

**MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, April 17, 2013
MPCA Room Board Room, 520 Lafayette Road, St. Paul**

EQB Members Present: Dave Frederickson, Brian Napstad, John Saxhaug, Erik Tomlinson, Mike Rothman, John Linc Stine, Ed Ehlinger, Kate Knuth, Tom Landwehr, Kristin Duncanson, Julie Goehring, Charlie Zelle

EQB Members Absent: Katie Clark Sieben, Spencer Cronk

Staff Present: Bob Patton, Kate Frantz, Jeff Smyser (EQB), Beth Tegdesch MPCA for EQB

Chair Dave Frederickson called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

I. Adoption of Consent Agenda and Minutes

A motion to adopt the Consent Agenda and approve the March 20, 2013, meeting minutes was made, seconded, and carried unanimously.

II. Chair's Report

Commissioner Frederickson brought attention to a letter dated April 16th response to Mr. Falkum, Ms. Burke, and Ms. Brown regarding their concern over the Superior Sands transfer facility in the City of Wabasha. Executive Director Bob Patton and Commissioner Frederickson responded to their concerns in this letter.

III. Executive Director's Report

Bob Patton gave a budget and Legislative update.

There are bills moving through the Legislature having to do with the EQB budget and silica sand. Omnibus bills: House File 976 and Senate File 1607. House side agrees with the Governor's recommendation for funding the operating budget of the EQB at \$500,000/year; silica sand provisions in the bill mandates to the EQB. Senate side does not recommend additional funds to EQB, but recommends the existing budget of \$151,000/year.

More information on the bills was shared.

IV. Minnesota River Basin Integrated Watershed Study Update and Discussion

Presenter: Kate Frantz, EQB Staff

The EQB is a co-sponsor with the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) on this project. Several activities have been conducted to date in the Minnesota River Basin as part of the interagency team. Based on the interagency support team input, the team, including the Corps, is now exploring to what extent to conduct economic, social, and environmental modeling efforts in parallel with hydrologic and geomorphic modeling.

John Linc Stine, from PCA, will head a delegation, along with Commissioner Landwehr, Commissioner Napsted, Kristin Duncanson, and Kate Frantz to meet with the Corps.

V. Fillmore-Houston-Winona Silica Sand Facilities EIS Update

Presenter: Jeff Smyser, EQB Staff

A number of silica sand mines have been proposed in three counties: Fillmore, Houston, and Winona. EAWs have been completed for several of the mines. The proposed mines are phased actions that must be considered in total under the rules of the environmental review program and therefore crossed the threshold for a mandatory Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). At the request of the three counties, on March 20th the Environmental Quality Board re-assigned the responsibility for the EIS from the counties to itself, the EQB.

Staff will provide an overview of the process and preparation of an EIS and an update on the work being done to prepare the multi-county EIS on silica sand facilities.

VI. Governor's Institute on Community Design Workshop Update

Presenter: Ellen Anderson, Senior Advisor to the Governor

Ellen Anderson gave an update and briefing on the upcoming May 2, 2013, Governor's Institute on Community Design workshop.

This workshop will take the information and ideas gathered through the many efforts related to the Minnesota Environmental Congress and use them to help the EQB shape a vision for the future that addresses Minnesota's environment and energy challenges and opportunities.

The 2012 Minnesota Environment and Energy Report Card provides a baseline for how Minnesota is currently performing in the areas of water, land, air, energy, and climate. Citizen input gathered through the Environmental Congress Citizen Forums, comment cards, an online Citizen Forum, and the Next Generation Environmental Congress were the starting point for the Minnesota Environmental Congress. The Congress was a working session, where recognized experts and community leaders synthesized citizen input and develop issue statements presented to the EQB.

All of the information leading up to the Minnesota Environmental Congress has been made available on the Environmental Congress website, located at: www.mn.gov/environmentalcongress.

Citizen Forum information and comments submitted online can be found at:

<http://www.mn.gov/EnvironmentalCongress/forum.html>

Minnesota Environmental Congress Presentation Information can be found at:

<http://www.mn.gov/EnvironmentalCongress/march15.html>

Following the Minnesota Environmental Congress, the Governor's Institute on Community Design has been working with the team to organize a follow-up event which features expert speakers and will facilitate discussion with the EQB. The objectives of the workshop facilitated by the Governors' Institute on Community Design are to assist the EQB in:

- 1) establishing actionable priority goals following recommendations from each phase of Executive Order 11-32—including the Environmental Review Improvement Report, the Governance and Coordination Report, insights from the Environment and Energy Report Card, and the Citizen Forums and Environmental Congress—within the context of the EQB's current commitments and available resources,
- 2) creating action-oriented implementation plans for these goals, and
- 3) measuring outcomes to demonstrate progress toward these goals.

VII. Genuine Progress Indicators Discussion

Presenter: Ken Pentel, Director of the Ecology Democracy Network

Mr. Pentel discussed the *Genuine Progress Indicator* for use as a measurement for Minnesota's economic health.

In the early 1990s at the direction of Governor Carlson and the Minnesota Legislature, a sustainable roundtable was convened. The roundtable explored the possibility, and then recommended that Minnesota use the *Genuine Progress Indicator* (GPI) as a guide to measure Minnesota's economic health. As an outcome, during Governor Ventura's administration, the MN Department of Planning and the Environmental Quality Board published: "Smart Signals: *An assessment of progress indicators*" in March 2000.

Since the publishing of Smart Signals; Maryland and Vermont have established the Genuine Progress Indicator as their state's economic measurement.

Mr. Pentel discussed, with the Board, the benefits of the Genuine Progress Indicator and why the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board is uniquely positioned to establish a new measurement of Minnesota's economic health.

IX. Adjourn