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March 19, 2009

Meeting Location: Pollution Control Agency Lower Level Board Room

TO: EQB Members

RE: **ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR
March 19, 2009 Board Meeting**

General

This month's meeting will take place in the **Pollution Control Agency Lower Level Board Room**. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. Staff will be available for briefing and questions at 8:30 a.m.

Attention: * Denotes an agenda item that may require Board action.

I. **Adoption of Consent Agenda

- Adoption of the Proposed Agenda for **March 19, 2009** meeting
- Adoption of the Proposed Minutes for **November 20, 2008** meeting

II. Chair's Report

III. EQB Staff Report

IV. Environmental Review Rule Amendment Hearings Update

Presenter: Gregg Downing, EQB staff (651-201-2476)

Issue Before the Board

Mr. Downing will brief the Board regarding the status of the rulemaking process for the "phase 2" amendments to the Environmental Review program rules.

By the date of the Board meeting, the hearing will be completed, although the written comment period will run through March 25. The staff expects that almost all issues to be

* Denotes action may be taken.

**Items requiring discussion may be removed from the Consent Agenda.

raised will be known by that time, and the staff will summarize the major issues for the Board's information. Based upon what we have heard so far, the staff does not anticipate any serious issues with the amendments, although there will almost certainly need to be some clarifications and refinements made before they are adopted.

**V. Discussion of Possible EQB Transfer to PCA
Governor's Office Recommendations**

Presenter: Tim Scherkenbach, Acting Deputy Commissioner, MPCA

Materials Enclosed

Chart on Proposed Process of Moving EQB Duties and Responsibilities to MPCA

Issue Before the Board

Commissioner Scherkenbach will give the Board an overview of the Governor's recommendations for staged transfer of EQB staff, resources and functions to the MPCA. The Legislature is being asked to approve the transfer as part of the Governor's budget bill. The EQB language will be addressed through the House and Senate State Government Finance Division committees, since EQB is housed in the Department of Administration and that department is covered by those divisions. Note that the Senate did refer S.F. 1395 to the Environment and Natural Resources policy committee for initial review, however.

VI. Discussion of Possible FY 2010-2011 Work Elements

Presenter: John Wells, EQB staff (651-201-2475)

Issue Before the Board

Mr. Wells will present a brief overview of work elements described in the Governor's budget document. It will be important for the Board to consider how it plans to address these in the coming biennium. The intent is not to have a detailed discussion at the March meeting, but only to let members and interested parties know what has been put on the Board's table at this time. EQB staff will again bring the elements to the Board for further consideration at an upcoming meeting, once the question of the proposed EQB transfer is decided. The work elements include:

1. Complete a state water plan that sets the agenda for the next ten years of water management in Minnesota.
2. Introduce a framework for the sustainable allocation of water supplies that meets the long-term needs of Minnesotans.
3. Develop an energy and environment strategy report that helps the public understand state efforts and that addresses land use aspects of climate change.
4. Provide citizens and local governments the assistance they need to participate in meaningful environmental review.

5. Adopt rule changes that streamline and clarify environmental review in Minnesota.

In addition to the above, the Board has committed to serve as the nonfederal cosponsor of the Minnesota River Integrated Watershed Management Project. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the primary federal agency for the project. Finally, while the Board is not required to, it may want to consider exercising its annual environmental quality board congress authority, given the great amount of environmental activity in which the state is now involved.

VII. Adjourn