

**MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, November 20, 2013  
MPCA Room Board Room, 520 Lafayette Road, St. Paul**

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

**EQB Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Will Seuffert (EQB), Jeff Smyser (EQB), Kate Frantz (EQB), Beth Tegdesch (MPCA for EQB), Leah Hedman (Attorney General's office)

Chair Dave Frederickson called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

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

A motion to adopt the Consent Agenda and approve the October 16, 2013, meeting minutes was made and seconded.

**II. Introductions**

**III. Chair's Report**

Chair Dave Frederickson welcomed Sandy Rummel, from the Metropolitan Council, as the newest "ex-officio" member of the EQB. She currently chairs the Met Council's Environment Committee, represents the Council on the Clean Water Council and at the Metropolitan Energy Policy Coalition; she previously served one term in the Minnesota Senate, was a member of the Senate Environmental Committee. Holds a doctorate in leadership policy and administration from the University of St. Thomas and was an adjunct faculty member there for six years. Sandy also served nine years on the White Bear Lake School Board, and was Chair of the East Metro Integration School District for the last five years.

Governor's Institute on Community Design (GICD) made a recommendation that we reach out to the Metropolitan Council.

**IV. Executive Director's Report**

Will Seuffert thanked the commissioners and the staff that helped set up and facilitate the listening sessions on silica sand in southern Minnesota in late October in St. Charles, Wabasha, and Mankato. They were well attended and very productive.

Minnesota is one of four states that will be participating in a National Governor's Association project; the Clean Energy and Economic Development Policy Academy. They will work with us and provide technical assistance and resources through a yearlong effort to weave together our clean energy policies and build an economic development strategy. We will be working with NGA to help scope this project. There will be a more thorough presentation as we get more details. Will thanks DEED and the Department of Commerce for their hard work in getting this moving.

Staffing update: Denise Leezer accepted the Project Manager position for the EIS for the Minnesota Sands project in SE Minnesota, and Megan Eischen accepted the Communications Specialist position. We will be interviewing for three more positions and hope to have them filled by the end of the year.

The December Board meeting will not be a full board meeting; the Silica Sand Subcommittee will meet to look at the draft model standards. In January, the EQB we will work closely with Professor Mark Seeley about doing a field trip and possibly having the Board meeting at the U of M. Details will follow.

**V. Briefing on Climate Adaptation – Interagency Climate Adaptation Team (ICAT)**

Presenters: Dr. Mark Seeley, University of Minnesota  
State agency representatives from ICAT  
Coordinator: Paul Moss, MPCA

Dr. Seeley gave a presentation on Minnesota’s changing climate features, but highlighted only three of those features: changing temperatures, changing water vapor, and changing moisture variability.

Paul Moss and state agency representatives from ICAT gave a briefing on climate change adaptation, state agency activities, and opportunities for interagency and collaborative action.

ICAT has recently prepared a report which describes climate trends and impacts, summarizes agency responses, and describes opportunities for interagency and collaborative action on climate adaptation. ICAT currently includes representatives from the following departments and agencies: Agriculture, Commerce, Health, Natural Resources, Pollution Control, Public Safety, Transportation, Water and Soil Resources, and Metropolitan Council.

**VI. Establishment of Climate Change Subcommittee**

Presenter: Ellen Anderson, Senior Advisor to the Governor on Energy and the Environment

Staff recommends the approval of the resolution establishing the Climate Change Subcommittee. A motion was made and seconded on the resolution. There was discussion on the resolution and a motion was made on the amendment to add the Department of Health to the subcommittee, and was seconded. Motion carries on the amendment. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion prevails.

**RESOLUTION OF THE  
MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD  
Establishing an Environmental Quality Board Subcommittee for Climate Change Planning**

WHEREAS, operating procedures for the Environmental Quality Board (EQB or the Board) were adopted as Minnesota Rules 4405, under the authority of Minnesota Statutes sections 14.06, 116C.66, 116D.04, 116G.04, and 216E.16; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Rules 4405.0800 states the EQB “may establish citizen or interdepartmental task forces or subcommittees to aid in performing its duties;” and

WHEREAS, Minn. Rules 4405.0800, subpart 1, requires that the EQB specify the charge, duration, size, membership, meeting notice requirements, and other procedures to be followed by the subcommittee; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. §116C.04, directs the Board to “determine which environmental problems of interdepartmental concern to state government” it shall consider. The Board’s responsibility is to initiate interdepartmental investigations into those matters it determines are in need of study. The Board shall “review programs of state agencies that significantly affect the environment and coordinate those it determines are interdepartmental in nature, and insure agency compliance with state environmental policy.”

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. §216H.02 states it is “the goal of the state to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors producing those emissions to a level at least 15 percent below 2005 levels by 2015, to a level at least 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2025, and to a level at least 80 percent below 2005 levels by 2050...” Meeting these goals is an issue of interdepartmental concern.

WHEREAS, in accordance with Governor Dayton’s Executive Order 11-32, the EQB organized and hosted the Minnesota Environmental Congress in March 2013. In addition, the EQB held six Citizen Forums in winter 2012 across Minnesota to discuss the current state of Minnesota’s environment. Members of the public from a wide variety of perspectives consistently recommended, among other things, the EQB study and initiate a plan of action to meet the greenhouse gas reduction goals in Minn. Stat. §216H.02.

WHEREAS, in May and June 2013, the Board participated in two days of strategic planning, facilitated by the Governor’s Institute on Community Design. The result of the planning meeting included a 9-page report containing nine recommendations. The second recommendation was to “establish the EQB as the central point for implementing and tracking the State’s climate change efforts.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board hereby establishes a Climate Change Planning Subcommittee (the Subcommittee).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Subcommittee shall consist of the Commissioners of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Department of Commerce, Department of Health, and two EQB citizen members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Subcommittee shall provide guidance to staff from the Board’s nine state agencies and the Metropolitan Council as they compile a framework and plan to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with Minn. Rules 4405.0600, subp. 1 and 4405.0800, subp. 4, all meetings of the Subcommittee are open to the public and notice of the time, place, and matters to be considered will be posted as established in Minn. R. 4405.0600, subp. 2, Minn. R. 4405.0800, subp. 1 and on the EQB website.

## **VII. GreenStep Cities**

Presenters: Rolf Nordstrom, Executive Director, Great Plains Institute  
Craig Johnson, League of Minnesota Cities  
Lissa Pawlisch, Director, Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTS)

GreenStep Cities is a free and voluntary program that provides a simple pathway to help cities achieve their sustainability goals through implementation of best practices focused on cost savings, energy use reduction, and innovation.

The issue before the Board was “How can state agencies use the GreenStep Cities best practice framework and city contacts as a vehicle for delivering more integrated, coordinated sustainability assistance to communities?”

The presenters gave an overview of the GreenStep Cities, their best practices and agency sustainability programs in GreenStep best practices.

**VIII. Silica Sand Update**

Presenter: Jeff Smyser

Staff provided\ updates on the silica sand projects:

- § model standards and criteria
- § library of local government ordinances and permits
- § rulemaking for silica sand topics
- § multi-county EIS

**IX. Adjourn**