

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MINNESOTA WATER POLICY

Remote Meeting

APRIL 13, 2021

10 AM

Co-Chairs:

Sen. Bill Weber

Rep. Peter Fischer (presiding)

Jim Stark, Director

AGENDA

Remote meeting: Senator Bill Weber (presiding); Representative Peter Fischer (April 13 at 10 am)

- **CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 28**
- **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**
- **DISCUSSION: STATUS OF SUBCOMMITTEE'S LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS**
- **PLANS FOR THE INTERIM AND NEXT SESSION**
- **DISCUSSION: STATUS OF OTHER SIGNIFICANT WATER LEGISLATION, JIM STARK**
- **TESTIFIERS, IF ANY**
- **ADJOURN**

DISCUSSION

Legislative Recommendations (subcommittee bills)

- **Based on previous bills and additional issues**
- **Grouped by themes--from the 33 bill ideas**
- **Focused on policy need, bipartisan support, minimal fiscal impact, and general significance**

BILLS

- 1: WATER FOR THE FUTURE: FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY**
- 2: INCREASED WATER-QUALITY PROTECTION**
- 3: INCENTIVES FOR WATER QUALITY AND AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT**
- 4: ENSURING SAFE DRINKING WATER**
- 5: IMPROVING WASTEWATER TREATMENT**
- 6: WATER RETENTION--KEEPING WATER ON THE LAND**
- 7: IMPROVING WATER GOVERNANCE**
- 8: CREDIT FOR COMPENSATION FOR AG BUFFERS, TAX CREDIT**

DISCUSSION

- **Limited success—bills were introduced, some moved, similar bills moved with parts of subcommittee bills**
- **Water retention**
- **PFAS labeling**
- **SWCD funding**
- **Water Train/water export**

DISCUSSION

- **Covid /remote hearings complicated the process**
- **Policy bills, grouped by themes, may have been too complex for this session**
- **Minimizing fiscal impact may not have been as important as thought**

NEXT SESSION

- **Refocus, revise existing bills**
- **Divide bills into the most important components**
- **Focus on a few broad policy needs**
- **Add topics for emerging issues**
- **Prioritize using member survey**
- **Stakeholder meetings**

NEXT SESSION- POLICY PRIORITIES

- *UPDATE THE 1989 GW ACT*
- **POLICY AND PLANAS—WATER RETENTION**
- **POLICY—PROTECTION OF PRIORITY LAKES AND RIVERS**
- **EMERGING CONTAMINANTS**
- *STABLE FUNDING FOR SWCDS AND WATERSED DISTRICTS*
- *WATER SUPPLY/SAFETY PLANNING- UM/MDH REPORT*
- **GW SUSTAINABILITY**
- **PRIVATE/DOMESTIC WELL SAFETY**
- **WATER INFRASTRUCTURE**
- **CLIMATE CHANGE- EQB REPORT**
- **CHLORIDE REDUCTION- MPCA REPORT**
- **PESTICIDES AND NUTRIENTS**
- **WATER EDUCATION**
- **DROUGHT PLANNING**
- **WATER APPROPRIATIONS AND EXPORT**

NEXT SESSION- POLICY PRIORITIES

- **STAFFING FOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE**
- **WATER/WASTEWATER ADVISORY COUNCIL**
- **LEAD IN DRINKING WATER**
- **ALTERNATIVES FOR DEICING**
- **PFAS- MPCA REPORT**
- **TAX CREDITS FOR BUFFER LANDS**
- **GW POLICY AND GOVERNANCE**
- **EFFECTS OF LAND USE PLANNING**
- **CLIMATE CHANGE**
- **PESTICIDES AND NUTRIENTS**
- **WATER EDUCATION**
- **DROUGHT PLANNING**
- **WATER APPROPRIATIONS AND EXPORT**
- **STABLE ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDING**
- **TECHNICAL PROFICIENCY/TRAINING**

NEXT STEPS

- **SHORT POSITION PAPERS**
- **RANKING BY MEMBERS**
- **STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Announcements?**
- **Short Subcommittee in post session?**

The background is a light blue gradient. There are several realistic water droplets of various sizes in the corners: top-left, top-right, and bottom-right. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a 3D appearance.

THANKS

And adjourn

DRAFT BILL # 1

BILL FOCUS: WATER FOR THE FUTURE--FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY (WATER QUANTITY)

- **HF3943: (LIPPERT, FISCHER): SF4427 (WEBER, EATON, WIGER, EKEN): POLICY ON SUSTAINABILITY OF MINNESOTA'S GROUNDWATER AND SURFACE WATER--RESPONSE TO THE "WATER TRAIN" ISSUE**
- **HF3951 (LIPPERT, FISCHER), SF3996 (WEBER): POLICY ON GROUNDWATER RECHARGE. BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE FRESHWATER/UM REPORT**
- **HF3968: (HEINTZEMAN, POSTON, FISCHER); SF3957 (WIGER, EATON): WATER APPROPRIATION ALLOCATION PRIORITIES CHANGED FOR GOLF COURSES, GIVEN CONDITIONS**
- **HF 3942 (LIPPERT) SF4432 (WEBER WIGER, EATON, EKEN): PILOT PLAN TO ENSURE SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE DRINKING WATER--ENHANCING AND LEVERAGING COUNTY GEOLOGIC ATLAS PROGRAM FOR FUTURE PROGRAM, THE NEXT STEP IN THE COUNTY ATLAS PROGRAM**

DRAFT BILL # 2

BILL FOCUS: INCREASED WATER-QUALITY PROTECTION

- HF 3967 (HEINTZEMAN, BRAND, FISCHER), SF3413 (WEBER, EATON, WIGER, EKEN) **REDUCE CHLORIDE. USE-REDUCTIONS. BEGINS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHLORIDE MANAGEMENT PLAN.**
- **POLICY FOR LIMITING LIABILITY FOR CERTIFIED APPLICATORS.** HF 1502; SF 1667: INCLUDES TRAINING, CERTIFICATION, RECORD KEEPING AND LIMITED LIABILITY. (PREVIOUS SIMILAR BILL AUTHORS: HANSEN, TORKELOSON, EDELSON, HEINTZEMAN, MOLLER, BIERMA, XIONG, HER, BERNARDY, AND JORDAN. SENATE: RUDD, ANDERSON , INGEBRIGTSON, TOMASSONI, AND HALL)
- **PROPOSED BILL SECTION: BAN FUTURE SALES OF WATER SOFTENERS THAT OVERUSE SALT**
- HF3969:(POSTON, FISCHER): SF 3995 (WEBER): **SIMPLIFY AND INCREASE EFFICIENCY OF PROCESSES TO ADOPT AND AMEND WATER QUALITY STANDARDS.** PROVIDES A REPORT ON METHODS FOR SIMPLIFYING AND INCREASING THE PROCESS. **(THIS MAY BE ADDRESSED IN MPCA RULES-CHANGE PROCESS)**
- HF 3947: (POSTON, FISCHER: SF 3956 (WIGER, EATON): **ENCOURAGES PILOT POLLUTANT TRADING. POLICY TO ALLOW A THIRD-PARTY BROKER SYSTEM.**

DRAFT BILL # 3

INCENTIVES FOR WATER QUALITY AND AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT

- **SF 3950 (WIGER AND EATON), HF (XX) LIPPERT AND FISHER: SOIL HEALTH ACTION PLAN**
- **HF3945 (BRAND, FISCHER, LIPPERT) SF 3961 (WIGER, EKEN): PRECISION AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND OUTREACH—DEVELOPING A PLAN FOR A PROGRAM**
- **HF 3946 (LIPPERT, FISCHER, BRAND): SF 3953 (WIGER, EATON, EKEN): PLAN FOR TRANSFERRING MONIES FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE IN THE AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT. MAY NOT BE FEASIBLE THIS YEAR.**

DRAFT BILL # 4

SAFE DRINKING WATER

- **HF3944 (FISCHER), SF 3925 (WEBER): EMERGING CONTAMINANT MONITORING FOR PFAS: PLAN TO MONITOR UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS IN SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER.**
- **SF3955 (WIGER EATON) HF (HEINTZEMAN): FOREVER CHEMICALS IN FOOD WASTE--POLICY FOR ACCEPTANCE OF COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS CONTAINING PFAS**
- **TESTING PRIVATE AND DOMESTIC WELLS: THE UM FUTURE OF DRINKING WATER REPORT RECOMMENDS A STATUTE FOR PRIVATE WELL TESTING DURING THE TRANSFER OF PROPERTIES WITH WELLS. THIS WOULD PROTECT BUYERS AND SELLERS. (COULD INCLUDE A TESTING DISCLOSURE AS A SUBSTITUTE)**

DRAFT BILL # 5

IMPROVING WASTEWATER TREATMENT

- **FLUSHABLE WIPES- LABELING OR BAN: SENATE: WIGER, EATON, WEBER, EKEN. HOUSE: HEINTZEMAN, FISCHER: DISPOSABLE PRODUCTS FOR SALE MAY NOT BE LABELED AS FLUSHABLE UNLESS THE PRODUCTS MEET A SPECIFIC DEFINITION. (SIMILAR BILL IN THE SENATE (SF3139)**
- **DETERMINE THE THREATS OF EMERGING CONTAMINANTS: BECAUSE MANY EMERGING CONTAMINANTS ARE NOT FULLY ADDRESSED AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL, IT IS IMPORTANT TO PRIORITIZE AND MANAGE ECS TO MAKE SOUND DECISIONS ABOUT OPTIMIZING TREATMENT BETWEEN THE SOURCE AND THE TAP (UM REPORT)**

DRAFT BILL # 6

WATER RETENTION--KEEPING WATER ON THE LAND

- **WATER RETENTION– PREPARE A PLAN TO ENHANCE EFFORTS TO KEEP WATER ON THE LAND. (TORKELSON AND WEBER AUTHORED SIMILAR BILL IN THE HOUSE AND SENATE)**
- **HF3948 (FISCHER): SF 3954 (WIGER, EATON): PLAN AND POLICY TO ADDRESS STORM WATER RETENTION AND INFILTRATION.**

DRAFT BILL # 7

BILL FOCUS: WATER GOVERNANCE

- HF3971 (TORKELSON, FISCHER, HEINTZEMAN), SF 3958 (WEBER, WIGER EATON, EKEN): **REESTABLISHES ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT**
- HF3941: (TORKELSON, LIPPERT, FISCHER, HEINTZEMAN: **PROVIDES A PLAN TO PHASE-OUT SOME OF THE CLEAN WATER FUNDS AS A SOURCE OF SWCD FUNDING**
- SF4007 (EKEN, WIGER, EATON) HF (FISCHER) **EVALUATES MODELS FOR ASSESSING BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**
- **REESTABLISHES THE LEGISLATIVE WATER COMMISSION**
- **POLICY: IMPROVED GOVERNANCE: UM/ MDH REPORT RECOMMENDS A COORDINATING ENTITY FOR DRINKING WATER. THIS COULD BE CHARGED TO AN EXISTING INTERAGENCY GROUP, LED BY THE MDH. POLICY WOULD CHARGE THE TEAM WITH THIS RESPONSIBILITY.**

DRAFT BILL # 8

CREATES A BUFFER CREDIT

- (POSTON, FISCHER): SF 4206 (WIGER, DRAHEIM, EATON, GOGGIN, WEBER, EKEN): **COMPENSATION FOR AG BUFFERS: CREATES AN AGRICULTURAL RIPARIAN BUFFER CREDIT**
- **COMPLICATED TAX BILL**