

**MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, July 16, 2014
MPCA Room Board Room, 520 Lafayette Road N, St. Paul**

EQB Members Present: Dave Frederickson, Kristen Eide-Tollefson, Tom Landwehr, Dr. Ed Ehlinger, Katie Clark-Sieben, Julie Goehring, Brian Napstad, John Linc Stine, Kate Knuth, Sandy Rummel (Met Council)

EQB Members Absent: Mike Rothman, Erik Tomlinson, John Saxhaug

Staff Present: Will Seuffert (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.

I. Adoption of Consent Agenda and Minutes

A motion to adopt the Consent Agenda and approve the June 18, 2014, meeting minutes was made and seconded.

II. Introductions

III. Chair's Report

No report.

IV. Executive Director's Report

- The next Silica Sand Rulemaking Advisory Panel Meeting is scheduled for July 24th, most of the agenda is reserved for discussion of environmental review thresholds; we will be looking at the survey sent out to our panelists and will bring the discussion back to the Board at the September meeting. This is not a decision item, just a conversation about the rule and the direction we think we will go with it.
- Update on the Minnesota Sands EIS: EQB staff have not received a payment, a signed cost agreement, or a data submittal from Minnesota Sands for the multi-site project at this time. We will provide a status update if this changes.
- The Governor's Clean Energy and Economic Development Summit is scheduled for July 17th at the U of M McNamara Center.
- The August 20th Board meeting will be in Duluth. We will be presenting the Climate Report.
- In 2013 the EQB participated in a strategic planning process facilitated by the Governors' Institute on Community Design. One recommendation that came out of that process, as well as the Environmental Congress that preceded it, was that the EQB should re-new its focus on water management coordination. In fulfillment of that priority, we have invited member agencies to present to the board their signature inter-agency water management initiatives. Staff was asked to compile an inventory of existing interagency efforts related to water management. Although silica sand, climate, and environmental review programs remain the focus of this calendar year, we want to spend some time with the Board on water management issues.
- On or around August 10th, the new EQB website will be up and running.

V. Environmental Review Internship Update

Presenters: Caroline Magnuson, EQB staff; Amy Whooley, EQB Intern

The EQB's environmental review intern presented the draft revised "Citizen's Guide to Environmental Review" documents and recommendations to help improve understanding of environmental review for members of the public. Amy worked with the Governor's Plain Language Initiative to accomplish this. She shared examples of the "new" documents showing improved accuracy, clarity, and effectiveness, as well as making the information more user-friendly.

After completion of this project, EQB staff will finalize the documents and consider the prioritized recommendations.

VI. Overview of EQB Statutory Water Responsibilities

Presenters: Erik Cedarleaf Dahl and Kate Frantz, EQB staff

Staff presented an overview of EQB statutory responsibilities associated with water; GICD recommendations; Minnesota Water Plan summaries; and other report recommendations.

VII. Water Governance Evaluation: 2014 Update and Future Directions

Presenter: Suzanne Rhees, Floodplain & Land Use Planner, DNR, Division of Ecological and Water Resources (and Project Coordinator for Report)

Reviewed the 2014 Update of the Water Governance Evaluation (2013) and discussed potential role of EQB and other agencies going forward.

VIII. Planning for Groundwater Sustainability in the 21st Century Minnesota

Presenter: Jason Moeckel, Minnesota DNR, Division of Ecological and Water Resources

Jason gave a presentation on water use trends and groundwater management in Minnesota.

IX. One Watershed One Plan

Presenter: Melissa Lewis, Board of Water and Soil Resources

This presentation is to inform the Board about developing the One Watershed, One Plan program.

X. Update on the Implementation of the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

Presenter: Matt Wohlman, Assistant Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) is a voluntary program designed to accelerate adoption of on-farm conservation practices that protect Minnesota's lakes and rivers. Producers who implement and maintain approved farm management practices will be certified and in turn assured that their operation meets the state's water quality goals and standards for a period of 10 years.

An update was given on the implementation of this new program.

XI. Adjourn

If you would like to hear the audio recording of the July 16, 2014, EQB Board Meeting, go to the following link: ftp://files.pca.state.mn.us/pub/EQB_Board/