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January 11, 2007

TO: EQB Members

FROM: Michael Sullivan  
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RE: **ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR  
January 18, 2007 Board Meeting**

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### **General**

This month's meeting will take place at the Pollution Control Agency, 520 Lafayette Road. 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 **January 18, 2007** meeting
- Adoption of the Proposed Minutes for **November 16, 2006** meeting

### **II. Chair's Report**

### **III. Executive Director's Report**

### **IV. Legal Counsel Report**

Status of research on federal case law regarding "cumulative impacts"

### **V. Presentation on University of Minnesota/LCCMR project to develop a statewide conservation and natural resources protection plan**

**Presenter: Professor Anne Kapuscinski**

### Materials Enclosed

None

### Other Materials Available

The University of Minnesota proposal and PowerPoint presentation to the Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources are posted on the LCCMR web site at <http://www.lcmr.leg.mn/>.

### Issue Before the Board

The presentation is informational; no action is requested on this item.

### Background

University of Minnesota Professor Dr. Anne Kapuscinski will give the Board an overview of the University team's winning proposal for developing a statewide conservation and natural resources plan. Members may recall that the Board was involved with the LCCMR last year, responding to a request for assistance by providing a memorandum describing the state's pressing natural resources issues and recommendations to address them. The Board submitted its memorandum in September. The Board also took part in a competing proposal to LCCMR. Had that proposal succeeded, it may have played a somewhat greater role in shaping the product.

### Significant Issues

Members should be aware that the Board is mentioned in the proposal as potentially assisting with plan development. Board staff indicated its interest and the proposal lists the Board as a collaborator to aid in connecting the project with state agency interests. The possibility that the Board would convene an environmental congress to aid with citizen involvement also is mentioned in the proposal as a supplemental opportunity, should additional resources become available.

### **VI. Presentation of preliminary Water Sustainability 2030 report: *Use of Minnesota's Renewable Water Resources: Moving Toward Sustainability***

**Presenters: John Wells and Princessa VanBuren, EQB Staff  
(651-201-2475 and 651-201-2478)**

### Materials Enclosed

Preliminary draft report: *Use of Minnesota's Renewable Water Resources: Moving Toward Sustainability*

### Issues before the Board

No action is requested on this item at the January meeting; however, staff hopes to be in a position to ask for Board approval in February.

### Background

*Minnesota Statutes*, section 103A.43, directs the Environmental Quality Board and Department of Natural Resources to coordinate a biennial state assessment of the availability of water to meet the state's long range needs. That is the focus of the report.

The purpose of the project was to better understand surface- and ground-water availability and the demands Minnesotans place on water. The goal was to help state and local officials manage water resources for the long term future and better plan for development. The project sought to do this by:

- Bringing attention to what we know and don't know about renewable water resources
- Helping local and state governments make better-educated decisions about future development and water demand
- Helping decision makers develop and implement policy to manage water on a sustainable basis

In 2005, only one county – Ramsey County– appeared to use more than 100 percent of its renewable water resource, reporting in at 135 percent. In the seven county metropolitan area, the percent of renewable resources ranged from 10 in Carver County to Ramsey County's 135. In Greater Minnesota, the range was from less than 1 percent in seven counties to 46 percent in Wright County. Three counties ranged between 50 and 75 percent and another three between 25 and 50 percent.

By 2030, the percent use of seven-county metropolitan area renewable resources ranged from 23 in Carver County to 177 in Ramsey County, while in Greater Minnesota the range was from less than 1 percent in six counties to 81 percent in Wright County. Four counties ranged between 75 and 100 percent, one county between 50 and 75 percent, and another four between 25 and 50 percent.

### Significant Issues

The allocation of water resources affects people and ecosystems all across the state and, consequently, a report addressing Minnesota's supplies and the demands we place on them will draw the attention of a wide audience. Therefore, it is important that the report present information accurately and in the proper context. Staff has worked to achieve these objectives in the current draft, but looks to the Board's discussion to guide the preparation of the final report.

## **VII. Presentation regarding status of monitoring and assessment of agricultural chemicals in Minnesota waters**

**Presenter: Dan Stoddard, Minnesota Department of Agriculture**

### Materials Enclosed

None

### Issues before the Board

This is an informational presentation and no action is necessary.

### Background

Dr. Stoddard leads Department of Agriculture efforts to monitor and assess the presence of agricultural chemicals in Minnesota waters. The department's work is highly regarded and should make a major contribution to the Board's analysis of water quality trends. The Board's mandate is found in *Minnesota Statutes*, section 103A.43, which directs it to work with the

Department of Agriculture and Pollution Control Agency to assess trends in water quality and efforts to prevent ground water degradation.

In addition to Dr. Stoddard's presentation, Mr. Wells and Ms. VanBuren will brief the Board on the status of the ground water quality trends and biennial water priorities reports the Board is required to complete.

#### Significant Issues

This is an informational presentation and no action is necessary.

### **VIII. Status of EQB Retreat Planning**

**Presenter: Mike Sullivan, EQB Staff  
(651-201-2462)**

#### Materials Enclosed

None

#### Issue before the Board

The Board decided at its September meeting to hold a retreat about future directions and possible next steps. Members will have an opportunity at the meeting to hear how retreat planning activities are progressing and to further discuss what they would like to see addressed.

#### Background

The Board's minutes provide a good summary of the discussion members have had to date about the need for a retreat. Staff will report on current planning efforts and seek Board advice about the agenda.

#### Significant Issues

The retreat is currently planned for January 31<sup>st</sup> at the Dodge Nature Center. The Board will need to finalize retreat plans in the next week.