



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

Agenda Item

Item 6. F. - 2021 Legislative Action

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

Lisa Frenette has been working to get hearings on the LMRWD legislation. [HF 1621/SF 1841](#): *modifying a 2019 appropriation related to sites for dredge spoil on the Minnesota River* had a hearing before the House Environment and Natural Resource Finance & Policy (ENR) Committee on March 2, 2021. This is the bill that would let the LMRWD use money that was appropriated to the LMRWD for dredge management to be used to fill the funding gap created by the loss of the grant for Seminary Fen. The bill was laid over by the House committee for possible inclusion. Representative Greg Boe, chief author, testified on behalf of the LMRWD. A hearing before the Senate House Environment and Natural Resource committee is scheduled for 10:30am Tuesday, March 16, 2021. Senator Eric Pratt is the chief author in the Senate. [HF 1799/SF 1288](#): *appropriating money for Lower Minnesota River Watershed District* is scheduled for a hearing before the House ENR committee at 1:00pm March 16, 2021. Representative Sandra Masin is the chief author of this bill. A hearing before the Senate ENR committee was held on March 9, 2021. Senator Pratt is the chief author on this bill in the Senate and testified on behalf of the LMRWD at the hearing. The bill was laid over in the Senate.

Additional bills that the LMRWD is following include:

- [SF261/HF731](#) - *Appropriating money to study storm water retention and infiltration and for a water storage plan*. In the Senate the authors are Senators Weber, Wiger and Eaton. In the House the author is Representative Torkelson. The bill as introduced was laid over in the Senate and has not had any hearings in the House.
- [SF81/HF518](#) - *Watershed management provided, and water quality and storage in Minnesota River program established*. In the Senate, authors are Frenetz and Weber. In the House, authors are Lippert and Fischer. Passage has been recommend in the Senate by the ENR committee and has not had any hearings in the House.
- [SF1113/HF701](#) - *Soil-health farming goals established, soil-health farming financial incentives created, data collection required, data classified, and money appropriated*. Authors in the House are Representative Lippert and others. It has been authored in the Senate by Senators Eken, Fateh, Murphy and Tommassoni. This file has had a hearing before the House Agriculture Finance & Policy committee, the Judiciary Finance & Civil Law committee (recommendation was to adopt as amended) and was re-referred to the ENR committee

- [SF793/HF1010](#) - *Statewide soil health action plan development funding provided, precision agriculture research and outreach funding provided, agricultural best management practice loan program funding increased, and money appropriated.* Senate author is Senator Eken. House authors are Representatives Lippert and Fischer. This bill has had a hearing before the Agriculture Finance & Policy committee, which recommended to adopt and re-referred to the House ENR committee. It has not had any hearings in the Senate.
- [SF1037/HF932](#) - *Water quality and storage program establishment and appropriation.* Senate author is Senator Hawj. House author is Representative Fischer. This bill had a hearing in the House on March 12, 2021
- [SF884/HF1660](#) - *Salt applicators certification program establishment; water softeners that cause excessive chloride pollution; process to adopt and amend water quality standards report requirement; water quality programs appropriation.* This bill is being authored in the Senate by Senators Eaton, Cwodzinski and Franzen and in the House by Representative Fischer. It has had no hearings in either the House or Senate.

Ms. Frenette is unable to join the meeting this month.

Attachments

No attachments

Recommended Action

No action recommended