

MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 21, 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), Leah Hedman, Attorney General's Office

EQB Members Absent: None

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 at 1:04 p.m.

I. Adoption of Consent Agenda and Minutes

A motion to adopt the Consent Agenda and approve the March 19, 2014, meeting minutes was made and seconded.

II. Introductions

III. Chair's Report

No report

IV. Executive Director's Report

Belated thanks to those who were able to make the trip to Rochester for the March EQB Board meeting. The Silica Sand Rulemaking Advisory Panel continues to meet monthly, most recently on Friday, May 16th in Oronoco, to discuss reclamation requirements. As a reminder, the EQB rulemaking will address environmental review thresholds for silica sand mining, storage, and processing. A draft rule and a statement of need and reasonableness will come before the Board later this year pending the progress made with the Panel.

The Climate Change subcommittee met on March 28 to discuss various policy options for consideration and the climate strategies and economic opportunities analysis, also known as CSEO. As a reminder CSEO will analyze the greenhouse gas reduction potential cost and job impacts for a wide variety of policy options that have been suggested by stakeholders and interagency experts. Intensive interagency work is ensued and progress is being made on this project, as well as editing and the framework report which is on schedule for your review by the next meeting in June. The National Governor's Association's Clean Energy and Economic Development project is moving forward, most recently with a stakeholder meeting this morning and a multi-state policy academy held in Phoenix last week. The Governor is tentatively hosting a summit on July 17th with broad industry and stakeholder participation. I strongly encourage you to attend, if you are able. Details will follow. Our next meeting will include detailed presentation and status updates on various climate and clean energy initiatives.

Our next meeting will include both a continuation of our water management presentations and EIS presentations and also have a climate change subcommittee meeting.

There has been broad interest in the status of our website and we are working with the IT team at the MPCA to move onto a new content management system to make web development and management easier and more self-sustaining. Since this is a new system our timeline is uncertain, but we hope to move into that system in August. Once this migration is complete we can begin to retool our website.

Welcome to Amy Whooley, the EQB intern for the summer. She will help revise citizen documents; she attends the U of M Twin Cities and plans to graduate in December with a degree in environmental science policy and management.

V. Minnesota Sands Multi-site EIS

The issue before the Board is whether the Michelle and Tracie Erickson 19.11 acre mine is a phased action to the Minnesota Sands multi-site EIS project. Kate Frantz, EQB staff, shared the basic concepts about environmental review that are applicable in this case. She briefly explained mandatory categories, what phased and connected actions are, as well as how they are the same or different from cumulative potential effects, and also covered more obscure inclusions from the rules including the related actions EIS process as well as the variance process. Kate also shared some history of this project.

Approving this Resolution would affirm the Erickson 19.11 acre site is not a phased action and would effectively release them from the multi-site EIS that would be completed by the EQB for the Minnesota sands project. Your decision on this matter does not relieve this project from other environmental review requirements it may be required to complete nor other potential permitting requirements Those decisions are not the jurisdiction of the board at this time. The option today is whether to adopt the resolution before you, amend the resolution, reject the resolution, or not take any action at this time.

Discussion followed.

The following people gave testimony:

- David Williams, Lanesboro
- Theresa Walter, Commissioner Chair Houston County
- Marilyn Frauenkron Bayer, Land Stewardship Project
- Johanna Rupprecht, Land Stewardship Project
- Kelley Stanage, Houston, Minnesota
- Bob Scanlon, Houston County Planning and Zoning
- Tracie Erickson, Houston County
- Richard Frick, Minnesota Sands
- John Dustman, consultant from Summit Envirosolutions in St. Paul to Minnesota Sands

Commissioner John Stine made a motion to table the decision item until next month until more materials are submitted. Commissioner Rothman seconded. A roll call vote was taken to table the decision and passed seven to five.

VI. Minnesota River Basin Integrated Study Update

Kate Frantz, EQB, and Jason Smith, Army Corps of Engineers, provided an update on the Minnesota River Integrated Watershed Study.

VII. Adjourn