

The *EQB Monitor*

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Submission Deadline: [View 2020 Schedule](#)
Use the [EQB Monitor Submission Form](#)

The *EQB Monitor* is a weekly publication announcing environmental review documents, public comment periods and other actions of the Environmental Quality Board. For more information on environmental review, please visit the [EQB website](#). You can find active projects in your community on the [Environmental Review Projects Interactive Map](#).

Check the [EQB Monitor Schedule](#) and [EQB calendar](#) for more details on *Monitor* deadlines and Board Meetings. Meeting minutes, agendas and additional notices are also posted on the [EQB Website](#).



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EQB Announcements

October 21, 2020 Special Joint Meeting of the EQB and Climate Change Subcabinet

We invite you to join the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) and Climate Change Subcabinet at the next EQB meeting on October 21, from 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Environmental Quality Board will convene its October meeting exclusively digitally through the WebEx platform. Instructions for connecting to WebEx are included on page three of the Board packet.

[Access Link to October Meeting](#)

The meeting will address several objectives:

- Build a shared vision on climate across the EQB and the Climate Change Subcabinet.
- Share about the work of the Climate Change Subcabinet, including how it is being structured and organized across agencies
- Introduce the Subcabinet's vision for engaging Minnesotans on climate change and invite public input and involvement
- Announce Our Minnesota Climate Forum Series
- Communicate about opportunities to stay involved and collaborate

You can view our full agenda and handouts on the [EQB website](#).

Accessibility: This material can be provided in different forms, like large print, braille, or on a recording. Please contact EQB staff at least one week prior to the event at info.EQB@state.mn.us to arrange an accommodation.

Walz, Flanagan Announce Appointments to the Environmental Quality Board

On October 1, Governor Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan announced the following appointments to the Environmental Quality Board.

Nicholas Martin – St. Paul, MN

Public Board Member, Congressional District 4

Effective: October 6, 2020

Expires: January 1, 2024

Mehmet Konar-Steenberg – Minneapolis, MN

Public Board Member, Congressional District 5

Effective: January 5, 2021

Expires: January 6, 2025

Welcome new Board Members!

Environmental Assessment Worksheet

Lock and Dam 2 Protective Island Project

Comment Deadline: November 12, 2020

Project Description: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District is proposing to protect the Lock and Dam 2 embankment from erosion through construction of an offshore protective island. The island would result in a variety of unique habitat types that are not currently present above the Lock and Dam 2 embankment. Some of these habitat types include; wooded/forest, brush/grassland, beach, fish overwintering and emergent wetlands. The island would be constructed with sediments dredged from the Mississippi River.

Link to Document: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/lock-and-dam-2/index.html>

RGU: Department of Natural Resources

RGU Contact: Kathy Metzker, 651-259-5694, kathleen.metzker@state.mn.us

Environmental Impact Statement Need Decisions

The noted responsible governmental units have determined the following projects do not require preparation of Environmental Impact Statement (EISs). The dates below are the dates of the determinations.

Keene Creek Restoration Project

Decision: Negative (no EIS ordered), October 1, 2020

Link to Document: No link to electronic copies of the documents was provided. For copies of the documents, see RGU contact information below.

RGU: South St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District

RGU Contact: Ann Thompson, 218-723-4867, ann.thompson@southstlouisswcd.org

Granite Works Redevelopment Project

Decision: Negative (no EIS ordered), September 15, 2020

Link to Document: <https://www.delano.mn.us/whats-new/construction-projects/granite-works-redevelopment>

RGU: City of Delano

RGU Contact: Phil Kern, 763-972-0565, pkern@delano.mn.us

Scoping EAW and Draft Scoping Decision Document

Grindstone Dam Removal Project

Comment Deadline: November 12, 2020

Project Description: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking public comments on the scoping documents for a State Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS will describe the potential environmental effects of a proposed dam removal project in the Hinckley area. The scoping documents provide information about the topics that are proposed to be included in the State EIS for the proposed project. The DNR proposes to remove the dam on the Grindstone River in Hinckley and restore connectivity to the river channel. This would result in the permanent removal of the 26.6-acre Grindstone Reservoir, which is a public water basin. The removal is proposed because the dam is in poor condition, it presents a safety hazard, and it is a barrier to passage of fish and other aquatic wildlife on the river. The dam also does not allow for natural sediment transport and natural stream features or habitat diversity.

Link to Document:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/grindstone/index.html>

RGU: Department of Natural Resources

RGU Contact: Becky Horton, 651-259-5122, becky.horton@state.mn.us

Copies of the SEAW and DSDD are available for public review at East Central Regional Library, 111 N Dellwood S, Cambridge, MN. Additional copies may be requested by calling 651-259-5122.

Written comments on the SEAW and DSDD may be submitted using the following methods and should include "Grindstone EIS" in the subject line:

- by email to Environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us;
- by mail to Becky Horton, EIS Project Manager, Environmental Review Unit, DNR Ecological and Water Resources Division, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4025.

Comments received at these meetings will inform the EIS scoping process. People do not need to attend a meeting to comment. Comments may also be submitted in writing as outlined above. The DNR will respond to comments when it issues a Final Scoping Decision Document (FSDD). The FSDD determines what will be included in the State EIS. The most helpful comments are those that directly address the content of the scoping documents and offer specific suggestions for inclusion in the scope of the State EIS. The DNR will then prepare a Draft EIS that will be made available for public comment. Another public information meeting will be held during that comment period. People who submit comments will receive a copy of the decision document, which will include responses to comments. Because all comments and related information are part of the public record for this environmental review, commenters'

names and email or postal addresses will also be published and publicly available as they appear in the materials they submit.

Public Meeting Date and Time: November 5, 2020 at 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Public Meeting Location: Online; Computers will be available for individuals without a device or adequate internet connection at the Hinckley Community Room, 106 1st Street Southeast, Hinckley, MN (space is limited); see information below and visit the project website for information on how to attend the online or in person session.

Link to Virtual Public Meeting:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/grindstone/index.html>

Public Meeting Details: An online informational meeting and comment opportunity will be held from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5, with an in-person option for up to six individuals without a device or internet connection, at that same time. The EIS scoping documents include a Scoping Environmental Assessment Worksheet (SEAW) and a Draft Scoping Decision Document (DSDD).

Online Public Input Session: The DNR invites interested people to an online public information meeting. The meeting will provide details about the project and the EIS scoping process, followed by a public input session.

How to attend the online meeting: All are welcome to join the online meeting from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5, on their computer, smartphone or landline phone. A WebEx link is required and is available on the project webpage.

How to attend if I don't have reliable computer or phone access? In order to provide accommodations for individuals without a device or adequate internet connection, the DNR will host a space during the meeting time where connected computers and technical assistance will be provided. Computers will be set up at the Hinckley Community Room, 106 1st Street Southeast, Hinckley, MN, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5. Computer reservations are required by 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4. Contact Becky Horton at 651-259-5122 or becky.horton@state.mn.us to reserve a computer station. Instructions will be provided after registration confirmation. Space is limited to six people, to comply with State social distancing guidance. All in attendance must stay at least six feet from other people. Per the Governor's Executive Order, people in Minnesota will be required to wear a face covering (mask) in all public indoor spaces, including this meeting. Individuals with a disability who need reasonable accommodation to participate in this event please contact Becky at the number above or through the Minnesota Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 by Thursday, Oct. 29.

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

Links to environmental review documents were provided by the RGU. In the event that the link does not work, you may contact the RGU directly to request either a paper or electronic copy of the documents. If you are not able to connect with the RGU, please email EQB staff at Env.Review@state.mn.us, call 651.757.2873, or visit our [website](#).



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