

# Environmental Quality Board Environmental Review Advisory Panel

**Friday, December 08, 2017, 9am-noon**  
**Minnesota Pollution Control Agency**  
**520 Lafayette Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55155**

**Present members:** Michelle Ross, Josh Fitzpatrick, Peder Larson, Lucas Sjostrom, Jason Aagenes, Timothy Nelson, Jim Atkinson, Carissa Slotterback, David Zoll, Bill Johnson (for Randall Doneen during the first half of the meeting), Randall Doneen, Willis Mattison, Louise Miltich, Andi Moffatt

**EQB staff:** Will Seuffert, Denise Wilson, and Melissa Peck

**Management Analysis & Development (MAD) Staff:** Henriët Hendriks and Lisa Anderson

## Welcome and announcements

Henriët welcomed everyone to the meeting and led introductions. Denise noted that she sent out a Doodle poll regarding a possible February meeting. January's meeting will cover engagement, education and outreach.

## Proposed revised EAW and Scoping EIS process steps

Denise introduced the current EAW and EIS process flow chart, which also included a proposed alternative process based on the panel discussion during the November meeting (see supporting documents for December meeting). Willis reviewed the alternative paths and reiterated the objectives of environmental review, in particular the phrase "avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects and to restore and enhance environmental quality." He expressed the concern that the panel is diminishing those aspects and objectives and that the panel should weigh the new process against that. Jason noted the first objective of the panel: "to modernize and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the environmental review program."

The panel provided feedback to EQB staff on the revised process (see document "12-8 ERAP meeting flip chart notes").

## Alternative review

Denise presented the alternative review document (see supporting documents for the December meeting). The panel provided feedback on the document (see document "12-8 ERAP meeting flip chart notes").

## Next steps

The January meeting will focus on engagement, what and how EQB does it right now, and possible future options for engagement.

EQB staff will also bring back to the panel a package of panel recommendations for the panel members to reflect on. Willis suggested bouncing the package off of the objectives of environmental review and the panel to see how it measures up.

## Public comment

“Wi” Otto commented that as a contractor she works with corporations. If the process is stopped [because of permit issues or ER issues], she will still get paid. She noted further that a permit is a right to break the law: there are rules in place that a permit allows her to go against it and continue with project. So having documents and EQB to keep people in check with that law, that’s a very important part; having more agencies networking and working together is an important check. She asked the panel to be very careful when omitting areas [in the environmental review process] and be very careful when accessing those permit.

Mysti Babineau commented that she understands the confusion when words like controversial projects are used and she does not appreciate that. She noted that there is no diversity at this panel. She further noted that she thinks PCA has illegally issued stormwater permits and this does affect people’s homes. She also noted that it takes forever to download studies and information so the public doesn’t have the accessibility to information. She noted that a panel member said that Minnesota is the best with environmental review but cautioned that Minnesota is the land of 710k lakes and turning into the land of 10k polluted lakes.

The meeting ended at noon.