

January 2023 Environmental Quality Board meeting

Wednesday, January 18 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) in room 104. 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

Please see the agenda for public comment opportunities. Procedure and guidelines for giving oral public comment:

- If you wish to speak, 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

- Minutes from December 14, 2022, Environmental Quality Board meeting (packet page 4)
- Preliminary agenda for January 18, 2023, Environmental Quality Board meeting

3. Executive Director's report

Erik Cedarleaf Dahl – Interim Executive Director, EQB

4. Environmental Quality Board budget and work plan overview

Board members will hear a presentation on an overview of the EQB budget and work plan for the first half of 2023.

Presenter: Erik Cedarleaf Dahl – Interim Executive Director, EQB

5. Environmental Quality Board budget request

The board will hear a brief presentation on an overview of the budget request for a Minnesota-based emissions assessment tool and guidance to support implementation of the environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) process.

Presenter: Kayla Walsh – Environmental Review Program Administrator, EQB

6. Continuous improvement update

The board will hear a process update from consultants in regard to the Environmental Review Program continuous improvement effort.

Presenters: Karen Gaides, Mariyam Naadha – Management Consultants, Minnesota Management and Budget

7. Public comment

The board welcomes oral public comment on agenda items 4–6. Please see guidance and procedures on packet page 2.

8. Closing and adjournment



December 2022 Environmental Quality Board meeting

Wednesday, December 14, 2022, from 1 – 4 p.m. In person: 520 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155, lower level conference rooms. Virtual: 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, Joseph Bauerkemper, Nancy Daubenberger, Kenneth Foster, Rylee Hince, Katrina Kessler, Mehmet Konar-Steenberg, Nicholas Martin, Paul Nelson, Thom Petersen, Sarah Strommen, Gerald Van Amburg

Members excused: Steve Grove, Jan Malcolm, Alice Roberts-Davis, Charles Zelle

Proxies present: Dan Huff (for Malcolm), Stephen Roos (for Petersen), Peter Tester (for Kessler), Sue Vento (for Zelle)

EQB staff present: Erik Cedarleaf-Dahl, Rebeca Gutierrez-Moreno, Hazel Houle, Faith Krogstad, Kayla Walsh, Denise Wilson

Other staff present: Karen Gaides (Minnesota Management and Budget), Mariyam Naadha (Minnesota Management and Budget)

2. Approval of consent agenda

- Meeting minutes from November 16, 2022, Environmental Quality Board meeting.
- Preliminary agenda for December 14, 2022, Environmental Quality Board meeting.

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

3. Executive Director's report

Erik Cedarleaf Dahl – Interim Executive Director, EQB

- Odyssey project: This winter, we will be launching a new *EQB Monitor* submittal service. Responsible governmental units (RGUs) and consultants for RGUs will use the service to submit environmental review notices. Other governmental agencies will use the service to submit other general notices for publication in the *EQB Monitor* as well. In addition to the new

submittal service, we will be launching a new webpage with a searchable database of environmental review projects with access to the associated documents.

- Obsolete rules report: On November 30, EQB submitted a report to the Minnesota Legislature on obsolete, unnecessary, and duplicative rules within Minnesota Rules, chapter 4410. The report collected public feedback for 30 days and identified items for further review during EQB's next rulemaking and items for further review during the 2024 Mandatory Categories Report.
- EQB posted the Executive Director position which closes December 30.
- EQB is seeking applications for the congressional district 3 board seat.
- EQB will be co-hosting a water meeting on the "Social & Health Impacts of Changing Water Resources and Ecosystems" in partnership with the University of Minnesota on January 24.

4. Summary of Subcommittee for Pilot Program Implementation discussion and recommendations

Subcommittee for Pilot Program Implementation (SPPI) Chair Nicholas Martin gave a summary of the implementation of the pilot program to incorporate climate information in the environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) form. The subcommittee recommends the proposed changes to the EAW form.

5. Summary of Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee discussion and recommendations

Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee Chair Strommen gave a summary of the results of the pilot program. The subcommittee recommends the proposed changes to the EAW form.

6. Approval of December 2022 Environmental Assessment Worksheet form

Presenter:

EQB Director of Environmental Review Denise Wilson presented the resolution and the draft implementation plan. She also thanked the interagency climate technical team.

The board held a discussion and two members of the public commented.

Board Member Van Amburg proposed an amendment to strike the word "potentially" out of the sentence "climate change is identified as a potentially significant environmental issue."

The board considered the amended resolution. Board Member Van Amburg motioned to approve the amendment to the resolution. Board Member Strommen seconded. In favor: Arnold, Bakken, Bauerkemper, Daubenberger, Foster, Hince, Konar-Steenberg, Martin, Nelson, Petersen, Strommen, Van Amburg. Opposed: none. Excused: Grove, Kessler, Malcolm, Roberts-Davis. Motion passes.

The board considered the final, amended resolution. Board Member Konar-Steenburg motioned to approve the resolution. Board Member Hince seconded. In favor: Arnold, Bakken, Bauerkemper, Daubenberger, Foster, Hince, Konar-Steenberg, Martin, Nelson, Petersen, Strommen, Van Amburg.

Opposed: None. Excused: Grove, Kessler, Malcolm, Roberts-Davis. Motion passes. The EQB chair formally approved updates to the EAW form.

7. Summary of the Continuous Improvement Process for Environmental Review (discussion item)

EQB Environmental Review Program Administrator Kayla Walsh presented background information on developing a continuous improvement process. Minnesota Management and Budget Senior Management Consultants Karen Gaides and Mariyam Naadha spoke about the research and engagement aspects of the project. The board discussed the process.

8. Public comment

Two members of the public commented.

9. Closing & adjournment

Board Member Martin motions to adjourn. Board Member Paul Nelson seconds. All in favor; meeting adjourned.

DRAFT