



# Environmental Quality Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 16, 2022 | 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Join online via [Webex](#)

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## How to join

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Environmental Quality Board (EQB or Board) will convene its November Board meeting virtually through the Webex online meeting platform. To access the meeting, use the link above. Review the [Guide to WebEx Participation](#) for additional information.

## Accessibility

This material can be provided in different forms, such as large print, braille, or on a recording. Please contact EQB staff at least one week prior to the event at [info.EQB@state.mn.us](mailto:info.EQB@state.mn.us) to arrange an accommodation.

## Public engagement opportunities at EQB meetings

EQB encourages public input and appreciates the opportunity to build shared understanding with members of the public. Today, the Board will accept public comment during agenda item 7.

### Procedure and guidelines for giving public comment:

- If you wish to speak, please use the “raise hand” feature in Webex during the public comment period.
- Your remarks will be limited to two (2) minutes. When necessary, the Chair may limit commenters’ time for remarks to ensure there is equal opportunity for the public to comment.
- When the Chair calls on you to speak:
  - Introduce yourself before beginning your comment.
  - Please keep your remarks to those facts which are relevant and specific, as determined by the Chair, to the agenda item at hand.
  - Please be respectful of Board members, staff, and other meeting participants. Avoid questioning motives. Personal attacks will not be tolerated.
- Please note that the Chair will use their discretion for directing public comment to ensure the Board’s ability to effectively conduct business.
- You may also submit a written comment. Written comments will be reviewed after the meeting and included in the next Board meeting packet.

# Agenda

## 1. Welcome and roll call

Margaret Anderson Kelliher – Chair, Environmental Quality Board (EQB); Commissioner, Department of Transportation

- Grace Arnold – Commissioner, Department of Commerce
- Kristen Eide-Tollefson – Public Member, Congressional District 2
- Alan Forsberg – Public Member, Congressional District 1
- Julie Goehring – Public Member, Congressional District 7
- Steve Grove – Commissioner, Department of Employment and Economic Development
- Katrina Kessler – Commissioner, Pollution Control Agency
- Mehmet Konar-Steenberg – Public Member, Congressional District 5
- Jan Malcolm – Commissioner, Department of Health
- Nicholas Martin – Public Member, Congressional District 4
- Bryan Murdock – Public Member, Congressional District 8
- Paul Nelson – Public Member, Congressional District 6
- Thom Petersen – Commissioner, Department of Agriculture
- Alice Roberts-Davis – Commissioner, Department of Administration
- Sarah Strommen – Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources
- Gerald Van Amburg – Vice Chair, EQB; Chair, Board of Water and Soil Resources
- Benjamin Yawakie – Public Member, Congressional District 3
- Charles Zelle – Chair, Metropolitan Council

## 2. Approval of consent agenda

- Meeting minutes from January 19, 2022 Environmental Quality Board meeting (packet page 4)
- Proposed agenda for February 16, 2022 Environmental Quality Board meeting

## 3. Executive Director's report

Katie Pratt – Executive Director, EQB

#### **4. Update from the Subcommittee for Pilot Program Implementation (SPPI)**

The Board will hear an update on the Pilot Program for integrating climate change into environmental review.

Presenters:

- Nicholas Martin – Chair, SPPI; EQB Public Member, Congressional District 4
- Denise Wilson – Environmental Review Program Director, EQB

#### **5. Potential collaboration to advance goals of the 2020 State Water Plan**

The Board will hear and discuss a proposal to expand statewide partnerships to help advance and shape the goals of the 2020 State Water Plan.

Presenters:

- John Linc Stine – Executive Director, Freshwater Society
- Jen Kader – Director for Engagement and Systems Change, Freshwater Society
- Jocelyn Leung – Participatory Engagement Coordinator, Freshwater Society

#### **6. Adoption of Fiscal Year 2022-2023 EQB Organizational Work Plan (decision item)**

The Board will hear a summary of the updated Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Work Plan, including strategic objectives and key deliverables, and will consider a resolution to adopt the work plan.

Presenter: Katie Pratt – Executive Director, EQB

Materials enclosed:

- Environmental Quality Board Work Plan – Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (packet page 6)
- EQB 5-year Strategic Plan summary (packet page 10)
- Resolution to adopt Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Work Plan (packet page 12)

#### **7. Public Comment**

The Board welcomes public comment on agenda items 4-6. Please see guidance and procedures on packet page 1.

#### **8. Reflections from Board Members**

Outgoing board members will reflect on their time serving on the Environmental Quality Board.

#### **9. Closing & adjournment**



# January 2022 Environmental Quality Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 19, 2022 | 1:00-2:00 p.m. | Online via Webex

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## Minutes

### 1. Welcome and roll call

Chair Anderson Kelleher called to order the regular meeting of the Environmental Quality Board (EQB or Board) at 1:04 p.m.

Announcements:

- Chair Anderson Kelliher will be leaving state service, contingent on her appointment to direct the City of Minneapolis' Public Works department.
- EQB welcomes a new board member, Paul Nelson, representing Congressional District 6.

Board members present: Anderson Kelliher, Arnold, Eide-Tollefson, Forsberg, Goehring, Kessler, Konar-Steenberg, Martin, Murdock, Nelson, Roberts-Davis, Strommen, Van Amburg, and Yawakie.

Non-voting members and proxies present: Daniel Huff, Department of Health; Kevin McKinnon, Department of Employment and Economic Development; Louise Miltich, Department of Commerce; and Susan Vento, Metropolitan Council.

Excused: Grove, Malcolm, and Petersen.

### 2. Approval of consent agenda

- Meeting minutes from November 17, 2021 EQB meeting
- Proposed agenda for January 19, 2022 Board meeting

Motion: Forsberg moved the consent agenda; Van Amburg seconded. Motion carries with a unanimous vote.

### 3. Executive Director's report

Katie Pratt – Executive Director, EQB

- Board seats still open, please see the EQB's Join the Board webpage for application details.

- Today's agenda and meeting format: Meeting of the full Board will be immediately followed by a meeting of the Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee (ERIS). Those interested in the ERIS meeting can remain in this Webex meeting.
- Best practices for today's meeting for Board members and members of the public.
- Public comment procedure for today's meeting.

#### **4. Update on 404 Assumption Study**

John Jaschke and Les Lemm from the Board of Water and Soil Resources presented the draft *Minnesota Federal Clean Water Act Section 404 Assumption, Report on Funding Estimates*. The Board discussed the report and heard public comment. The report is due to the Legislature February 1, 2022.

#### **5. Closing & adjournment**

Motion: Kessler moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Strommen. Motion carries with unanimous voice vote.



## Environmental Quality Board Work Plan – FY2022-2023

**Timeframe: July 1, 2021-June 30, 2023**

Notes:

- Designates a completed deliverable.
- This work plan does not include ongoing EQB work such as holding monthly Board meetings, technical assistance, legislative affairs, communications, and operations.
- Due to the dynamic nature of EQB, work plan adjustments may be needed. These will be discussed with the Board Chair and the Board as needed.

EQB strategy	DRAFT Key projects	Basis	Deliverables	Desired long-term outcomes	Timeline/Decisions
<b>1. The Environmental Quality Board (EQB) fosters innovative policy development</b>	Continued check-ins and discussion on 2020 Water Plan goals and actions	§103B.151, §103A.204, §103A.43	One Board meeting annually to discuss progress toward <a href="#">2020 State Water Plan</a> goals	Implementation of priority water management policies and programs that reflect Minnesota's changing climate	Fall 2021 - Board meeting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fall 2022 - Board meeting
	Participate in the <a href="#">Climate Change Subcabinet</a> and support strategy development	Executive Order 19-37	State Climate Action Framework (Collaborative with the Climate Change Subcabinet)	Meet or exceed Next Generation Energy Act greenhouse gas reduction goals and enhance climate resilience	Draft Climate Action Framework released <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spring 2022 - Joint EQB/Subcabinet meeting Additional activities TBD
<b>2. The EQB provides leadership on priority emerging environmental issues</b>	[Emerging issues placeholder]	§116C.04 subd. 2	TBD	Effective interagency response to priority emerging environmental issues brought before the EQB	TBD

EQB strategy	DRAFT Key projects	Basis	Deliverables	Desired long-term outcomes	Timeline/Decisions
<p><b>3. EQB’s environmental review (ER) process is transparent, accountable, efficient and creates a healthy environment and strong economy</b></p>	<p>ER program improvement initiative to include climate information</p>	<p>MINN. RULES 4410.0400  Board Resolution 9/15/2021</p>	<p>Pilot program implementation  Revised Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) form  Updated guidance and resources</p>	<p>Integrate climate considerations into ER program requirements to support informed decision-making</p>	<p>December 2022 – Final decision on revised EAW form  Jan-Jun 2023 – respond to technical assistance needs identified during the pilot program</p>
	<p>Develop a comprehensive Environmental Review Program continuous improvement plan</p>	<p>MINN. RULES 4410.0400</p>	<p>Compiled list of necessary ER program improvements  Draft plan for program improvement implementation</p>	<p>Continued effectiveness of the Environmental Review Program</p>	<p>[Tentative timeline] Spring 2022 - Convene interagency team Fall 2022 - Draft plan presented to ERIS 2023 – Continue plan development/begin implementation</p>
	<p>Analysis of and recommendations for whether mandatory categories should be modified, eliminated, or unchanged</p>	<p>§116D.04 Subd. 5b</p>	<p>ER Mandatory Category Report</p>	<p>Continued assessment of the effectiveness of environmental review mandatory categories  Meet legislative directive</p>	<p>December 1, 2021 – Final report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p>ER program data management and data systems improvement</p>	<p>Board-directed (under prior work plan)  MINN. RULES 4410.0400</p>	<p>ER Projects Interactive Map version 2.0  Interactive searchable database  Updated <i>EQB Monitor</i> submission form  Annual ER Program Performance Report</p>	<p>Minnesotans can view active projects using an interactive map  Minnesotans can search for historical projects and have access to historical ER program documents  A more efficient, automated system for uploading and publishing the <i>EQB Monitor</i>  Continued monitoring of ER program effectiveness and compliance with strategic plan</p>	<p>Mid-2022: Public implementation of updated <i>EQB Monitor</i> submission process  Mid-2022: Enhanced public access to ER documents  Mid-2022 &amp; 2023: Annual ER program performance report</p>

EQB strategy	DRAFT Key projects	Basis	Deliverables	Desired long-term outcomes	Timeline/Decisions
<p><b>4. Minnesotans are engaged in policy conversations and diverse/underrepresented groups are actively included and considered in policy development</b></p>	<p>Host the Environmental Congress (contingent on the safe return to in-person public events)</p>	<p>§116C.04 subd. 7</p>	<p>Environmental Congress event</p>	<p>Minnesotans have opportunity to learn about pressing environmental issues and participate in dialogue on effective and equitable strategies</p>	<p>Interagency planning team initiated summer 2022; Congress held by July 2023</p>
	<p>Facilitate Emerging Environmental Leaders (EEL) initiative</p>	<p>2018 EQB Resolution</p>	<p>EELs cohort convened Youth Voice EQB meeting</p>	<p>Youth perspectives inform Minnesota’s environmental vision, policy, programs, and decision-making</p>	<p>Convene EELs cohort between September 2022 and June 2023; Youth Voice EQB meeting spring 2023</p>
	<p>Improve public participation options in EQB projects</p>	<p>§116C.01</p>	<p>EQB website redesign Pilot EngagementHQ online engagement tool</p>	<p>Minnesotans have access to information about environmental issues and participate in policy conversations</p>	<p>Late 2022/early 2023 - launch new EQB website 2022 – Pilot EngagementHQ</p>
	<p>Environment &amp; Energy (E&amp;E) Report Card version 2.0 project scoping</p>	<p>§116C.04 subd. 2</p>	<p>Recommendation to the Board on possible future approach for the E&amp;E Report Card</p>	<p>Public accountability via ongoing oversight over key environmental metrics and trends for MN</p>	<p>Recommendation to the Board by summer 2022</p>
<p><b>5. The EQB is a trusted partner with state agencies in the collaborative work of enhancing Minnesota’s long-term environmental quality</b></p>	<p>Develop Section 404 Assumption study (collaborative with BWSR)</p>	<p>2019 Minn. Laws, Spec. Sess. ch. 4, art. 1, sec. 1, subd. 9a</p>	<p>Assessment of funding considerations for Minnesota assumption section 404 of the Clean Water Act</p>	<p>Informed decision making on Clean Water Act section 404 assumption</p>	<p>Final report due to the Minnesota Legislature February 1, 2022 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p>Support interagency pollinator protection efforts and lead related public engagement</p>	<p>Executive Order 19-28</p>	<p>State Agency Pollinator Reports (2021 &amp; 2022) Update Pollinator Public Engagement Plan</p>	<p>Increased awareness of the status of pollinators Implementation of policies and programs to address stressors to pollinators</p>	<p>Fall 2021 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>, 2022: EQB approval of pollinator annual report Fall 2021 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>, 2022: update on public engagement related to pollinator protection</p>
	<p>[Silica sand placeholder]</p>	<p>§116C.991</p>	<p>Technical assistance as requested by local governments</p>	<p>Informed decision-making on silica sand projects</p>	<p>As requested by local units of government</p>



EQB strategy	DRAFT Key projects	Basis	Deliverables	Desired long-term outcomes	Timeline/Decisions
<p><b>6. The EQB provides support to local governments on environmental review and the implementation of policies and programs</b></p>	<p>Serve on the <a href="#">GreenStep Program</a> steering committee</p>	<p>GreenStep Program MOU</p>	<p>Ongoing staff liaison role Additional specific deliverables defined as needs emerge</p>	<p>Strategic connections between the GreenStep Program and initiatives of the Board Local governments are equipped to advance sustainability</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
	<p>Additional local government support provided as part of #3, ER program projects, and ER technical assistance</p>				

# Minnesota Environmental Quality Board 5-year strategic plan

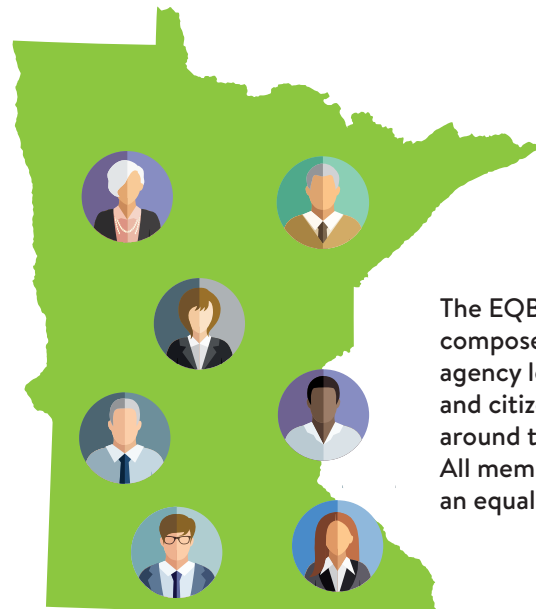


## What is the EQB?

The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) is a forum for leadership and coordination across Minnesota state agencies on complex, priority environmental issues. As a public-facing board, the EQB strives to engage Minnesotans and provide greater access to conversations regarding the future of our environment.



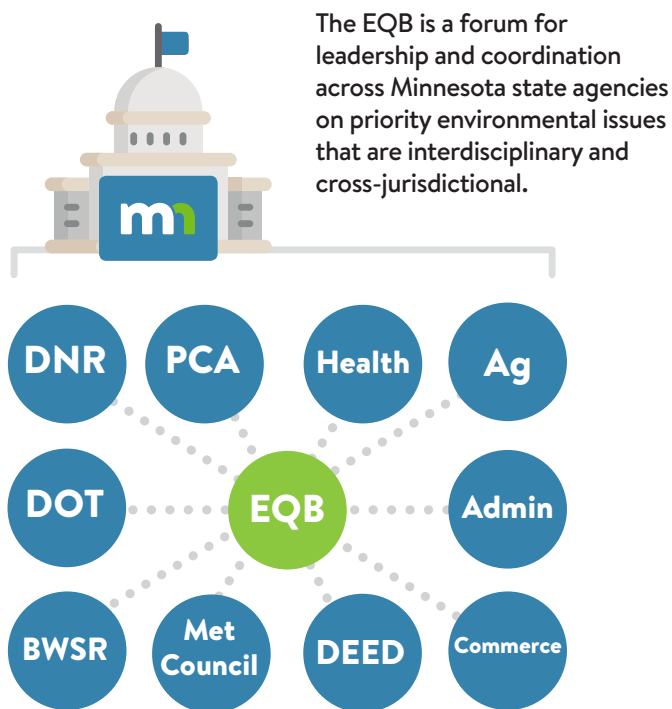
The board has a responsibility to address issues affecting our water, land, air, energy, and climate. In addition, the EQB functions as the coordinating body for Minnesota's **Environmental Review Program**.



The EQB is composed of state agency leaders and citizens from around the state. All members have an equal vote.

In carrying out its role, the EQB joins with individual Minnesotans, communities, and public and private organizations in working towards our shared environmental goal: **healthy and sustainable environmental quality that supports public health, economic vitality, societal quality of life, and sustained natural resources**. The EQB's unique contribution to this goal is the ability to bring multiple state agencies and the public together to advance interdisciplinary discussions.

**The EQB's mission** is to enhance Minnesota's environmental quality for current and future generations by leading interagency work to advance meaningful public engagement and facilitate informed decision-making on critical environmental issues.

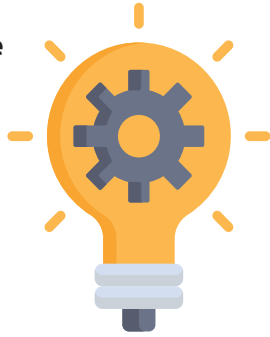


# EQB's 5-year strategic plan

**Purpose:** To provide a broad framework to guide the board's action and decision-making for the next 5 years. The plan identifies 6 priority results and possible strategies to achieve them, but is flexible enough to accommodate emerging issues and shifting priorities.

## Where we're headed

1. The EQB fosters **innovative policy development** that balances Minnesotans' environmental quality, public health, economic vitality, equity, societal quality of life, and sustained natural resources.



2. The EQB provides leadership on priority **emerging environmental issues**, by identifying emerging issues, convening conversations, and deliberating policy issues.



3. The EQB's **environmental review** process is transparent, accountable, efficient, and creates/sustains a healthy environment and strong economy for Minnesota.



4. Minnesotans are engaged in policy conversations and **diverse/underrepresented groups are actively included** and considered in policy development.



5. The EQB is a **trusted partner with state agencies** in the collaborative work of enhancing Minnesota's long-term environmental quality.



6. The EQB provides **support to local governments** on environmental review and the implementation of environmental policies and programs.



**Contact**



## RESOLUTION OF THE MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

*The mission of the Environmental Quality Board (EQB or Board) is to enhance Minnesota's environmental quality for current and future generations by leading interagency work to advance meaningful public engagement and facilitate informed decision-making on critical environmental issues.*

EQB adopts the attached Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Organizational Work Plan (Work Plan), which aligns with EQB's mission, strategic plan, budget, and authorities. The Work Plan identifies key projects, deliverables, desired outcomes, and a timeline with anticipated EQB decision points. Projects are organized under the six priority areas of the strategic plan, and include placeholders to allow flexibility for the Board to respond to emerging issues. The Executive Director will give periodic updates on the work plan and discuss any significant changes with the Board.

Selected relevant authorities:

- Minnesota Statutes 116C and 116D provide the authority to implement the EQB Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Organizational Work Plan.
- Minnesota Statutes 116C and 116D and Rules 4410.0300 and 4410.0400 provide EQB the authority to oversee the Environmental Review program and make updates.
- Executive Order 19-28 directs EQB work related to pollinator health.
- Executive Order 19-37 establishes EQB membership in the Climate Change Subcabinet and directs related duties.

### **The Board resolves that:**

The EQB Executive Director implement the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Organizational Work Plan, and manage EQB staff and budget resources accordingly.

The Board approved and adopted this resolution on February 16, 2022.

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Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Chair  
Minnesota Environmental Quality Board



## Written Public Comment

To the Environmental Quality Board Members:



Present environmental review standards are lacking in consideration for a project's greenhouse gas emissions and the way its climate impact may intersect with other systemic concerns.

For example, the state has failed to take into consideration emissions from fossil fuels required to plant, harvest, transport, fertilize, process, or clean runoff from industrial agricultural production. Additionally, these reviews fail to consider CO<sub>2</sub> released from upturning soil in traditional row farming. I urge the Board to ~~also~~ <sup>take</sup> ~~downstream~~ up and downstream supply chain emissions into consideration when evaluating the environmental impact of industrial agricultural projects and to amend the standards to reflect such considerations.

Thank you for your consideration,

James Harbuck  
1052 Lincoln Ave  
St. Paul, MN 55105



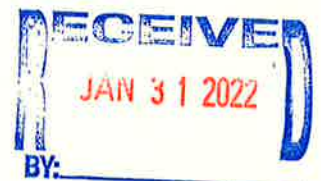
To: Environmental Quality Board (EQB)

Every day, I get more concerned about the things we all do that impact the quality of the environment. For me, I have been driving a Tesla for about six years and proud of my contribution to improving the quality of the air. We also are much more aware of re-cycling, consumption of organic foods, and many things that impact climate change.

I wish that in your various deliberations, you also will focus on environmental concerns, especially climate change. It is a serious problem and you all can make a difference.

Thank you-

Bill Sands  
1657 Quotwood Drive  
St. Paul, MN 55113



To the Environmental Quality Board

As a long time resident of Minnesota it is important to me that there is a strong system that does address the issues leading to greenhouse gases.

Please be diligent in a commitment to regulate, monitor & review in issues that affect the air quality & other environmental issues in MN.

Susan Sanchez

1657 Questwood Dr.

Falcon Heights, MN 55713





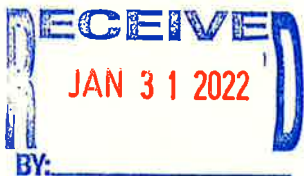
25 Sept. 2021

## Environmental Quality Board —

As you work to redefine the environmental review process of industrial projects, I request that you:

- Consider the effects of climate change
- Prioritize projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Integrate climate adaptation + resiliency measures
- Require projects to improve environmental outcomes.

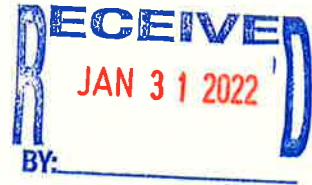
Thank you for your work.



Best,  
*Amy Johnson*

Amy Johnson Korba  
358 Ware Cir  
Lino Lakes MN 55014

EQB (Environmental Quality Board)



- On Environmental Review -

I implore you to consider the effects of greenhouse gas emissions on the environment during your environmental review. Considering the effects of climate change on proposed projects is imperative to ensuring a safer & more sustainable world for our future children of earth.

In particular, the effects of fossil fuels are of ~~particular~~ special importance to me.

- Vito Savio

57 Maryland Ave W  
Saint Paul, MA 55117

Dear EQB members,

As we witness the global climate crisis having more and more of a devastating impact on communities across the country and around the world, it is essential to identify the agricultural emissions we are having on our planet and our collective future, including the fossil fuels carbon foot print that is part and parcel of our food production system.

Industrial agriculture is a massive net emitter of greenhouse gasses, especially in a farm state like Minnesota.

You have individually and collectively an enormous opportunity and responsibility to do everything in your power to fulfill your agency mandates protecting and improving environmental quality for all Minnesotans.

Our collective fate is at stake!

Sincerely, Pat Kerrigan

715 Union St.

Northfield, MN 55057

