

**MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, January 17, 2008
PCA Conference Room**

EQB Members Present: Dana Badgerow, Brad Moore, Sanne Magnan, Mark Holsten, Randy Kramer, Susan McCarville, Dennis Wenzel

EQB Members Absent: Gene Hugoson, Dan McElroy, Carol Molnau, Glenn Wilson, Jonathon Bloomberg, Julie Goehring

Others Present: Robert Roche, Edward Garvey, Jim Boerboom, Faye Sleeper

EQB Staff Present: Michael Sullivan, John Wells

In the absence of Chair Hugoson, the meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Commissioner Badgerow.

Kramer moved and McCarville seconded a motion to elect Badgerow as temporary Chair. The motion was approved.

I. Adoption of Consent Agenda and Minutes

Wenzel moved and Moore seconded approval of the consent agenda and minutes of the September 20, 2007 EQB meeting. The motion was approved.

II. Chair's Report

There was no report from the Chair.

III. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sullivan explained that, once the draft rules are approved by the Governor's office, hearings could begin as early as mid-February. It is expected that these changes will be brought back to the board by mid-summer.

IV. Legal Counsel Report

Mr. Roche indicated that there are no legal issues being addressed at this time.

V. Request of the Pollution Control Agency to the Environmental Quality Board on Ethanol and the Environment

Commissioner Moore asked that the EQB lead and coordinate an interagency study of the environmental effects of the ethanol industry with emphasis on water availability and appropriation. There is a need for a better understanding of cumulative environmental effects of proposed ethanol production facilities.

Kramer moved and McCarville seconded a motion directing EQB staff to propose a plan of work for adoption at the February meeting.

VI. Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group and Climate Change Action Plan

Edward Garvey, Deputy Commissioner of Commerce, presented an overview of initiatives designed to help Minnesota do its share in addressing global warming. Mr. Garvey explained the activities of the Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group (MCCAG) and discussed the import of its findings. MCCAG documents can be found at www.mnclimatechange.us.

VII. Next Generation Energy Board

Jim Boerboom, Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture, presented information on the Next Generation Energy Act of 2007 and the Department of Agriculture's role in developing alternative energy sources, replacing reliance on fossil fuels with renewable technology. This board consists of commissioners of Agriculture, Commerce, Natural Resources, Pollution Control, and Employment and Economic Development and is charged with considering ways the state can invest its resources to efficiently achieve energy independence, agricultural and natural resources sustainability, and rural economic vitality. The board reports to the Legislature by February 1 of each year with its recommendations for appropriations and assessments.

VIII. Impaired Waters Research Workshop

Faye Sleeper, Co-Director, University of Minnesota Water Resources Center, presented an overview of the "Impaired Waters Research Workshop" scheduled for February 11-12, which is the result of interest by representatives of the University water research community and state agencies interested in water quality research needs. This workshop will be helpful to EQB staff with its assignment to identify water research priorities for the biennium. The Board's water research priorities report is due to the Legislature on September 15, 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.