

**Presenters:** Kayla Walsh – Environmental Review Program Administrator, EQB; Karen Gaides – Management Consultant, Minnesota Management and Budget

## 5. Follow-up to May 17 board meeting public comments

**Type of item:** Informational

**Summary:** Staff will provide additional information regarding the process taken by the city of Duluth in responding to a citizen petition for an EAW that resulted in the concerns raised by the public commenters. EQB staff are not recommending any action on the specific project in Duluth, but the questions raised point to larger issues that could be considered in conjunction with continuous improvement. More information can be found on board packet page 60.

**Outcome:** The Board understands the concerns raised and the actions that the petitioners wanted the Board to undertake; connects those concerns to ideas for programmatic improvement raised in the continuous improvement discussions; and may provide input for the development of the staff's workplan for environmental review improvements.

**Presenter:** Catherine Neuschler – Executive Director, EQB

## 6. Environmental congress

**Type of item:** Informational

**Summary:** The board will hear an update on the planning for a 2023 Environmental Congress, likely to be held in late fall. More information can be found on board packet page 65.

**Outcome:** The board will provide input on the general direction of the Environmental Congress, including the event format, topics, and speakers.

**Presenter:** Catherine Neuschler – Executive Director, EQB

## 7. **Administrative Item – Approval of ED Authority to sign AGO agreement**

**Type of Item:** Decision

**Summary:** The EQB enters into a biennial agreement with the Attorney General's office to provide legal services; the FY24/25 agreement needs signature.

**Outcome:** The Board is requested to provide the Executive Director the authority to enter into an agreement with the Attorney General's office for the AGO to provide legal services.

**Presenter:** Catherine Neuschler – Executive Director, EQB

## 8. **Public comment**

The board welcomes oral public comment. Please see guidance and procedures on packet page 2.

Comment is especially requested on the topics in agenda items 4 and 6, and comments on those topics will be prioritized if time constraints exist.

## 9. **Closing and adjournment**