

**MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, September 19, 2012
MPCA Room Board Room, 520 Lafayette Road, St. Paul**

EQB Members Present, Brian Napstad, John Saxhaug, Julie Goehring, Erik Tomlinson, Mike Rothman, John Linc Stine, Ed Ehlinger, Mark Phillips, Tom Landwehr, Spencer Cronk, Tom Sorel

EQB Members Absent: Dave Frederickson, Kristin Duncanson

Staff Present: Bob Patton, Jeff Smyser, and Kate Frantz (EQB), Mary Osborn (MPCA for EQB)

Vice Chair Brian Napstad, filling in for Chair Dave Frederickson, called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

I. Introductions

Members of the EQB introduced themselves.

II. Adoption of Consent Agenda and Minutes

A motion to adopt the Consent Agenda and approve the August 15, 2012, meeting minutes was made, seconded, and carried unanimously.

III. Chair's Report

No report due to Chair Frederickson's absence.

IV. Executive Director's Report

- Executive Director Patton discussed the handouts that were not part of the Board packet.
- In response to a question asked by a Board member, the Board may not limit the scope of a Generic EIS before the order. The scope is determined through a formal process that includes public input, similar to the EIS process.
- The Good Cause Exemption (expedited rulemaking) resolution will be coming before the EQB in October.
- The Living Word Bible Camp request for reassignment of the RGU will be coming back before the EQB at the October 17 meeting.

V. Frac Sand Mining: Business Community Testimony

The following people provided testimony on frac sand mining and the petition for a Generic EIS.

In support of a Generic EIS

- Julie Kiehne, Executive Director, Lanesboro Area Chamber of Commerce, with Frank Wright

Tom Boncher (citizen of Jordan, Minnesota), who testified at the August meeting, provided additional written testimony in support of a Generic EIS.

In Opposition to a Generic EIS

- Della Schmidt, President, Winona Area Chamber of Commerce, with Jennifer Dessner and Rich Mikrut
- Tony Kwilas, Director, Environmental Policy, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
- Kirsten Pauly PE/PG, Sunde Engineering, PLLC and Gerry Duffy
- Scott Sustacek, CEO, Jordan Sands and Jonathan Zierdt, President & CEO, and Bob Coughlan, Coughlan Companies

VI. MDH Report: *Incorporating Health and Climate Change into the Minnesota Environmental Assessment Worksheet*

Michelle Ross and Kelly Muellman (MDH) provided an overview and responded to questions related to MDH's *Incorporating Health and Climate Change into the Minnesota Environmental Assessment Worksheet* report. The report summarizes MDH's project to determine whether climate change and health effects are considered in the EAW. Copies of the report were available.

VII. Executive Order 11-32 Project Updates

Updates on project work plans were presented to the EQB.

Environmental Review Improvement

Presenters: Randall Doneen (DNR), Jeff Smyser (EQB)

Randall presented the *Evaluation and Recommendations for Improving Environmental Review* draft report. The report will be available for public review until October 19. Public comments on the report will be taken at the October 17 EQB meeting. Board discussion will also be scheduled, and direction from the Board will be incorporated into the final document.

Jeff discussed the Mandatory Categories (for EAWs and EISs) Report to the Legislature, due December 1, 2012.

Improved Environmental Governance and Coordination

Presenter: Jeff Smyser (EQB)

Jeff presented the *Analysis of Alternatives for Environmental Governance and Coordination and the Role of the MPCA Citizens' Board* draft report. This report will also be available for public review, and public testimony on the document will be taken at the additional EQB meeting on October 30. Board discussion will also be scheduled, and direction from the Board will be incorporated into the document for final recommendations.

Environment and Energy Report Card

Presenter: Ellen Anderson (Senior Advisor to the Governor)

The draft Report Card has gone through two review sessions by advisory groups. Feedback received from the advisory groups is being used to further refine the draft Report Card document.

Environmental Congress

Presenter: Ellen Anderson (Senior Advisor to the Governor)

- The team is spending a lot of time on planning the Citizens' Forums (formerly called "listening sessions").
- Help is needed from commissioners on staffing issues. Needed are a communications leader and staff to facilitate table discussions during break-out sessions at the Citizens' Forums.
 - Commissioners Stine and Landwehr volunteered to meet the need for a communications leader.
 - Commissioner Sorel volunteered to meet the need for facilitators at the Citizens' Forums.
- The RFP was sent out for the venue for the Environmental Congress.
- The process is under way to get the RFP sent out for the Event Planner for the Environmental Congress.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.