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September 14, 2006

TO: EQB Members

FROM: Michael Sullivan
Telephone: 651-201-2462

RE: **ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR
September 21, 2006 Board Meeting**

General

This month's meeting will take place at the State Office Building, Hearing Room 5. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. Staff will be available for briefing and questions at 8:00 a.m.

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

I. *Adoption of Consent Agenda

- Adoption of the Proposed Agenda for **September 21, 2006** meeting
- Adoption of the Proposed Minutes for **August 18, 2006** meeting

II. Executive Director's Report

III. Legal Counsel Report

IV. Response to Legislative—Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resource Request

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

Materials enclosed:

1. Draft EQB cover memo and summary (Note: the draft is still subject to final Administration management review)
2. Package of agency responses

Issues Before the Board

The Board will be asked to approve the EQB cover memo and summary of member responses.

Background

At the August 17, 2006 meeting, the Board agreed to assist the new Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources by coordinating agency responses to four questions posed by Representative Tingelstad. The questions were:

- What are the pressing natural resources issues for your agency?
- What are your recommendations to enhance and/or preserve natural resources and address the issues identified?
- What priorities are identified in each agency's strategic plans for the management of natural resources?
- What past projects funded through the Trust Fund or Future Resources Fund have made a major impact on how the agency has managed natural resources?

Board staff developed a schedule and set of response guidelines, and hosted a discussion session with agency representatives. Six agencies responded, including Agriculture, Health, Natural Resources, Pollution Control, Transportation and Water & Soil Resources. Staff developed the proposed draft Board response after consultation with agency representatives. The document describes several common themes from the agency responses and draws heavily upon the responses to highlight issues.

Significant Issues

LCCMR staff has notified us that they need to receive the EQB and member agency responses as soon as possible after the September Board meeting, since the Commission plans to discuss the responses at a meeting on September 28.

V. Minnesota Campaign for Conservation Informational Presentation

Presenter: John Curry, Campaign for Conservation Staff
(651-253-5691)

No materials enclosed

Issue before the Board

No action is requested on this item. Board member Winebarger suggested that the Board hear an overview of the Campaign for Conservation by Mr. Curry and members agreed.

Background

As they state on their Web page (see <http://www.campaignforconservation.org/>), the Minnesota Campaign for Conservation is a coalition of citizens and organizations committed to developing long term conservation strategies, funding sources and policy tools that will ensure the preservation of Minnesota's cherished outdoor traditions for future generations. The campaign

recently issued *Minnesota Calling: Conservation Facts, Trends and Challenges*, which lays out conservation issues related to population growth and land use, and puts out a call for Minnesotans to come together “to assure our conservation future.”

Significant Issues

The Board may want to explore in the coming months whether and how it might collaborate with the Campaign for Conservation.

VI. EQB Next Steps Discussion

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

Material enclosed:

1. Next Steps for the EQB white paper
2. Assessment of EQB Authorities Table

Issue before the Board

No action is requested on this item. The chair is interested in beginning a Board discussion of next steps, although serious discussions are not expected until late fall.

Background

Chair Badgerow would like the Board to begin thinking about topics it might want the EQB to address in the coming months and years. Staff has prepared a background paper discussing the Board’s evolution since its establishment 30 years ago, its current focus and process suggestions for considering next steps. Staff has also prepared a complete list of Board authorities with annotations assessing their need and workability.

Significant Issues

There are no significant issues relating to the proposed discussion.