

**LCC Subcommittee on Water Policy, Draft Bills, 2020 Session recap**  
**Prioritized Legislative Water Issues—LCC Subcommittee on Water Policy**

Members: As you requested, I have reviewed and prioritized (my opinion) subcommittee bills that were introduced during the 2020 session as shown below. Those bills were based on consensus decisions from the subcommittee. Most of the bills involved policy decisions that required minimal funding. Most were introduced during the 2020 session. Progress stopped in early March. Details are available for each of the bills.

I've prioritized the bill, as requested, based on the following combined criteria:

- Bills having bipartisan support, based on authorship
- Bills that benefit the environment for all of Minnesotans (in my opinion)
- Bills in italics have little impact on the General Fund\*\*

I hope we can discuss this list at our October meeting.

Bills with the highest priority, in my opinion:

- HF3943: (Lippert, Fischer): SF:3943 (Weber, Eaton, Wiger, Eken): Requires DNR policy on sustainability on Minnesota's groundwater and surface water, with a particular focus on ways to prevent export of groundwater. Based on the "Water Train Controversy: Requires policy on wat to ensure the sustainability of groundwater and surface water\*\*
- HF3951 (Lippert, Fischer), SF3996? (Weber): Require Groundwater recharge policy and a report on artificial recharge. Permits aquifer recharge use where appropriate report required \*\*
- HF3967: (Heintzeman, Brand, Fischer), SF3413 (Weber, Eaton, Wiger, Eken): Chloride contamination in state waters, requires a use-reduction plan planning for feasibility analysis of chloride alternatives and water softening changes\*\*.
- HF3968: (Heintzeman, Poston Fischer); SF 3957 ( Wiger, Eaton): Water appropriation allocation priorities modified, Water Appropriation-Golf Courses\*\*
- HF3969: (Poston, Fischer): SF 3995 (Weber): Requires water-quality standards report on methods to simplify and increase efficiency of processes to adopt and amend standards\*\*
- HF3971: (Torkelson, Fischer, Heintzeman), SF 3958 (Weber, Wiger Eaton, Eken): Reestablishes the Advisory Council on Water Supply Systems and Wastewater Treatment Facilities reestablished, and money appropriated to improve drinking water infrastructure\*\*.
- Flushable wipes- labeling or ban: Non-woven Personal Care Disposable Products; Senate: Wiger, Eaton, Weber, Eken, Heintzeman, Fischer. Clarflin and Fisher had similar bills in the House. Decision made to not introduce the subcommittee bill. Similar bill in the Senate (SF3139)\*\*
- HF 3595 (Torkelson): SF 3864 (Weber, Frenz) Water Retention, These bills are similar to those discussed by the subcommittee.
- HF3941: (Torkelson, Lippert, Fischer, Heintzeman): SF4265: (Wiger, Draheim, Goggin, Weber, Eken): Soil and Water Conservation District Grands, Appropriation: Phases out some of the Clean Water Fund (CWF) as funding source Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). Reduce SWCD grants from CWF in FY21 by \$3 million; require CWF to fund SWCDs at \$6 million in FY22 and \$3 million in FY23\*\*: this bill needs to be amended to reflect budget shortfall concerns

Bills of high priority, in my opinion:

- HF3942: (Lippert) SF? (Weber Wiger, Eaton, Eken): Sustainable Drinking Water: Pilot Program to Ensure Safe and Sustainable Drinking Water for the Future by enhancing and leveraging County Geologic Atlas data, Plan for Developing Network of Monitoring Wells and Well Owner Education with appropriations. Also creates a blank appropriation for a well monitoring and education program

- for private well owners. Senator Weber signed, not sure if it was introduced.
- HF3944 (Fischer), SF 3925 (Weber): Emerging Contaminant Monitoring PFAS: Network for Monitoring Upregulated Contaminants in Sources of Drinking Water: Appropriates money to develop network for monitoring unregulated contaminants in sources of drinking water.
  - HF3947: (Poston, Fischer: SF 3956 (Wiger, Eaton): Provides a third-party water-quality broker system and money appropriated. Encourages a pilot pollutant trading\*\*
  - SF3955 (Wiger Eaton) HF (Heintzeman): Forever chemicals in food waste, Accepting certain Compostable Products Containing PFAS, Water Quality Monitoring for PFAS; Appropriation. The committee's bill was not introduced in the House. Rep Claflin introduced a simile bill in the House. (HF318-Claflin\_ SF 3955 is similar
  - Evaluate and update 1989 GW Act; Wiger, Brand, Fischer. Bill not needed, following MGWA process
  - HF3952: (Fischer): SF? (Weber signed, Eaton, Wiger, Eken): Water quality at beaches funding provided for a monitoring program, and money appropriated.
  - Keeping water on the land, water storage: Pilot Program to Enhance Efforts to Keep Water on the land: Appropriation: Senate interest: Wiger and Weber. This bill was put on hold as per Fischer and Brand. Torkelson and Weber authored similar bills in the House and Senate.
  - HF3940: (Fisher), SF3952 (Wiger, Eaton, Eken): Requires collaboration among and a report from Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR), Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC), and the Clean Water Council. \
  - SF 3959 (Wiger and Eaton), HF (?) Lippert and Fisher: Soil Health: Statewide Soil Health Action Plan, Appropriations. May not have been dropped in the House.\*\*

#### Bills of High Priority with significant impact on the General Fund

- HF 1439 (Poston, Fischer): SF 4206 (Wiger, Draheim, Eaton, Goggin, Weber, Eken): Compensation for Ag Buffers: Agricultural Riparian Buffer Credit\*\*
- HF3945 (Brand, Fischer, Lippert); SF 3961 (Wiger, Eken): Precision agriculture research and outreach funding provided, and money appropriated.
- HF 3946 (Lippert, Fischer, Brand): SF 3953 (Wiger, Eaton, Eken): Increase Ag BMP loan program: Agricultural Best Management Practices Loan Program
- HF3948: (Fischer): SF 3954 (Wiger, Eaton): Appropriates money to study storm water retention and infiltration. Policy on storm water infiltration: Stream Water Retention and Infiltration Study
- State Wetlands Assumption: Heintzeman et al. Bill not needed at this time. Following federal legislation by agency staff.
- SF 4007 (Eken, Wiger, Eaton) HF(Fischer to drop on House) Best models for BMP evaluation: Water Quality: Evaluating Models for Assessing Best management Practices: Appropriation
- Combine CWC, LCC Water Commission. Discussed with Rep Lillie, hold hearings?
- Dedicated Funds for Conservation: Constitutionally dedicated funding and analysis with recommendations: Wiger and Fischer. Bill not introduced.
- Waters of the United States: Wiger, Eken, Lippert, Fischer. Following the process. Bill not needed at this time.
- SF2102 Draheim: Creating a Department of Water Resources: Draheim and Fischer SF2102. Bill not introduced in the House.
- Preparing for an uncertain Future: Wiger, Fischer: Following EQB efforts
- Increase generic EIS process: Wiger, Fischer. Little support for this bill
- Environmentally responsible mining: Sandell, Fischer. SC6024. Did not originate in this committee