

**MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, January 16, 2013
MPCA Room Board Room, 520 Lafayette Road, St. Paul**

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

EQB Members Absent: Kristin Duncanson, Spencer Cronk

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

Chair Dave Frederickson called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

I. Adoption of Consent Agenda and Minutes

A motion to adopt the Consent Agenda was made, seconded, and carried unanimously.

II. Introductions

Chair Dave Frederickson introduced two new Board members; Commissioner Charlie Zelle of MnDOT, and Kate Knuth, Citizen Member from New Brighton, and a longtime member of the State Legislature. Members of the EQB and those in attendance introduced themselves. A special introduction to Andrea Fetherston, the Dept. of Agriculture's new Executive Assistant.

III. Chair's Report

Six Citizen Forum meetings were held across the state and the Governor is very pleased with the input from these meetings. The Governor complimented Ellen Anderson and Anna Sherman on the great work they had done to put together these meetings. 1,200 people (actual number) attended. Looking forward to the Environmental Congress on March 15th.

IV. Executive Director's Report

- Additional correspondence was handed out to each board member.
- Beth Tegdesch was introduced as the new EQB support staff who is replacing Mary Osborn.
- The Living Word Bible Camp will not be on the agenda today; operating rules require us to have 10 calendar days' notice to parties when staff prepares findings and conclusions; will be preparing those findings and get them out to the parties
- Ellen Anderson and Bob Patton will appear before the Senate Environmental Committee tomorrow and give a brief overview on the Board; Bob will be covering the Board background and Ellen will talk about the Executive Order. This is a great opportunity to highlight what the Board has been doing.
- Echo the Chair's report on the Citizen's Forum and wants to also thank the agencies and staff for help with putting those on.

V. **Mandatory Environmental Review Categories Report**

Presenter Jeff Smyser: Report and Notice for Comment

This item is about initiating the formal rule making process to see what changes the public and the different agencies would like to see made for certain aspects of the environmental review program rules. EQB is not asking for approval of this document, this is mainly for information purposes. **Action item is approving the resolution that will start the process to get formal comments on the rules.** The Resolution is to authorize the Chair of the EQB to sign and publish a Request for comments.

There was much Board discussion. A motion was made to have a transmittal letter created to submit to the Governor's office and legislature a finalized version of the report. The transmittal letter will be signed by the three commissioners whose agencies prepared individual reports compiled into this finalized version, as well as the Board Chair in regard to the individual report by EQB Staff which has also been included in the finalized version.

"Now, therefore, be it resolved that the EQB hereby authorizes the Chair to publish a Request for Comments on possible amendments of Minn. R. ch. 4410."

- Motion passes with 11 ayes, 1 no.

Presenter Bob Patton: Establish an EQB Subcommittee

The following members agreed to be on the subcommittee, and will meet at the PCA once a month.

- John Linc Stine
- Dave Frederickson
- Kate Knuth
- Brian Napstad

VI. **Silica Sand Draft Report Discussion**

Presenter Jeff Smyser

Chair Frederickson wants to indicate, for the record, that Governor Dayton is very, very concerned about the whole issue of silica sand mining and its impact and effect on the southeastern portion of Minnesota; he definitely does not want projects to get approved before legislative decisions can be made, and if need be assured that he will use his executive powers to slow things down; he is looking for serious discussions/debates but wants that to take place along with members of the legislature; he is watching very carefully and critically of what is going on in the countryside.

Issue before the Board: Discuss preliminary working draft and provide comment and direction to staff for revisions to the document.

The Board requested that state agency staff look at the issues related to the silica sand industry and prepare a report. The direction of the report is supposed to be what do we know, and what don't we know. A sub theme as part of the discussion: what is it that state government might be able to provide local governments to help them address the issues that are important to them.

- This is a preliminary draft
- This report will not be encyclopedic

- This report from the EQB should be reliable
- The report does not advocate a particular perspective on the silica sand issues

Board Discussion

The following people provided comments on silica sand mining:

- Kristin Eide-Tollefson, Citizen, Florence Township, Goodhue County
- Tony Kwilas, Director of Environmental Policy, Chamber of Commerce
- Winston Kaehler, Red Wing, MN
- Jody McIlrath, Frontenac, MN

VII. Update on Citizen Forums and Minnesota Environmental Congress

Presenter Ellen Anderson, Senior Advisor to the Governor

The completed Environmental Congress Citizen Forums and the plans for the Environmental Congress event was presented before the EQB.

The Board commended the group: Kate Frantz, Jeff Smyser, Ellen Anderson, and Anna Sherman for these forums. Also John Saxhaug, Erik Tomlinson, Julie Goehring, Kristen Duncanson and Brian Napstad, for the extra effort they put in being part of these listening sessions.

IX. Adjourn