

# **MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, February 19, 2014  
MPCA Room Board Room, 520 Lafayette Road N, St. Paul**

**EQB Members Present:** Dave Frederickson, Kate Knuth, Mike Rothman, John Saxhaug, Erik Tomlinson, Charlie Zelle, Spencer Cronk, Kristen Eide-Tollefson, Tom Landwehr, Dr. Ed Ehlinger, Katie Clark-Sieben, Julie Goehring, Brian Napstad, John Linc Stine, Sandy Rummel (Met Council)

**EQB Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Will Seuffert (EQB), Jeff Smyser (EQB), Kate Frantz (EQB), Megan Eischen (EQB), Caroline Magnuson (EQB), Erik Dahl (EQB), Anna Henderson (EQB) Beth Tegdesch (MPCA for EQB)

Chair Dave Frederickson called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m.

## **I. Adoption of Consent Agenda and Minutes**

A motion to adopt the Consent Agenda and approve the January 15, 2013, meeting minutes was made and seconded.

## **II. Introductions**

## **III. Chair's Report**

Chair Dave Frederickson introduced the newest Citizen Board member, Kristen Eide-Tollefson. Kristen shared briefly her experience and training/education. Welcome Kristen.

## **IV. Executive Director's Report**

Will Seuffert thanked everyone who attended the meeting at the U of M last month. He hopes to make this a trend to meet outside of St. Paul, but will do his best to balance logistical demands and staff resources. A follow-up from last month's meeting; he has been in touch with youth leaders about their proposal at the last month's meeting and is working to refine that internship opportunity as well as creating another one that could be housed in the EQB's Environmental Review program. Will keep you updated.

Why is the EQB involved in climate change? Statute 116c directs the Board to investigate the matter in interdepartmental concern. This cuts across many jurisdictions so this is a very appropriate issue for us to be considering. In the listening sessions at the 2012 Environmental Congress and then the GICD planning process, Climate Change was identified as the primary issue for the Board to delve into in 2014. This is the first meeting of the subcommittee; the purpose and charge of the subcommittee is to oversee staff work and the projects we are working on and also public engagement; periodically scheduling subcommittee meetings throughout the calendar year to create opportunities for public input and for Board input. The goal of today's meeting is to provide definition and clarity. A lot of staff work has been going on behind the scenes for months, and a lot is being planned for the future so we want to provide a sense of how these are all integrated and give you an opportunity to shape them as you see fit and also explore how these fit in to other efforts at the state and federal level that don't directly involve EQB. The EQB also wants to explore some opportunities for public and stakeholder engagement.

The Board and our staff are complete now. Anna Henderson is our Climate and Energy Specialist and Erik Dahl is our Rulemaking Specialist. Welcome Anna and Erik.

**V. Environmental Review Update**

Kate Frantz, EQB Environmental Review Program Lead, and Megan Eischen, EQB Communications

Executive Order 11-32 Project: Environmental Improvement Report

Recommendations are:

1. To strengthen EQB capacity for oversight and assistance in implementation of environmental review.
  - Updated the EAW form and it is now posted on the EQB website. The *EAW Guidelines* was also finalized.
  - Next steps: Partnership with the U of M on revision to *Citizen's Guide* series
2. To develop a better system of making information available.
  - A framework was developed and the EQB has one year of records entered into the OnBase database that the MPCA uses for record management.
  - Next steps: Data entry of records from EQB Monitor submittals
  - Proposal to connect records in the database to a mapping tool, based on agency mapping applications.

Discussion followed.

**VI. Silica Sand Projects Update**

Jeff Smyser, EQB Policy Programs Lead

Staff provided updates on the EQB's silica sand projects:

1. "Tools to Assist Local Governments" (Model Standards and Criteria) - The Board extended the comment period to January 27<sup>th</sup>; 68 comment messages were received, many with lengthy comment letters attached. We are reviewing the comments and revising the document and are on schedule to bring the final document to the March 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.
2. Library of Local Government Ordinances and Permits – 18 LGU ordinance documents, 2 permits: a Conditional Use Permit and an Interim Use Permit; 1 moratorium (which is an interim ordinance) 1 road agreement for reference. This library will be growing, and there are other future possibilities for what it will include.
3. Silica Sand Rulemaking Advisory Panel – The first meeting was held Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>. Discussion included: introductions, the panel's role, how does rulemaking operate under Minnesota Statute Chapter 14, and established ground rules for meetings. Future meetings will be focused on more specific elements. The MPCA and DNR are the lead agencies running the advisory panel.
4. The Technical Advisory Team is available to assist local governments.

Some discussion followed.

**VII. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.**