MEMBERS PRESENT:
Duane Bakke, Fillmore County           Vern Massie, Hubbard County
Chris Balfany, Yellow Medicine County  Kevin Maurer, Morrison County
Mike Beard, Scott County               Todd Miller, Roseau County
James Berg, Brown County               Jenny Mongeau, Clay County
Roger Berggren, McLeod County          Brian Napstad, Aitkin County
Drew Campbell, Blue Earth County      Barry Nelson, Becker County
Joe Fox, Swift County                  Steve Notch, Stearns County
Tim Gabrielson, Mower County          Leon Olson, Kittson County
Garry Gamble, Cook County             Gary Peterson, Carlton County
Paul Gerde, Pope County                Neil Peterson, Pennington County
David Henkels, Jackson County         Edward Popp, Benton County
James Ische, Carver County            Victoria Reinhardt, Ramsey County
Luke Johnson, Pipestone County        John Riebel, Sherburne County
Todd Johnson, Traverse County         Tom Rukavina, St. Louis County
Glen Kluis, Murray County             Kathy Smith, Martin County
Randy Kramer, Renville County          Ron Staples, Stevens County
Bryan Larson, Meeker County            James Stratton, Douglas County
Joan Lee, Polk County                  Rich Sve, Lake County
John Lindquist, Otter Tail County     Joe Vene, Beltrami County
Tom Loveall, Faribault County         

GUESTS:
Harlan Madsen, Kandiyohi County        Dennis Genereau, Carlton County Coordinator
Dennis Groebner, Redwood County      John Helmers, Olmsted County Environmental
Jake Gillen, Rice County              Services Director

I. Call Joint Meeting to Order
Chair Barry Nelson called the Joint Committee on Environment/Natural Resources and
Transportation/Infrastructure meeting to order at 1:34 PM and welcomed members and guests.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. State Assumption of Section 404 and Local Road Wetland Replacement Program Update
Les Lemm, Wetlands Section Manager at the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR),
provided the Joint Committee with an update on the state assumption of the Section 404 permit
study. He also gave an update on WCA rulemaking and discussed deficit of credits and funding challenges with the Local Road Wetland Replacement Program.

III. Overview of the DNR Initiative on Pollinator Habitat and Roadside Ditch Mowing
Bob Meier, Assistant Commissioner at the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), discussed the Governor’s Executive Order on pollinator protection and gave an overview of the legislative initiative relating to roadside ditch mowing and protecting pollinator habitat. Committee members had an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on the legislation.

IV. Adjourn Joint Committee
The Joint Committee adjourned at 2:30 PM.

V. Call Meeting to Order
Chair Nelson called the Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee to order at 2:45 PM. Commissioner Drew Campbell made a motion to approve the March 10, 2016 minutes. Commissioner Randy Kramer seconded the motion. The motion prevailed and the minutes were adopted.

VI. Board of Water and Soil Resources Legislative and Rulemaking Update
John Jaschke, BWSR Executive Director, and Angie Becker Kudelka, BWSR Assistant Director, provided the committee with an update on numerous topics impacting counties. These topics included: SWCD funding (opportunity for counties to match additional state funding), Drainage Manual update, CREP proposal, Local Government Roads Wetland Replacement Program, One Watershed One Plan, role of counties under Buffer Law, rulemaking pertaining to soil loss (starting in the Fall of 2016).

VII. Department of Natural Resources Legislative and Rulemaking Update
Bob Meier, Assistant Director at the DNR, provided an update on the Shoreland Model Ordinance and Silica Sand Reclamation Rules. He also discussed policies the DNR may be looking to address in the upcoming session, including: strategic land asset management, water and negative thresholds, possibly raising fees, preserving the AIS funds and seeking administrative funding for AIS, timber/forestry initiatives and updates in the game/fish area.

VIII. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Legislative and Rulemaking Update
Greta Gauthier, Legislative Director at the MPCA, provided an update on the following topics: wild rice standards rulemaking, impaired waters list, new E-Waste law, new Advisory Committee to replace the Citizens Board, and the Environmental Justice Advisory Committee. She also noted the MPCA will be looking to address these items in the upcoming legislation session: air pollution, organics in waste stream, expanding composting and recycling infrastructure.

IX. Adjourn for the Day
There was a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting for the day. The Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee adjourned at 4:30 PM.

X. Call Meeting to Order
Chair Nelson called the Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee to order at 8:30 AM. The committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

XI. Noxious Weeds Discussion
Jennifer Berquam, AMC Policy Analyst, led a discussion on noxious weeds and highlighted the list of weeds up for review with the MDA Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee. The ENRPC identified two weeds as priorities to maintain on the list: buckthorn and wild parsnip.

XII. 2017 Platform Discussion
Jennifer Berquam explained the platform review process and introduced the affiliate members of AMC that fall under the ENRPC.

- **MACPZA Update** – Jennifer provided an update on the MACPZA Legislative Priority relating to Subdivision of Land Legislation: MACPZA supports amending Minn. Statutes to provide counties with the same authority as cities and townships to require subdivisions of land to be in compliance with county zoning ordinances prior to being recorded.

  This language actually passed in the 2016 Tax Bill, however, the bill was not signed into law. MACPZA will continue to support the language in a potential special session or the 2017 Legislature. Also on the MACPZA Legislative Watch List is: temporary family health care dwellings, water quality, shoreland regulations, buffers and soil loss.

- **SWAA Update** – John Helmers, Olmsted County Environmental Services Director and SWAA President, gave an update on a SWAA priority relating to Demolition Landfills: SWAA supports requiring the MPCA to issue, and/or reissue, all demolition land disposal facility permits in a timely manner, in accordance with the MPCA’s 2005 Guidance Document (listed on the MPCA website) until such guidelines are otherwise modified by new Rule/Statute.

  SWAA will also be watching issues relating to SCORE Funding and the Solid Waste Management Tax, CLIF and MLCAT Fund transfers, bonding for solid waste infrastructure, industrial solid waste definitions/tax equalization, and organics management.

- **MACFO Update** – Dan Vermilyea, Steele County Feedlot Specialist and MACFO Past President, gave an overview of the County Feedlot Program and presented MACFO’s legislative priority relating to Increased Funding: MACFO supports increased state funding for counties that elected to be delegated within the Pollution Control Agency feedlot program that more closely matches actual program costs to counties.

  MACFO will be seeking an increased appropriation from the legislature in 2017. They are currently collecting data from delegated counties to determine the dollar amount that should be requested. MACFO is also seeking funds from the Clean Water Council to create training videos.

- **Commissioner Joe Vene**: Presentation on new platform items relating to Aquatic Invasive Species
1) AMC supports increased financial and technical support from the State in response to newly identified infestations and continuing management of all known infestations to reduce the risk of spread.

2) AMC supports increased State enforcement and/or increased funding for local enforcement of State Laws to prevent spread of AIS.

3) AMC supports regional cooperation and partnerships in prevention and management of AIS.

Commissioner Stratton offered a friendly amendment to add the words “and potential” prior to “infestations” and after “identified” in the first platform item. Commissioner Vene accepted the friendly amendment. Commissioner Bakke made a motion to adopt the three platform items (as amended) and insert into the platform under “Water: Aquatic Invasive Species”. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion and it prevailed.

• Commissioner Todd Johnson: Presentation on new platform items relating to trapping

1) AMC supports more effective laws to reduce the frequency and severity of dog trapping incidents. AMC understands the benefits to trappers, hunters, the economy and the dogs.

2) AMC supports proposed safety requirements with the goal of reducing dog/trapping incidents:

   a. Require all Connibear Type-Style traps with a jaw spread greater than 5 1/2 inches to set at least 5’ off ground or completely submerged under water.
   b. Require flagging of all ground sets: allows for hunter/dog avoidance, assists in locating dogs in traps and allows for enforcement of laws.
   c. Trapping shall be prohibited on public hunting lands during the following hunting seasons: pheasant, grouse and waterfowl.

Commissioner Johnson modified part 2a. of the proposal by striking the words “greater than 5 ½ inches” and inserting the words “of greater than five inches by five inches” after the words “jaw spread”. Committee members discussed the proposed platform items. Commissioner Campbell made a motion to adopt part of the proposal: “AMC supports more effective laws to reduce the frequency and severity of dog trapping incidents.” Commissioner Gabrielson seconded the motion and it prevailed by a vote of 22 to 17.

The committee requested this platform item be added under “Land Use Planning and Regulation: Public Land Management”.

• Commissioner Todd Miller: Presentation on a new platform item relating to demolition landfills

1) AMC supports requiring the MPCA to issue, and/or reissue, all demolition land disposal facility permits in a timely manner, in accordance with the MPCA’s 2005
Guidance Document (listed on the MPCA website) until such guidelines are otherwise modified by new Rule/Statute.

Commissioner Johnson (Luke) made a motion to adopt the proposal. Commissioner Kramer seconded the motion and it prevailed.

- **Commissioner Luke Johnson**: Presentation on new platform item relating to glass recycling

  1) AMC supports glass used as part of the construction and operation at MSW landfills and road construction projects be considered recycled materials and counted towards SCORE goals.

Discussion took place and Commissioner Johnson (Luke) made a motion to support the concept and work on the language to revisit at the December ENRPC meeting. Commissioner Kramer seconded the motion and it prevailed.

- **Commissioner Brian Napstad**: Presentation on new platform item relating to environmental review meetings

  1) AMC supports requiring meetings with public testimony related to a site specific project be held in or within close proximity of the county in which the project is located.

Commissioner Napstad recommends the above language be inserted into the platform under “Land Use Planning and Regulation: Environmental Review”. The committee discussed the platform idea. Commissioner Mongeau made a motion to support the concept and work on language to bring back to the committee in December. The motion was seconded and prevailed.

- **Commissioner Barry Nelson**: Offered a new platform item relating to federal farm programs and the MN buffer law

  1) AMC supports the efforts of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources as they work with the Federal Farm Service Agency to allow land applicable to the Minnesota buffer law to be re-enrolled in federal conservation programs such as CRP and CCRP.

Commissioner Staples made a motion to support the concept and work on the language to revisit at the December Board Meeting. Commissioner Bakke seconded the motion and it prevailed.

- **Jennifer Berquam**: Asked the committee if they would like to add a platform item relating to riparian protection (buffer) aid

  1) AMC supports state funding for counties that affirm jurisdiction of the Minnesota buffer program (enforcement duties).
Commissioner Bakke made a motion to adopt the language into the platform, Commissioner Loveall seconded the motion at it prevailed.

- **Jennifer Berquam:** Asked the committee if they would like to add a platform item relating to mapping of aggregate resources

  **AMC supports increased state funding to accelerate the state-mapping program to accurately identify aggregate resources that have the potential to be mined.**

  The committee did not have a desire to add this item to the platform and no motion was made.

- **Jennifer Berquam:** Asked the committee if they would like to add a platform item related to the soil loss rulemaking BWSR will be doing. The committee did not feel that was necessary at this time.

- **Commissioner Luke Johnson** made a motion to remove “AMC supports a legislature authorized feasibility study of State assumption of the Federal Section 404 permit program” since the study is currently underway and it is no longer necessary to pursue this item legislatively (the platform item is under Land Use Planning and Regulation: Environmental Review”. Commissioner Reinhardt seconded the motion and it passed.

**XIII. 2017 ENRPC Priorities Discussion and Selection**

The committee discussed priorities for 2017 and identified the following five items:

1) **AMC supports state funding for counties that affirm jurisdiction of the Minnesota buffer program (enforcement duties).**
   - Commissioner Bakke made a motion to include as a priority, seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion prevailed.

2) **AMC supports requiring the MPCA to issue, and/or reissue, all demolition land disposal facility permits in a timely manner, in accordance with the MPCA’s 2005 Guidance Document (listed on the MPCA website) until such guidelines are otherwise modified by new Rule/Statute.**
   - Commissioner Luke Johnson made a motion to include as a priority, seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion prevailed.

3) **AMC supports increased state funding for counties that elected to be delegated within the Pollution Control Agency feedlot program that more closely matches actual program costs to counties.**
   - Commissioner Notch made a motion to include as a priority, seconded by Commissioner Popp. Motion prevailed.
4) AMC supports amending Minn. Statutes to provide counties with the same authority as cities and townships to require subdivisions of land to be in compliance with county zoning ordinances prior to being recorded.
   - Commissioner Bakke made a motion to include as a priority, seconded by Commissioner Loveall. Motion prevailed.

5) AMC supports funding from the Clean Water Fund for implementation grants to local governments who have collaborated and completed a comprehensive water plan through the One Watershed One Plan process.
   - Commissioner Gabrielson made a motion to include as a priority, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Motion prevailed.

Commissioner Reinhardt: Discussed the Clean Water Council and the request to fund CREP through the Clean Water Fund, rather than the General Fund, where it has been funded in the past. The potential issue of supplanting is a concern to the Clean Water Council. Jennifer Berquam also asked about support for CREP, in general, and there did not appear to be consensus among the committee members and there was not time to discuss further.

XIV. Adjourn
There was a motion and second to adjourn the meeting. The Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee adjourned at 11:30 AM.