

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MINNESOTA WATER POLICY

February 6, 2024

1:00 pm

Jim Stark, Director

MEETING AGENDA

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MINNESOTA WATER POLICY: FEBRUARY 6, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER: CHAIR: SENATOR WEBER
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: DECEMBER 5, 2023
3. LEGISLATIVE AGENDA; SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER- JIM STARK
4. UPDATE ON SE MN DRINKING WATER SAFETY- JIM STARK
5. KEEP OUR LAKES CLEAN INITIATIVE- MIKE HIRST, LAKE OF THE WOODS, SWCD
6. NEONICOTINOIDS IN MINNESOTA'S WATERS—LUCAS RHOADS, NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL
- ~~7. ENSURING AGGREGATE AVAILABILITY AND RESPONSIBLE GROUNDWATER PROTECTION FOR NON-METALLIC MINING IN MINNESOTA—JIM AIKEN, BARR ENGINEERING~~
8. TESTIFIERS: JEFF BROBERG (MNWOO)
9. ADJOURN

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

SENATE MEMBERS

SENATOR WEBER*

SENATOR HAWJ

SENATOR KUPEC

SENATOR LANG

SENATOR PUTMAN

SENATOR WESENBERG

HOUSE MEMBERS

➤ REPRESENTATIVE HEMMINGSEN-JAEGER*

➤ REPRESENTATIVE JACOB

➤ REPRESENTATIVE FISCHER

➤ REPRESENTATIVE REHM

➤ REPRESENTATIVE SHULTZ

➤ REPRESENTATIVE SKRABA

➤ * CO-CHAIRS



BRIEFING

WATER LEGISLATION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE

PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE AGENDA: SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER POLICY

- **LIST DEVELOPED OVER THE INTERIM**
- **BASED ON INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS AND MEMBERS**
- **EACH HAS SUPPORT FROM ONE OR MORE MEMBERS**
- **SEVERAL OF THE BILLS WERE INTRODUCED LAST SESSION**
- **MOST WERE HEARD**
- **SOME HAD SEVERAL STOPS**
- **YOUR FEEDBACK IS NEEDED**

1--SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTARY PRIVATE WELL TESTING BY VOLUNTEER GROUPS-SUPPORTS AGENCY EFFORTS

2--WATER SAFETY PLANS FOR CITIES– PILOT- BASED ON A UM/MDH REPORT– COMPLETED REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

3--WATER RETENTION—URBAN STORM WATER– PROTECTING GROUNDWATER FROM INFILTRATION PRACTICES

4--REAUTHORIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL FERTILIZER RESEARCH AND EDUCATION COUNCIL– A SMALL TAX ON FERTILIZER

PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE AGENDA II

**5-SUPPORT TO UM FOR IMPROVED WATER AND AGRICULTURE- PRECISION
AG: IMPROVES WATER AND AGRICULTURE**

**6-TAX CREDIT FOR PRIVATE RIPARIAN BUFFER LANDS TAX CREDIT FOR
PRIVATE RIPARIAN BUFFER**

7-RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE WATER COMMISSION

**8- MINOR CHANGES TO THE HIGHEST PRIORITY WATER ALLOCATION
PRIORITIES--INCLUDE SCHOOLS, WHITE BEAR LAKE**

DISCUSSION

10-SUPPORT FOR ENHANCED GROUNDWATER RECHARGE-BASED ON UM/FRESHWATER REPORT– POLICY CHANGE

11-COMPLETE LAND MANAGEMENT GOALS FOR WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY FOR THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI: CLEAN WATER COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION

12-KEEP OUR LAKES CLEAN INITIATIVE – ICE FISHING WASTE

13--SALT APPLICATOR VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION AND LIMITED LIABILITY FOR APPLICATORS SALT APPLICATOR VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION

EPA PETITION ON NITRATE- SE MINNESOTA

- **GENERALLY, THE PETITION ASKS THE FOLLOWING:**
- **PROVIDE FREE WATER TESTING AND SAFE DRINKING WATER FOR IMPACTED COMMUNITIES**
- **PROVIDE PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING HAZARDS DURING THE PROCESS OF RETURNING DRINKING WATER TO A SAFE CONDITION**
- **PROHIBITS NEW CAFOS, AND EXISTING CAFOS FROM EXPANDING, UNTIL NITRATE CONCENTRATIONS IN CONTAMINATED WELLS REACH SAFE LEVELS**
- **MODIFIES MANURE AND FERTILIZER APPLICATION PRACTICES**

UPDATE– NITRATES IN GROUNDWATER

MDH, MDA AND THE MPCA HAVE ADDRESSED THE REQUESTS IN THE EPA LETTER IN THREE PHASES:

PHASE I: IMMEDIATE RESPONSE (JANUARY-JUNE 2024) FOCUSES IS ON:

- **EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**
- **PROVIDING ALTERNATE WATER FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**
- **PHASE I WORK CAN BE DONE BY LEVERAGING EXISTING FUNDING.**

NITRATE- PHASE- 2

PHASE II: PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTION (JULY 2024 FORWARD)

FOCUSES IS ON:

- **IDENTIFYING IMPACTED RESIDENCES**
- **FREE PRIVATE WELL TESTING AND MITIGATION**
- **PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE PLAN'S PROGRESS AND OUTPUTS**
- **ADDITIONAL FUNDING WILL BE NEEDED**

NITRATE- PHASE 3

PHASE III: LONG-TERM NITRATE STRATEGIES (LONG-TERM):

- REVIEWING AND UPDATING EXISTING STRATEGIES, PLANS, AND RULES TO REDUCE NITRATE TO DRINKING WATER AQUIFERS
- ASPECTS OF PHASE III ARE CURRENTLY UNDERWAY
- ADDITIONAL FUNDING IS REQUIRED TO FULLY SUPPORT AND ACCELERATE THIS WORK
- QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

PRESENTATION-1

KEEPING OUR LAKES CLEAN INITIATIVE, PART 2

MIKE HIRST, LAKE OF THE WOODS, SWCD

PRESENTATION-2

NEONICOTINOIDS IN MINNESOTA'S WATERS

LUCAS RHOADS--NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

PRESENTATION-POSTPONED

**ENSURING AGGREGATE AVAILABILITY AND RESPONSIBLE
GROUNDWATER PROTECTION FOR NON-METALLIC MINING IN
MINNESOTA**

JIM AIKEN, BARR ENGINEERING

THANKS

- **DISCUSSION– SHORT MEETINGS EACH MONTH--MONDAY MORNINGS**
- **SUBCOMMITTEE OFFICE HAS MOVED TO THE CENTENNIAL BUILDING**
- **THANKS, AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS**
- **ADJOURN**