MINNESOTA
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

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

Date: 8/19/2026

Nancy Daubenberger, Chair
Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

Attachments: Proposed fiscal year 2027 EQB organizational workplan

Attachment 1: Proposed FY27 EQB 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

Attachment 1: Proposed FY27 EQB Workplan

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