

**MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, September 17, 2014
State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Room 200
St. Paul, MN 55155**

EQB Members Present: Dave Frederickson, Sandy Rummel, Julie Goehring, John Saxhaug, Brian Napstad, Tom Landwehr, Kate Knuth, Erik Tomlinson, Kristin Eide-Tollefson, Michelle Beeman in for John Linc Stine, Matt Massman, Acting Commissioner of Department of Administration

EQB Members Absent: Dr. Ed Ehlinger, Mike Rothman, John Linc Stine, Katie Clark-Sieben

Staff Present: Will Seuffert, Megan Eischen, Caroline Magnuson, Anna Henderson, and Courtney Ahlers- Nelson (EQB staff)

Chair Dave Frederickson called the meeting to order.

I. Adoption of Consent Agenda and Minutes

A motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as amended; on addition which includes the Clean Water Roadmap. Motion approved.

II. Introductions

III. Chair's Report

No Chair's report

IV. Executive Director's Report

Welcomed Matt Massman, Acting Commissioner of Dept. of Administration and introduced the newest EQB staff, Courtney Ahlers- Nelson.

There will be no Board meeting in October.

The University of Minnesota is putting on their 30th Annual Policy Conference on October 15th. A board member and a staff member will be making presentations throughout the day. The focus of the conference is how a policy can support a prosperous and sustainable future for Minnesota. Your attendance is encouraged if you are able.

At the November board meeting, Center for Climate Strategies will present their preliminary analysis on state options for mitigating climate change. November 19th will also mark the beginning of a formal stakeholder process that will be facilitated by Environmental Initiative and the dates and times will be circulated as those are finalized in the upcoming weeks. This analysis and stakeholder process will conclude in early 2015.

There have been a number of changes to the EQB website and you are encouraged to take a few minutes to browse through. We are contracting with a developer through MNIT to make some additional website enhancements. Please provide any feedback you might have on the look or functionality of the website.

IV. Agency Roles and Coordination in Terrestrial Invasive Species Management

Presenters: Susan Burks, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Forestry
Mark Abrahamson, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

The Minnesota Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources have a long history of working together on forest pest management, including invasive plants and plant pests. The presentation described agency roles relative to invasive forest pests, with special attention to the emerald ash borer.

Discussion followed.

V. Proposal to Create the *Minnesota Ash Tree Preservation Program*

Presenters: Jeffrey M. Hafner, Director, Municipal Consulting, Rainbow Treecare
J. Michael Orange, Principal, ORANGE Environmental, LLC

The proposal presented was a statewide approach for managing the emerald ash borer infestation designed to help preserve high-quality public ash trees in our urban forests via partial reimbursement of local governmental costs, provided those costs are part of an integrated pest management method. The presentation focused on the projected benefits of an integrated pest management strategy for the state of Minnesota.

- integrated pest management is the appropriate strategy
- integrated pest management is cost effective
- the state should help local governments manage the infestation
- a statewide strategy is cost effective
- environmental justice
- integrated pest management reduces risk

Discussion followed.

VI. Release of Clean Water Roadmap

Presenters: Rebecca Flood, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Chris Elvrum, Minnesota Department of Health

The Clean Water Roadmap is a set of goals for protecting and restoring Minnesota's water resources during the 25-year life of the Clean Water Fund. The Roadmap's goals are based on currently available data and are intended to be ambitious, yet achievable. Progress in meeting these goals will require significant investment from the Clean Water Fund, combined with historical water resource funding from other resources.

The four goals and their measures are:

1. Lake Water Quality – Measure: Trophic State Index
2. River and Stream Water Quality – Measure: Fish-based Index of Biotic Integrity
3. Groundwater Quality – Measure: Drinking water standards for arsenic and nitrate
4. Groundwater Quantity – Measure: Changes over time in groundwater levels

The seven agencies with Clean Water Fund responsibilities (Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Public Facilities Authority (PFA), and Met Council) will use the Roadmap to:

- Define aspirational, yet achievable goals for outcomes from the 25 years of Clean Water Fund Expenditures.
- Establish interim benchmarks, to assess progress towards the 25-year goals.
- Adjust program or funding priorities based on progress made towards the benchmarks and the 25-year goals.
- Create realistic expectations among interested stakeholders and citizens about the potential for progress with the addition of Clean Water Fund dollars.

Discussion followed.

VII. State Agency Silica Sand Rulemaking Update

Presenters: Catherine Neuschler – MPCA
Heather Arends – MDNR/ EQB
Erik Dahl – EQB

The MPCA, MDNR, and EQB provided their update and their conceptual framework for each rulemaking.

Moving forward, they will continue to refine draft language and develop the SONARS, and work with the Silica Sand Rule Advisory Panel. A transition to a formal rulemaking process by the end of 2014 is expected. More information is available on the new EQB website as well as the shared agency websites.

Discussion followed.

The following people provided testimony:

- Kelley Stanage - Houston, MN
- Vince Ready - Saratoga Township

VIII. Adjourn

If you would like to hear the audio recording of the September 17, 2014, EQB Board Meeting, go to the following link: ftp://files.pca.state.mn.us/pub/EQB_Board/