

**MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, October 17, 2012
MPCA Room Board Room, 520 Lafayette Road, St. Paul**

EQB Members Present, Dave Frederickson, Kristin Duncanson, Brian Napstad, John Saxhaug, Julie Goehring, Erik Tomlinson, Mike Rothman, John Linc Stine, Ed Ehlinger, Paul Moe (for Mark Phillips), Tom Landwehr, Spencer Cronk, Tom Sorel

EQB Members Absent: Mark Phillips

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

Chair Dave Frederickson called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

I. Adoption of Consent Agenda and Minutes

A motion to adopt the Consent Agenda and approve the September 19, 2012, meeting minutes was made, seconded, and carried unanimously.

II. Introductions

Members of the EQB and those in attendance introduced themselves.

III. Chair's Report

No report.

IV. Executive Director's Report

- The Living Word Bible Camp RGU re-assignment, scheduled to come before the EQB this month, was taken off the Agenda due to an anticipated appeal to the Minnesota Supreme Court.
- The Good Cause Rulemaking resolution will be an action item at the October 30 meeting, requiring a quorum. There will also be several action items to adopt products of the Executive Order at the November meeting.

V. Executive Order 11-32 Project Updates

Public testimony on the Environmental Review Improvement Report was given by the following people:

- Jim Erkel, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
- Mike Robertson, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
- Carol Overland, concerned citizen
- Alan Muller, concerned citizen
- Kristen Eide-Tollefson, concerned citizen
- Paula Maccabee, concerned citizen
- Diadre Decker, concerned citizen

Progress reports by core team members were presented to the EQB, followed by Board discussion.

Environmental Review Improvement

Presenters: Randall Doneen (DNR)

- Chair Frederickson asked Randall about a comment that concerned him from Alan Muller, who stated that he was invited, and then "uninvited" to take part in the focus group. Randall explained that Mr. Muller, when invited, stated that he may or may not attend the focus group. He did not attend, but Randall assured Chair Frederickson that the invitation had not been rescinded.

- The comment period for the Environmental Review Improvement Report ends October 19. The comments will then be incorporated into the recommendations.

Environmental Congress

Presenter: Ellen Anderson (Senior Advisor to the Governor)

- There is still a need for additional people to facilitate the citizens' forums (names needed by the subcommittee meeting on October 25).
- Outreach – Ellen requested that EQB members identify people that should be invited to the citizens' forums. Also, each agency's communications staff will be asked to post information about the forums on their websites. Also, questions being tested for the citizens' forums were sent to a large number of citizens through a MnDOT on-line customer community survey.
- University of Minnesota-Morris is offering student interns to assist with compiling data, data analysis, etc., particularly with the Congress, as an educational experience for students and in support of the EQB.
- The committee has begun organizing a next-generation environmental congress.

Environment and Energy Report Card

Presenter: Bill Grant and Matt Langan (Commerce)

- Bill summarized the proposed metrics for each of the five areas of the report card and requested Board input/approval to move forward with the report card design. The Board members will provide comments by e-mail.

Improved Environmental Governance and Coordination

Presenter: Jeff Smyser (EQB)

- A subcommittee of the Board met on October 16, as part of the process of the Executive Order. The five alternatives were discussed and the general consensus of that meeting was that there would be much value in a fully functional/staffed EQB.
- Public testimony will be given on the environmental governance and coordination document at the October 30 EQB meeting, and will be incorporated into a revised final document.

VI. Frac Sand Board Discussion

The following people provided testimony on frac sand mining and the petition for a Generic EIS, followed by Board discussion.

In support of a Generic EIS

- Senator John Howe
- Sig Anderson, Frac Sand Mining Study Group
- John Lenczewski, Minnesota Trout Unlimited

Whether or not a Generic EIS is the correct tool to use, and possible alternatives, was discussed by the Board. Any study ordered by the EQB would require funding be appropriated by the Legislature.

Information of what is and is not known, and data collection on the subject is needed before a decision can be made on whether or not to order a Generic EIS. Executive Director Patton will organize that effort between the agencies.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.