

August 2026 Environmental Quality Board meeting

Wednesday, August 19 from 1 – 4:00 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 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 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.

Public comment opportunities at EQB meetings

EQB encourages public engagement and appreciates the opportunity to build shared understanding with members of the public. There are multiple ways to engage with staff and board members. One important way is to provide public comment at a board meeting.

The public comment period(s) at a board meeting provide an opportunity for members of the public to inform the board about their views related to the specific item under discussion or something related to the board's purview or authority. Tips for providing comments:

- Ensure that your comments are relevant and specific to the topic you are addressing.
- Say what you want the board to know or consider in moving forward with a piece of work.
- Identify a specific action that you want the Board to take.

If you have a question for the board or EQB staff, it will be noted by staff who will get back to you at a later time. This ensures that we have enough time at a meeting for all commenters to provide input to the board and that your questions can be fully considered.

Oral public comment



At each meeting, the agenda will show when the board will accept oral public comment. The chair will use their discretion to direct public comment and ensure the board's ability to effectively conduct business.

Procedure for giving oral public comment:

- **Virtual:** when prompted, use the "raise hand" feature in Teams, located at the top of your screen.
- **In person:** sign up at the welcome table before the meeting starts.
- When the chairperson calls on you to speak:
 - Introduce yourself before beginning your comment.
 - Please keep your remarks to the agenda item at hand.
 - Please be respectful of board members, staff, and other meeting participants. The chair, vice-chair, or other presiding officer will not tolerate personal attacks.
- The chairperson may limit commenters' time for remarks to ensure there is equal opportunity for the public to comment. Generally, your remarks will be limited to two (2) minutes.
- The chairperson may discontinue a commenter's time to speak if the comments are not reasonably related to the agenda item at hand.

Written public comment



You may submit written comment to EQB 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 members and the public, and attach them to the public record. Any written comments received after this deadline will be included in the next meeting packet.

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

Note that all listed times are estimates and are advisory only.

1. Welcome and roll call (1:00 pm)

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

2. Approval of consent agenda (1:10 pm)

- Meeting minutes from the June 17, 2026, Environmental Quality Board meeting on packet page 5
- Preliminary agenda for the August 19, 2026, Environmental Quality Board meeting

3. Executive Director’s report (1:15 pm)

Catherine Neuschler – Executive Director, EQB

4. Office of Enterprise Sustainability annual update (1:20 pm)

Type of item: Informational

Summary: Executive Order 19-27 directs Minnesota’s state government to “make efficient use of water and energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and ensure that goods and services procured by the government are sustainable”. The Office of Enterprise Sustainability is required to publish an annual report that is shared with the public and presented to the EQB. Sustainability metrics can be found at the [Office of Enterprise Sustainability webpage](#).

Outcome: The Board is informed and the requirements of the EO are met.

Presenter: Marcus Grubbs – Director, Office of Enterprise Sustainability, Department of Administration

5. EQB FY27 Workplan (1:50 pm)

Type of item: Decision

Summary: The Executive Director will present the proposed organizational workplan for FY27. A high-level discussion of the workplan is provided in the memo on page 7 and the full workplan is on page 12 of the packet.

Outcome: The Board reviews and approves the organizational workplan and approves authority to implement it, fulfilling the requirement under Minn. Stat. 116C.03, Subd. 6, to adopt an annual work program.

Presenter: Catherine Neuschler – Executive Director, EQB

Public comment: EQB will take public comment specifically on this item.

6. Public comment (2:30 pm)

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

7. Closing and adjournment (2:45 pm)

June 2026 Environmental Quality Board meeting

Wednesday, June 17, 2026 | 1:00-4:00 p.m. | 520 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155, lower level conference rooms and online via Teams.

Minutes

1. Welcome and roll call

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

The Chair announced the appointments of the four new public board members: Joseph Barten – CD2, Rebecca Haug – CD6, Brian Dingmann – CD7, and Emily Larson – CD8, as well as the re-appointment of Peter Bakken – CD1.

The Chair appointed Joseph Barten and Rebecca Haug to the Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee (ERIS) based on their experience in permitting and environmental review.

Members present: Joseph Barten, Nancy Daubenberger, Brian Dingmann, Tamar Gronvall, Rebecca Haug, Todd Holman, Daniel Katzenberger, Emily Larson, Nicholas Martin, Thom Petersen, Angie Smith, Sarah Strommen

Members excused: Grace Arnold, Peter Bakken, Brooke Cunningham, Robin Hutcheson, Katrina Kessler, Matt Varilek

Proxies present: Myra Kunas (for Cunningham), Sydney Lieb (for Arnold), Peter Lindstrom (for Hutcheson), Kevin McKinnon (for Varilek), Peter Tester (for Kessler)

EQB staff present: Catherine Neuschler, Stephanie Aho, Rebeca Gutierrez-Moreno, Hazel Houle, Jesse Krzenski, Sarah Lerohl, Sophia Musiak, Priscilla Villa-Watt, Kayla Walsh

Approval of consent agenda

- Meeting minutes from April 15, 2026, Environmental Quality Board meeting
- Proposed agenda for June 17, 2026, Environmental Quality Board meeting

Motion: Board Member Peterson moved to approve the consent agenda; Board Member Smith seconded.

In favor: Barten, Daubenberger, Gronvall, Holman, Katzenberger, Martin, Petersen, Smith, Strommen

Abstained: Dingmann, Haug

Opposed: none

Excused: Arnold, Bakken, Cunningham, Kessler, Larson, Varilek

2. Executive Director's report

Catherine Neuschler – Executive Director, EQB

- This is EQB's last meeting of the state's fiscal year, so public members should submit any outstanding per diem requests or expense reimbursements soon.
- Data centers – There have been a couple of rulings on some of the lawsuits related to the environmental review conducted for potential data centers. EQB staff are watching these lawsuits primarily to identify if additional or revised guidance might be necessary based on the court decisions:
 - At Pine Island, a temporary order was issued prohibiting construction, likely until the challenge to the AUAR is resolved.
 - In Faribault, which completed an Environmental Assessment Worksheet for the Archer data center, the Court of Appeals ruled that the city's negative declaration (decision that an Environmental Impact Statement was not needed) was unsupported by substantial evidence. The court reversed the decision and remanded the decision back to the city.

3. EQB overview and work updates

Presenter: Catherine Neuschler – Executive Director, EQB

Type of item: Informational

Summary: As part of our welcome and orientation of new members, the Director presented a brief overview of EQB, including statutory roles and authorities, resources available to carry out EQB work, and the strategic plan. She also provided a fiscal year end update on the progress and completion of key projects in the FY26 EQB workplan.

Outcome: Board members understand EQB's roles and authorities, and have a grounding in key work to support work plan discussions upcoming in July and August.

4. Health in Environmental Review update

Presenter: Kayla Walsh – Environmental Review Program Administrator, EQB

Type of item: Informational

Summary: Formally integrating the concepts of "human health" and "public health" in environmental review (ER) has been a longstanding topic of interest for the Board. The current workplan includes an item to "summarize most recent work" and "develop potential options for considering health in ER for Board discussion." EQB staff provided a summary of past work and discussed potential FY27 work to begin to consider the scope, means, and methods for how health impacts could be incorporated into the program in a way that aligns with current environmental review procedures.

Discussion:

- Important that staff take a deep dive into Health Impact Statements (HIAs).
- Look into what other states have done or are doing re: health.
- Are there other ways, apart from HIAs, that health information is incorporated into projects within Minnesota?
- Make sure that any guidance is clear, concise, easily defined, and easy to follow for RGUs.
- Staff could connect with Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) personnel who worked on health impacts for the Statewide Multimodal Transportation System Plan. MnDOT could also present at a future board meeting.
- Would be beneficial for staff to update information from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) 2012 report: Incorporating Health and Climate Change into the Minnesota Environmental Assessment Worksheet and present findings to the board.
- It's important to have a shared understanding of definitions of some of the key terms and agreement on what some of the words mean.
- Possibly tools other than a HIA could be developed, much like the climate calculator was developed.
- A board member of the Minnesota Well Owner Organization recently shared with some EQB board members an environmental risk factors report - might be a useful report to review.

Outcome: The board was introduced to the topic and the board discussed next steps.

5. Public comment

There were no comments.

6. Closing and adjournment

Having reached the end of the agenda, the Chair asked if there was any further business.

Adjournment:

With no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

Memo

Date: August 7, 2026

To: Environmental Quality Board Members

From: Catherine Neuschler, EQB Executive Director

RE: Proposed FY27 EQB workplan

The annual EQB workplan is guided by the EQB's strategic plan. The organizational workplan then guides the development of individual staff work plans and the detailed creation of specific project plans to present goals, deliverables, and timelines.

FY27 workplan overview

The workplan is grouped into overarching bodies of work—environmental review; climate; water and the water plan; biodiversity (pollinators, emerald ash borer, and genetically engineered organisms); engagement; equity; and operations.

Within each program area, specific projects that we propose to work on next year are listed along with key timelines, staff leads, and interagency support needs (characterized as high-medium-low). The workplan also lists which strategic plan outcome and deliverables each proposed project supports.

Since many projects have multiple phases, the workplan aims to specifically scope the work planned to be completed in FY27. (The workplan generally does not include day-to-day work or administrative tasks, though those are included in individual staff workplans.)

Highlights of proposed FY27 workplan

Environmental Review

The components of the proposed workplan related to environmental review were presented in detail to ERIS at their July 2026 meeting and are summarized here.

- **Rulemaking** – In FY27, we plan to continue with our one ongoing rulemaking and hopefully begin the process of a rulemaking to make updates to the program.
 - *Gas resource development projects mandatory category*: The comment period for the proposed rules closed on July 2. In FY27, staff will review and respond to comments and conduct Tribal coordination and consultation. This work will inform suggested changes from the proposed rule. Staff plan to bring forward a rule for adoption to the Board in October or November of 2026.
 - *Housekeeping*: EQB staff have identified several needed updates to our operating procedures and the environmental review rules to keep the program current and the rules easy to understand. Staff propose compiling this preliminary list of “housekeeping” updates, including identify the likely changes and why each is needed, doing some interagency and public engagement, and asking the Board to proceed to a request for comments (RFC), which is the first step in a formal rulemaking process.

- **Guidance and training** – The staff continue to focus on updating guidance materials and providing training on environmental review, one of the key strategies to meet the strategic plan outcome of maintaining and improving the environmental review program.
 - *Guidance:* The planned areas of guidance development include key resources focused on supporting local responsible governmental units – including guidance for Tribal engagement in ER and recognizing Tribal cultural resources; guidance on reviewing and responding to petitions; and an updated recommended content and format for Alternative Urban Areawide Reviews (AUARs). Applicable to all RGUs, EQB staff are also proposing reviewing and updating the “item-by-item” guidance for the EAW form; reviewing, updating (including new scoping options), and making web-based the guidance for EISs; and updating the guidance for addressing the climate items in the EAW form in order to include the climate calculator and provide additional clarity for RGUs.
 - *Training:* Training is becoming more integrated into our regular work. The staff propose to continue regular (approximately quarterly) trainings on topics of interest such as working with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and likely on updated guidance.
- **EAW form upkeep** – ER rules direct EQB to make a periodic assessment of the EAW form. Staff have been reviewing and updating the formatting to increase accessibility and to provide overall clarity (readability and user understanding). Some changes are also needed to reference the climate calculator and potentially provide additional clarity in the climate questions. The updates should not change the substantive content or the information elicited.
- **Mandatory categories report** - The EQB, MPCA, DNR and MnDOT are required to evaluate and report on the environmental review mandatory categories every three years. The next report is due by December 1, 2027. FY27 will include planning and initial drafting of this legislative report.
- **Health impacts in environmental review** – In FY27, EQB staff are proposing to begin the process of developing options for consistent consideration of health in environmental review, with a focus on building the foundational information needed for future decisions about an appropriate scope for health in environmental review. To develop this foundation, EQB staff will:
 - Review recent ER documents and public comments for inclusion of, or requests for, health information
 - Research existing frameworks for considering health impacts in project reviews (both national and international), updating and building on past MDH work
 - Develop a system to organize or classify health impacts information based on the scope of information included
 - Assign the health information found in Minnesota ER documents and other frameworks to the appropriate classifications, as determined above
 - Convene conversations about the scope and definition of health information that may be useful and practical to include in environmental review

We also envision ongoing learning about key health concepts, including HIAs.

- **Planning for program updates to reflect Tribal sovereignty** – EQB staff are proposing to connect with Tribal governments and their staff to identify their goals and objectives for environmental review policy and program changes. We would also discuss some of the specific ideas brought forward in the CI process. We would bring the outcomes of these discussions to the Board, then further develop potential implementation scope and mechanisms.

Climate

EQB staff will continue to support the development of an external reporting process for the Climate Action Framework targets and metrics. We expect to provide an update to the Board on this work in late fall.

Water

In FY27, EQB staff will be participating with the Minnesota Management and Budget long-range planning team as they develop the workplan and process for their MN 2100 water futures project, which aims to help the state plan for water at the end of the century. The hope is for this work to support and potentially frame EQB's 2030 state water plan and future groundwater policy reports. We expect to provide an update to the Board on this work in late fall.

Pollinators and biodiversity

One of EQB staff's key areas of work is convening the Interagency Pollinator Protection Team (IPPT). This work is an important part of meeting two of our strategic outcomes:

- Supporting innovative state policy and program development on priority and emerging environmental issues
- Foster meaningful conversations around environmental issues

Executive Order 19-28 (building on Executive Order 16-07), identifies pollinator protection as a priority environmental issue, establishes the IPPT and EQB's role, and sets forth the three pollinator protection goals that the state agencies are working towards. The FY27 workplan includes work to support reissuance of an Executive Order for pollinator protection, to maintain the IPPT and pollinator protection as a priority environmental issue in Minnesota.

The rest of the workplan assumes that the pollinator work will continue largely unchanged – with EQB staff:

- Working with the IPPT to develop the annual report that communicates progress on meeting the pollinator goals
- Leading collaboration around implementation of the pollinator action framework
- Conducting public engagement and education around pollinators

In FY26, the staff increased our focus on targeted education to support deployment of pollinator-focused projects, and this focus is maintained in FY27. For example, we are working to build out our partnership with GreenStep cities to support annual pollinator webinars.

EQB staff are also continuing to work on program research and development related to genetically engineered organisms (GEOs). EQB's authorities in this area (laid out in Minn. Stat. 116C, Minn. R. 4410.8000, and Minn. R. 4420) were established in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The programmatic and regulatory landscape regarding the release of GEOs has shifted since that time. EQB staff have been convening an informal interagency workgroup for ongoing coordination and discussion of these issues and are working to develop a long-term plan for this program. In FY27, this starts with work to understand:

- The interaction of EQB's authorities with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's authorities over agriculturally-related GEOs
- The federal regulatory framework and requirements for the release of non-agriculturally-related GEOs in Minnesota
- The likelihood of requests to release non-agriculturally-related GEOs in Minnesota, and any state permits likely to be implicated
- The current environmental concerns about GEOs

This work will also need to include coordination with Tribes to understand their concerns about GEOs and the processes for potential releases, especially near Tribal lands.

Finally, EQB staff also continue to support an informal interagency collaboration on emerald ash borer and wood waste.

Engagement and Equity

The proposed workplan items related to engagement are designed to connect with our other areas of work.

First, we are continuing our partnership with Environmental Initiative's youth program – now called the Roots Rising Action Council. The participants, based on some preliminary work, are very interested in social determinants of health and understanding how those impact their communities. They are developing skills in convening conversations around understanding the issues and moving from issues to action. We are hoping to have the students present to the Board on health issues in Spring 2027, bringing their voices into our health conversation.

We are also starting to think about the next Environmental Congress, likely targeted for summer or fall 2027. The 2019 Congress was focused on climate, as the state was developing an initial Climate Action Framework. We are currently considering taking a climate focus in the 2027 Congress, building on the release of the updated 2026 Climate Action Framework and tying in with our work to develop external reporting.

We continue to plan to focus on developing relationships with external partners and stakeholders, and on systems that will help us maintain continuity in those relationships.

Operations

The overall workplan generally does not include the details of daily management and administration – including budgeting, staff management, basic communications (website updates), the process of preparing and running board meetings, and similar items. However, we do need to review EQB's record management procedures and have begun working with MPCA to do so. In FY26, we were able to develop systems and processes to get multiple document types filed into the permanent system for record storage – Board and ERIS meeting materials, board member appointment documentation, and rules. In FY27, we need to continue to work on additional document types.

Capacity and resources

EQB currently has nine full-time staff members, one part-time staff, and annual appropriations of approximately \$1.5 million for FY26 and FY27. Approximately 70% of our budget is spent on staffing. Many projects need input or collaboration from member agencies. Particularly for larger environmental review program projects we are working on timelines to communicate and plan with our state agency partners.

RESOLUTION OF THE MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

Approval of the Fiscal Year 2027 organizational workplan

The EQB's mission is to support informed decision-making that protects and enhances Minnesota's environmental quality. We accomplish this by fostering meaningful conversations, supporting collaborative policy and program development, and ensuring effective environmental review of potentially impactful projects.

EQB adopts the attached fiscal year 2027 organizational workplan (workplan), which aligns with EQB's mission, strategic plan, budget, and authorities. The workplan identifies key projects with details and FY26 tasks and timelines. It identifies both EQB staffing needs and cross-agency collaboration needs. The Executive Director will give periodic updates on the workplan and discuss any significant changes with the Board.

Selected relevant authorities:

- Minnesota Statutes § 116C.03 requires the adoption of an annual budget and work program.
- Minnesota Statutes, chapters 116C and 116D provide the authority to implement the EQB organizational work plan.
- Minnesota Statutes, chapters 116C and 116D and Rules 4410.0300 and 4410.0400 provide EQB the authority to oversee the Environmental Review program and make updates.
- Executive Order 19-28 directs EQB work related to pollinator health.
- Executive Order 19-37 establishes EQB membership in the Climate Change Subcabinet and directs related duties.

The board resolves that the EQB Executive Director implement the fiscal year 2027 organizational workplan, and manage EQB staff and budget resources accordingly, including executing any contracts needed to perform the work indicated.

The board approved and adopted this resolution on August 19, 2026.

Nancy Daubenberger, Chair
Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

Date: _____

Attachments: Proposed fiscal year 2027 EQB organizational workplan

Body of Work	Project	Details	Key Timelines	Outcome	Strategy	Cross-Agency Needs
Environmental Review	Gas resource development projects mandatory category rulemaking	Expedited rulemaking to update mandatory categories to include production of gas resources.	Review and respond to comments Board adoption by November 18, 2026 Final publication by December 31, 2026	Outcome 3	Strategy 4	High
Environmental Review	Guidance for considering Tribal Resources	Update guidance to provide best practices that support RGUs, particularly local governments, in effectively considering tribal resources.	Complete by November 15, 2026	Outcome 3	Strategy 1	Low
Environmental Review	EAW climate guidance update	Update EAW climate guidance, including to reflect the availability of the climate calculator as a tool for completing the climate pollution question in the EAW form.	Complete by December 31, 2026	Outcome 3	Strategy 2	Medium
Environmental Review	EAW form upkeep	Review and update the formatting to increase accessibility and clarity. (Readability and user understanding.) Minor updates to improve clarity of climate questions, including references to climate calculator.	Complete by December 31, 2026	Outcome 3	Strategy 1	Medium
Environmental Review	Petition evaluation guidance	Update guidance to provide support to local RGUs in evaluating petitions for EAWs.	Complete by December 31, 2026	Outcome 3	Strategy 1	Medium
Environmental Review	AUAR content and format	Update the 2008 "recommended content and format" guidance to align with the current EAW form.	Complete by March 31, 2027	Outcome 3	Strategy 1	Low
Environmental Review	EIS guidance	Review, update, and make web-based the EIS guidance. Add guidance for EIS scoping documents that are not EAWs.	Complete by March 31, 2027	Outcome 3	Strategy 1	Medium
Environmental Review	EAW item guidance	Update the EAW item-by-item guidance (last done in 2013) to align with the current EAW form. Integrate with web-based EAW guidance.	Complete by June 30, 2027	Outcome 3	Strategy 1	High
Environmental Review	Health impacts in environmental review	Build the foundational information needed for setting a scope of health in environmental review. - Review recent ER documents and public comments for inclusion of, or requests for, health information - Research existing frameworks for considering health impacts in project reviews (both national and international) - Develop a system to classify health impacts information based on the scope of information included - Assign the health information found in Minnesota ER documents and other frameworks to the appropriate classifications - Convene conversations about the definition and scope of health information that may be useful and practical to include in environmental review	Complete by June 30, 2027	Outcome 3	Strategy 4	High
Environmental Review	Planning for program updates to reflect Tribal sovereignty	Coordinate with Board and Tribes to identify the goals and objectives of environmental review policy and program changes; then develop implementation scope and mechanisms.	Host Tribal conversations through December 2026	Outcome 3	Strategy 4	High
Environmental Review	Housekeeping rule	Identify needed housekeeping updates to EQB rules (Minn. R. 4405 and 4410). Develop format for communicating the likely changes and why each is needed, in order to support engagement and an RFC.	Develop list in second half of FY27	Outcome 3	Strategy 4	Medium
Environmental Review	Mandatory Categories report	Develop project plan for 2027 Mandatory Categories report, create outline, and begin drafting. (Due December 2027)	Project plan - March 1, 2027 Initial outline - May 1, 2027	Outcome 3	Strategy 4	High
Environmental Review	Environmental Review training	Inform and train RGUs with a focus on updated guidance materials and RGU-identified needs. Use webinars, conference presentations, etc.	Host webinars/events approximately quarterly	Outcome 3	Strategy 1	Low
Environmental Review	Data gathering and sharing	Ongoing implementation of multiple data updates: - RGU surveys to get better data on the time it takes to complete ER - RGU quarterly surveys to identify usefulness of EQB's guidance and technical assistance - Ongoing implementation of EQB data and dashboard website - Ongoing internal tracking of technical assistance provided	Ongoing	Outcome 3	Strategy 3	None
Environmental Review	Technical assistance	Provide regular, ongoing technical assistance to RGUs, the public, project proposers, etc. that meets statutory timelines.	Ongoing	Outcome 3	Strategy 1	None
Climate	Climate Action Framework reporting	Lead and support CAF reporting team in developing and implementing a framework and governance structure for external reporting on progress towards the goal targets included in the 2026 Climate Action Framework.	Develop report template, data plan, and structure for reporting by end of 2026	Outcome 2	Strategy 3	High
Climate/Engagement	2027 Environmental Congress	Coordinate with the CAF reporting team to determine if the "CAF convening" should be the topic for a 2027 Environmental Congress and begin planning.	Decision by December 2026 Target Congress in summer/fall 2027	Outcome 1	Strategy 2	High
Water	MN 2100 Water Futures	Partner with MMB's Long Range Planning team in developing the MN 2100 Water Futures project, to support alignment between that project and EQB's water plans.	As determined by MMB	Outcome 2	Strategy 2	Low
Biodiversity - Pollinators	Pollinator executive order	Work with the state agencies to support reissuance of an Executive Order on pollinators, maintaining the IPPT and pollinator protection as a priority environmental issue	As determined by MMB and new administration	Outcome 2	Strategy 1	Medium
Biodiversity - Pollinators	Annual Pollinator Report	Work with the interagency pollinator protection team to develop this annual update to communicate progress on pollinator goals.	Reports completed by end of each calendar year	Outcome 2	Strategy 1	High
Biodiversity - Pollinators	Pollinator Action Framework implementation	Lead ongoing collaboration of the interagency pollinator protection team around implementation of the pollinator action framework, identifying areas of synergy and collaboration, and sharing progress	Results are included in pollinator annual report completed by the end of each calendar year	Outcome 2	Strategy 1	High
Biodiversity - Pollinators	Pollinator engagement	Celebrate the 10 year anniversary of the IPPT; host and participate in pollinator public events (pollinator day at the State Fair, Minneapolis monarch festival, etc.)	Ongoing	Outcome 2	Strategy 1	Medium

Body of Work	Project	Details	Key Timelines	Outcome	Strategy	Cross-Agency Needs
Biodiversity - Pollinators	Pollinator education	Develop and host pollinator webinars for peer-to-peer conversations designed to support deployment of pollinator focused projects. Targeted groups include cities (through a developing regular partnership with GreenStep cities), businesses, farmers.	As scheduled - tentatively late summer, fall, winter	Outcome 2	Strategy 1	Low-Med
Biodiversity - GEO	Genetically Engineered Organism program research and development	Convene working group for ongoing coordination with staff of key agencies. Work to understand - Interaction of EQB’s authorities with MDA's authorities - Federal regulatory framework and requirements for the release of non-agriculturally-related GEOs - Likelihood of requests to release non-agriculturally-related GEOs, and implicated state permits - The current environmental concerns about GEOs	Ongoing	Outcome 2	Strategy 4	Medium
Biodiversity - EAB	Convene EAB Workgroup	Continue to convene group for discussion, and identify where EQB can support effective collaboration	Ongoing	Outcome 2	Strategy 4	Medium
Engagement	Youth Engagement	Partner with the Roots Rising Action Council to bring forward youth voices on health impacts.	August 2026 through May 2027 Youth board presentations	Outcome 1	Strategy 2	Low-Med
Engagement	Relationship development	Develop relationships (by attending events, workshops, etc) to identify partners and stakeholders that are interested in EQB's work, and identify their key areas of interest/need. Develop supporting internal systems and structures, such as CRM-type databases for better contact management and interest tracking.	Complete contact tracking system by end of FY27	Outcome 1	Strategy 1	Low
Operations	Records management	Develop structures for permanent storage of EQB files within MPCA's file management tools.	Ongoing			Low

Workplan Projects by Outcome and Strategy	
Outcome 1	
Strategy 1	Relationship development
Strategy 2	2027 Environmental Congress Youth Engagement
Outcome 2	
Strategy 1	Annual Pollinator Report Pollinator Action Framework implementation Pollinator education Pollinator engagement Pollinator executive order
Strategy 2	MN 2100 Water Futures
Strategy 3	Climate Action Framework reporting
Strategy 4	Convene EAB Workgroup Genetically Engineered Organism program research and development
Outcome 3	
Strategy 1	AUAR content and format EAW form upkeep EAW item guidance EIS guidance Environmental Review training Guidance for considering Tribal Resources Petition evaluation guidance Technical assistance
Strategy 2	EAW climate guidance update
Strategy 3	Data gathering and sharing
Strategy 4	Gas resource development projects mandatory category rulemaking Health impacts in environmental review Housekeeping rule Mandatory Categories report Planning for program updates to reflect Tribal sovereignty