



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting

Wednesday May 15, 2019

Agenda Item

Item 6. C. - 2019 Legislative Action

Prepared By

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Summary

Base funding of \$480,000 over the next biennium is included in the House omnibus bill (HF2314). The Senate bill (SF2314) has \$250,000. Lisa Frenette and I have been working with Senator Ingebriksen and Hall to increase the funding to the \$480,000. Several of the Legislators have indicated that they would like to visit the dredge site to see how dredge material is managed.

Lisa and I will make arrangements after the session is finished.

An update from MAWD about other legislation that concerns Watershed Districts is attached

Attachments

MAWD Legislative Update dated May 1, 2019

Recommended Action

No action recommended



Legislative Update: May 1, 2019

MN Association of Watershed Districts

Today's update includes a summary of the items in the House and Senate omnibus bills.

SENATE OMNIBUS ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES BILL

[SF 2314 Omnibus environment and natural resources bill](#) (3rd Engrossment as passed 4/23/19)

Background: The breakdown of the bill is as follows:

- Article 1. Environment and Natural Resources Appropriations (Pages 2-38) – agency budgets
- Article 2. Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (Pages 38-82)
- Article 3. Statutory Changes (Pages 82-187)
- Appendix. Repealed Minnesota Statutes (Pages 188-189)

Status: Senate passed SF2314 as amended on 4/23/19 and sent it to the House. The House did not concur when it met on 4/30/19 so the bill will be moving to a conference committee.

MAWD Platform Items Included:

- SF 1677 – the “Carp Bill” removes the area assignment restrictions for commercial fishing when removing invasive species, including common carp. (Section 63, pages 120-121)
- SF 2451 – the “Per Diem Bill” increases maximum watershed district manager compensation from \$75/day to \$125/day. (Section 70, page 126)
- SF 1063 – the “Coordinated Watershed Management Bill” improves coordination and removes duplicative efforts of water management planning that is being conducted at both the local and state levels. (Sections 64, 65, 67, 68, 70, 92-106, various pages)

Other Items of Interest:

- The Article 1 appropriations reduce spending by \$57M which is a 25% reduction from the last biennium.
- A new section has been added to MN Statute 103C that pulls together the responsibilities that have been placed on SWCDs over the years through various statutes and other directives. (Section 69, pages 124-126.)
- New sections were added to state statute that would prohibit the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Pollution Control Agency (PCA) from enforcing unadopted rules. An unadopted rule is guidance document or similar item that meets the criteria of a rule. If the unadopted rule is challenged, it is presumptively not enforceable. (DNR: Section 11, page 86 and MPCA: Section 124, page 161-162)

SENATE TAX BILL

[SF 5: Omnibus Tax Bill](#) (1st Engrossment posted 4/25/19)

Status: Senator Jeff Howe offered an amendment, on behalf of MAWD, to include the project tax levy bill into the omnibus tax bill and it was accepted. Next step is to go to conference committee.

MAWD Platform Items Included:

- SF 1391 – the “Project Tax Levy Bill” modifies the existing project tax levy statute to allow this funding mechanism to be applied for ALL types of state and federal grants, not just grants (and loans) associated with the Clean Water Partnership (CWP) program. (Article 4, Sections 1 and 2, pages 92-93)

HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BILL

[HF 2032 Environment and natural resources trust funds appropriated, and previous appropriations modified.](#)

Status: Placed on the House calendar for the Day on May 1, 2019. Next Step: Conference Committee.

HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES BILL

[HF 2209 Omnibus environment and natural resources finance bill](#) (1st Engrossment as posted on 4/12/19)

Background: The breakdown of the bill is as follows:

- Article 1. Environment and Natural Resources Appropriations (Pages 2-45) – agency budgets
- Article 2. Environment and Natural Resources (Pages 46-110) – statute changes
- Appendix. Repealed Minnesota Statutes (Pages 111-114)

Status: Bill passed as amended by the full House, returned to the Senate as amended with a request that conferees be appointed by the Senate. (4/30/19)

Next Steps: Conference Committee appointed & begin meeting to develop final bill language & appropriations.

Bills Supported by MAWD Platform that are Included:

- HF 1502 – the “[Commercial Salt Applicator Bill](#)” provides limited liability protections for certified commercial salt applicators. (Section 83, pages 101-104)

Other Items of Interest:

- Miscellaneous policy provisions altering some funding and spending requirements for the invasive species and research accounts. (Section 13, Pages 54-55)
- Allows any government unit to kill beaver causing damage and remove or destroy any associated beaver lodge or dams subject to existing permit requirements and the new provisions established in the bill. (Sections 52-56, Pages 74-75)
- Reinstates the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Citizens Board which was eliminated in 2015. (Section 77-79, Pages 97-100)

SENATE LEGACY FINANCE OMNIBUS BILL

[SF 836 Regional parks and trails appropriation](#) (1st Engrossment as posted 4/30/19)

Background: The breakdown of the bill is as follows:

- Article 1. Outdoor Heritage Fund (Pages 1-36)
- Article 2. Clean Water Fund (Pages 36-56)
- Article 3. Parks and Trails Fund (Page 56-61)
- Article 4. Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (Pages 61-75)

Status: Bill was given its second reading on 4/30/19.

HOUSE LEGACY FINANCE OMNIBUS BILL

[HF 653 Omnibus legacy finance bill](#) (1st Engrossment as posted on 4/25/19)

Background: The breakdown of the bill is as follows:

- Article 1. Outdoor Heritage Fund (Pages 1-36)
- Article 2. Clean Water Fund (Pages 36-56)
- Article 3. Clean Water Act Modifications (Pages 56-67)
- Article 4. Parks and Trails Fund (Page 67-72)
- Article 5. Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (Pages 72-89)
- Article 6. General Provisions; All Legacy Funds (Pages 89-90)

Status: Placed on Calendar for the Day in the House on May 2, 2019

MAWD Platform Items Included:

- SF 1063 – the “[Coordinated Watershed Management Bill](#)” improves coordination and removes duplicative efforts of water management planning that is being conducted at both the local and state levels. (Article 3)

For questions, errors, or omissions, please contact Emily at 651-440-4907 or emily@mnwatershed.org