

April 2023 Environmental Quality Board meeting

Wednesday, April 19 from 1 – 4 p.m.

Join online via Webex

For the meeting link and more information, visit the board meeting [webpage](#).

Need assistance viewing and participating in the virtual meeting? Join staff at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's St. Paul office (520 Lafayette Rd, St. Paul, MN 55155), and they will help you watch the virtual proceedings and provide comment. Please find more details about the location below.

Participating in board meetings

Attending virtually

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

Joining the virtual meeting at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency office

Participate in the meeting virtually with support from Environmental Quality Board (EQB) staff at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's St. Paul office (520 Lafayette Rd, St. Paul, MN 55155) lower level conference rooms. 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.

Accessibility

Please [email staff](#) or call 651-757-2873 at least one week prior to the event to arrange an accommodation. Meeting materials can be provided in different forms, such as large print, braille, or on a recording.

Public engagement opportunities

EQB encourages public input and appreciates the opportunity to build shared understanding with members of the public. Members of the public may provide oral or written comment.

Oral public comment

In this meeting, the board will accept oral public comment during agenda item 5.

Procedure and guidelines for providing oral public comment:

- If you wish to speak:
 - Virtual: When prompted, use the “raise hand” feature in Webex, located at the bottom 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 the board by emailing your letter to 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 board 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 board meeting packet.

Agenda

1. Welcome and roll call

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

2. Approval of consent agenda

- Meeting minutes from March 15, 2023, Environmental Quality Board meeting on packet page 4
- Preliminary agenda for April 19, 2023, Environmental Quality Board meeting

3. Executive Director’s report

Catherine Neuschler – Executive Director, EQB

4. Pollinator Action Framework update

The board will hear an update on the progress and timeline to develop an action framework to protect pollinators in Minnesota.

Presenter: Rebeca Gutierrez-Moreno – State Pollinator Coordinator, EQB

5. Public comment

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

6. Continuous improvement update

The board will hear an update from staff and consultants regarding the Environmental Review Program continuous improvement effort. Staff will present on the process, describe where we are in the process, and provide information on how prioritization criteria will be used in the future to plan and implement program improvements.

Consultants will share engagement findings and how the engagement is being used to both develop prioritization criteria and a list of projects that will be prioritized.

The board will continue to review draft prioritization criteria. Consultants will facilitate conversation amongst board members regarding the engagement findings and the prioritization criteria.

Presenters: Kayla Walsh – Environmental Review Program Administrator, EQB; Karen Gaides, Mariyam Naadha – Management Consultants, Minnesota Management and Budget

7. Closing and adjournment

March 2023 Environmental Quality Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 15, 2023 | 1:00-4:00 p.m. | 520 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155, room 102 and Online via [Webex](#).

Minutes

1. Welcome and roll call

Chair Nancy Daubenberger called to order the regular meeting of the Environmental Quality Board.

Members present: Grace Arnold, Peter Bakken, Nancy Daubenberger, Kenneth Foster, Katrina Kessler, Nicholas Martin, Paul Nelson, Thom Petersen, Alice Roberts-Davis, Sarah Strommen, Gerald Van Amburg

Members excused: Joseph Bauerkemper, Brooke Cunningham, Rylee Hince, Mehmet Konar-Steenberg, Charles Zelle

Proxies present: Dan Huff (for Cunningham), Sue Vento (for Zelle)

EQB staff present: Courtney Ahlers-Nelson, Rebeca Gutierrez-Moreno, Hazel Houle, Jesse Krzenski, Kayla Walsh, Denise Wilson

Other staff present: Karen Gaides (Minnesota Management and Budget), Mariyam Naadha (Minnesota Management and Budget), Catherine Neuschler (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency)

2. Approval of consent agenda

- Meeting minutes from January 18, 2023, Environmental Quality Board meeting
- Proposed agenda for March 15, 2023, Environmental Quality Board meeting

Motion: Board Member Arnold moved the consent agenda; Board Member Nelson seconded. Motion carries with a unanimous vote.

3. Update from Chair

Announcements from Chair Nancy Daubenberger:

- CD-3 open
- Introduced Catherine Neuschler – New Environmental Quality Board executive director
- Introduced Jesse Krzenski – New Environmental Quality Board environmental review program administrator

4. Vote for Vice Chairperson

Board Member Nelson motioned to appoint Board Member Nicholas Martin as vice-chairperson of EQB. Board Member Kessler seconded.

In favor: Arnold, Bakken, Daubenberger, Foster, Kessler, Martin, Nelson, Petersen, Roberts-Davis, Strommen, Van Amburg.

Opposed: None.

Excused: Bauerkemper, Cunningham, Hince, Konar-Steenberg

Motion passes. The EQB chair formally approved Board Member Martin as vice-chairperson of EQB.

5. Public comment

One member of the public commented.

6. Continuous Improvement update

In keeping with the integrity of Roberts Rules, which says the chair has authority over the conduct of the meeting, the chair invited the MAD consultants to facilitate this agenda item.

Presenters: Kayla Walsh – Environmental Quality Board; Karen Gaides, Mariyam Naadha – Management Consultants, Minnesota Management and Budget

Materials enclosed: Internal Memo prepared by Management Analysis and Development, Minnesota Management and Budget: Research summary on environmental review effectiveness for continuous improvement

Open discussion: Karen Gaides and Mariyam Naadha facilitated a discussion amongst board members on the following questions related to the information in the memo:

- What stood out to you or what did you take away from the research memo and presentation?
- Was there anything missing in the memo that you would want to know in order to inform your decision making about improvements to the environmental review program?
- Given the background research in the memo, what are some key elements that come to mind when thinking of an “effective” environmental review program?

The next steps with the continuous improvement project are to work with the Board over the next few months on developing an initial list of improvement areas, discuss criteria to prioritize the improvements and apply the criteria to the potential improvements.

7. Closing and adjournment

Board Member Foster motioned to adjourn. Board Member Kessler seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned.

DRAFT