

Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee

January 2025

This document provides a brief summary of the entities typically within the jurisdiction of the Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee, including references to laws outlining their organization, authority, and responsibilities.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

The DNR is responsible for conserving and managing the state's natural resources and providing outdoor recreation opportunities. Issue areas impacting the DNR that may come before the committee include: wildlife management, including licensing and regulating hunting and fishing, managing invasive species, addressing wildlife diseases, and protecting threatened and endangered species; natural resource and state land management, including issuing state land leases and timber, water use, and mining permits; recreational vehicle regulation (ex. all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), watercraft, and snowmobiles); and management of the state's outdoor recreation system, including state parks, state trails, state recreation areas, scientific and natural areas (SNAs), state forests, and wildlife management areas (WMAs).

Relevant Chapters of Minnesota Statutes

- Chapter 83A (State Geographic Features)
- Chapter 84 (Department of Natural Resources)
- Chapter 84A (Lands Dedicated for Conservation)
- Chapter 84D (Invasive Species)
- Chapter 85 (Division of Parks and Recreation)
- Chapter 86A (Outdoor Recreation System)
- Chapter 86B (Water Safety and Watercraft)
- Chapter 87A (Shooting Ranges)
- Chapters 88-90 (Forestry/State Forests)
- Chapters 92 and 94 (State Lands)
- Chapter 93 (Mineral Lands)
- Chapters 97A-97C (Game and Fish)
- Chapter 103F (Protection of Water Resources)
- Chapter 103G (Waters of the State)

Pollution Control Agency (PCA)

The PCA is responsible for protecting the environment, including implementation of federal laws such as the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act. Issue areas impacting the PCA that may come before the committee include: air monitoring and permitting, water quality monitoring and water quality standards, industrial and municipal water permitting (ex. wastewater, stormwater, and feedlots), solid and hazardous waste management, including recycling, landfill

regulation and clean up, and tank storage regulation; and regulation of chemicals such as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

Relevant Chapters of Minnesota Statutes

- Chapter 114C (Environmental Regulatory Innovations)
- Chapter 114D (Clean Water Legacy Act)
- Chapter 115 (Water Pollution Control; Sanitary Districts)
- Chapter 115A (Waste Management)
- Chapter 115B (Environmental Response and Liability)
- Chapter 115C (Petroleum Tank Release Cleanup)
- Chapter 115D (Toxic Pollution Prevention)
- Chapter 116 (Pollution Control Agency)

Environmental Quality Board (EQB)

The EQB is a board made up of the commissioners of several state agencies and citizens appointed by the Governor. It is responsible for the state's environmental review program as well as serving as a place for interagency coordination on environmental issues. The main issue area impacting the EQB that may come before the committee is the environmental review program which includes environmental assessment worksheets (EAWs) and environmental impact statements (EISs).

Relevant Chapters of Minnesota Statutes

- Chapter 116C (Environmental Quality Board)
- Chapter 116D (Environmental Policy)
- Chapter 116G (Critical Areas)

Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)

The BWSR is a board made up of commissioners from state agencies and governor appointed citizens representing local units of government and other interests. The board works with local units of government and others to improve and protect the state's water and soil resources. Issue areas impacting the board that may come before the committee include: the Wetland Conservation Act; soil and water conservation, including buffer requirements and the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve program; and local water management, including oversight of soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs), watershed districts and watershed management organizations and their water management plans.

Relevant Chapters of Minnesota Statutes

- Chapter 103B (Water Planning and Project Implementation)
- Chapter 103C (Soil and Water Conservation Districts)
- Chapter 103D (Watershed Districts)
- Chapter 103E (Drainage)
- Chapter 103F (Protection of Water Resources)

Chapter 103G (Waters of the State)

Metropolitan Council (Regional Parks and Water Resources)

The Metropolitan Council coordinates planning and development of the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area, and establishes policies for regional transportation, sewer, airports, parks, human services, and housing systems. Portions of the Metropolitan Council's budget pertaining to regional parks and water resources are typically handled in the committee.

Relevant Chapter of Minnesota Statutes

Chapter 473A

Conservation Corps Minnesota

Conservation Corps Minnesota is a nonprofit organization that provides youth and young adults with hands-on environmental stewardship and service-learning opportunities through partnerships with state entities and others.

Relevant Law

Minnesota Statutes, section 84.991

Minnesota Zoological Board

The Minnesota Zoological Board consists of a 30-member board that operates and maintains the Minnesota Zoological Garden. The zoo typically receives state funding as part of the committee's budget.

Relevant Chapter of Minnesota Statutes

Chapter 85A (Minnesota Zoo)

Science Museum of Minnesota

The Science Museum of Minnesota (SMM) is a nonprofit organization with a mission to "Turn on the science: Inspire learning. Inform policy. Improve lives." The museum typically receives state funding as part of the committee's budget.

Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)

The LCCMR is made up of 17 members with ten legislators and seven citizens (five legislative members from each body, five citizen members appointed by the Governor, one citizen member appointed by the House of Representatives, and one citizen member appointed by the Senate). The LCCMR is tasked with making recommendations on how money in the environment and natural resources trust fund (ENRTF), a constitutionally dedicated trust fund funded by proceeds from the Minnesota State Lottery, is spent.

Relevant Chapters of Minnesota Statutes

Chapter 116P (Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund/LCCMR)
Chapter 116Q (Great Lakes Protection Fund)

Other Relevant Chapters of Minnesota Statutes

Chapter 84B (Voyageurs National Park)
Chapter 84C (Conservation Easements)
Chapter 85B (Lake Superior Center Authority)
Chapter 103A (Water Policy and Information)
Chapter 103H (Groundwater Protection)
Chapter 114E (Uniform Environmental Covenants Act)
Chapter 115E (Oil and Hazardous Substance Discharge Preparedness)
Chapter 116B (Environmental Rights)

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