MEMBERS PRESENT:
Justin Ahlers, Nobles County
Greg Anderson, Isanti County
Tom Appel, Cottonwood County
Duane Bakke, Fillmore County
Steve Bauer, Rice County
Mike Beard, Scott County
Anton Berg, Brown County
Charlie Borrell, Wright County
Myron Bursheim, Cook County
Drew Campbell, Blue Earth County
Gary Crowley, Lyon County
Jim Dahlvang, Chippewa County
Paul Drotos, Goodhue County
Jim Eigenberg, Jackson County
Lisa Fobbe, Sherburne County
Joe Fox, Swift County
Tim Gabrielson, Mower County
Paul Gerde, Pope County
Richard Hall, Wabasha County
Dillon Hayes, Mille Lacs County
Peter Hoff, Grant County
Chuck Horsager, Wadena County
James Ische, Carver County
Steve Jacob, Winona County
Jerry Jacobson, Polk County
Gary Johnson, Yellow Medicine County
Luke Johnson, Pipestone County

GUESTS:
Jason Weinerman, BWSR
Jean Christoffels, Murray County
Alan Forsberg, EQB Board Member
Chelle Benson, Stearns County
Michele McPherson, Mille Lacs County
Joe Grund, Lake of the Woods County
Dennis Larson, Wilkin County
Jerry Rapp, Douglas County
Glen Kack, Yellow Medicine County
Christine McCarthy, Lake County

Gary Kiesow, Marshall County
Jim Kluis, Murray County
Gary Kneisl, Todd County
Jim Kordiak, Anoka County
Randy Kramer, Renville County
Doug Krueger, McLeod County
Bryan Larson, Meeker County
Tom Loveall, Faribault County
Harlan Madsen, Kandiyohi County
Anne Marcotte, Aitkin County
Joshua Mohr, Pine County
Jenny Mongeau, Clay County
Barry Nelson, Becker County
Steve Notch, Stearns County
Leon Olson, Kittson County
Wade Pavleck, Koochiching County
Gary Peterson, Carlton County
Neil Peterson, Pennington County
Edward Popp, Benton County
Victoria Reinhardt, Ramsey County
Steve Rohlfing, Le Sueur County
Ron Staples, Stevens County
James Stratton, Douglas County
Timothy Sumner, Beltrami County
Rich Sve, Lake County
Paul Thiede, Crow Wing County
Russell Walker, Roseau County

Annalee Garletz, MN DNR
John Waters, MN DNR
Bob Meier, MN DNR
Joe Drietz, Lincoln County
Darrel Johnson, Kittson County
Neal Gaalswyk, Cass County
Kareem Murphy, Hennepin County
Joe Enfield, MACAI
Bob Dunning, MACAI
I. Call to Order
Chair Randy Kramer called the Committee on Environment & Natural Resources to order at 8:07 AM and welcomed members and guests. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Neil Peterson made a motion to approve the agenda and Commissioner Anton Berg seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Commissioner Luke Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes from September 13-14, 2018. Commissioner Drew Campbell seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

II. Updates from the Environmental Quality Board
Will Sueffert, Executive Director with the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB), provided a refresher on environmental review and discussed current activities of the EQB including a state master contract for hiring environmental review consultants and an update on the mandatory categories rulemaking. Denise Wilson from the EQB also provided information on the environmental review program and answered questions.

III. Discussion/Consideration to Support Drainage Related Legislation
Commissioner Charlie Borrell discussed challenges Wright County has had recently with the DNR regarding culverts and drainage projects. He mentioned legislation has been introduced in the past (HF 2687/SF 2419) and asked committee members if this was something they would potentially want to support. An unofficial polling of members was done, and most members supported working on this issue in 2019. No members expressed opposition. The committee will take up the issue again at the AMC Legislative Conference in February.

IV. Final Platform Review and Approval
The following resolutions were considered for addition to the AMC 2019 Legislative Platform:

a) **Noxious and Invasive Species Management**
   AMC supports State funding to provide financial assistance for County Agricultural Inspectors (CAI) to carry out duties as described in the Noxious Weed Law, as well as assist landowners with control of noxious weeds.

   Joe Enfield of the Minnesota Association of County Agricultural Inspectors explained why their association is requesting support for this resolution and the need for funding. Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt made a motion to add this resolution to the AMC Platform. Commissioner Luke Johnson seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

b) **Technical Changes to the Solid Waste Management section of the platform**

   AMC Staff Jennifer Berquam explained technical changes to the Solid Waste Management portion of the platform that were recommended at the Fall Policy Conference. Commissioner Charlie Borrell made a
motion to approve the technical changes. Commissioner Chuck Horsager seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

c) **Market Development**
AMC supports coordinated statewide market development for materials recoverable from waste, including efforts to create commodity markets for material otherwise found in waste. AMC supports state economic development funding to support businesses that use recovered materials.

AMC Staff Jennifer Berquam explained the resolution and that it had been recommended for consideration by the committee during the Fall Policy Conference. Commissioner Jim Stratton made a motion to add the resolution to the AMC Platform. Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

d) **Solid Waste Management Tax**
AMC supports allocating 100 percent of the revenue generated by the Solid Waste Management Tax (SWMT) to state and county product stewardship, household hazardous waste, and other waste management activities. If this is not possible, AMC supports eliminating the SWMT or changing how it is calculated to a per unit charge rather than as a percentage of the cost of waste disposal. AMC also supports rebates for all processing facilities that recover, recycle and reuse materials from which the SWMT has been collected.

This resolution was brought forward by Becker County Commissioner Ben Grimsley after the Fall Policy Conference and before the resolution deadline. It was also discussed at the General Government Committee. Becker County Commissioner Barry Nelson discussed the resolution and solid waste issue in Becker County. The committee discussed the resolution and opted not to move it forward. The resolution failed due to no motion for approval.

e) **Aquatic Invasive Species**
AMC supports maintaining legislative funding for the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid to counties.

AMC Staff Jennifer Berquam explained the resolution and that it had been recommended for consideration by the committee during the Fall Policy Conference. Commissioner Paul Drotos made a motion to add the resolution to the AMC Platform. Commissioner Jim Kordiak seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

f) **Buffer Law Implementation**
- AMC supports maintaining the local option for enforcement of the buffer law and soil loss regulations.
- AMC supports the ability of counties to withdraw from enforcement of the state buffer law in the event the Riparian Protection Aid amount declines below what is necessary to enforce the program.

AMC Staff Jennifer Berquam explained the resolutions and that they were recommended for consideration by the committee during the Fall Policy Conference. Commissioner Duane Bakke made a motion to add both resolutions to the AMC Platform. Commissioner Luke Johnson seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**
g) **Buffer Tax Rebate**

AMC supports providing a tax rebate to landowners required to comply with the riparian buffer requirements under MS 103F.48 that is administered as a rebate through the Department of Revenue.

Chair Kramer and AMC staff Jennifer Berquam explained the resolution that was brought forward before deadline but after the Fall Policy Conference. Members discussed the issue and there were many questions. Commissioner Justin Ahlers made a motion to support adding the resolution to the AMC Platform. Commissioner Russell Walker seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

h) **Drainage**

- AMC supports changes to drainage law that clarify the drainage authority is vested with jurisdiction over property rights acquired for 16.5-foot ditch buffer strips.
- AMC supports changes to drainage law that enables 26 percent of benefited landowners, or owners of 26 percent of the benefited lands, to petition for a redetermination of benefits in order to update benefited areas, similar to the current petition process for ditch repairs and maintenance.
- AMC supports clarifying current law that drainage authorities, including counties, may hire outside legal counsel.
- AMC supports modifications to the AgBMP Loan Program to allow drainage authorities to act as the borrower on behalf of landowners in the public ditch system.
- AMC supports legislation to provide drainage authorities the option to apportion ditch repair and maintenance costs through a runoff and sediment delivery method.

AMC Staff Jennifer Berquam explained the drainage related resolutions that were recommended by the Drainage Work Group and preliminarily approved by the committee at the Fall Policy Conference. Drainage Work Group members and AMC representatives Chair Kramer, Commissioner Tom Loveall and Commissioner Harlan Madsen helped explain the resolutions. Commissioner Harlan Madsen made a motion to add all five resolutions to the AMC Platform. Commissioner Neil Peterson seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

i) **State Assumption of the Federal 404 Permit Program**

AMC supports state assumption, in collaboration with local government, of the federal 404 permit program to increase efficiencies associated with local infrastructure projects.

AMC Staff Jennifer Berquam explained the resolution and that it had been recommended for addition to the platform by the committee at the Fall Policy Conference. This resolution was also adopted by the AMC Board as a priority issue for 2019. Commissioner Rich Sve made a motion to add the resolution to the AMC Platform. Commissioner Luke Johnson seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

AMC Staff Jennifer Berquam introduced two resolutions that are under the General Government Committee jurisdiction but that may have impacts to Environment and Natural Resources. Under the new resolutions process multiple committees may review the same resolution.

j) **Housing**

AMC supports the creation of a statewide review panel to evaluate regulations related to building standards, land use & environmental stewardship for their impact on housing affordability.
The committee discussed this resolution and was concerned about the authority a review panel may have over local ordinances. Many members felt more information was needed. Commissioner Steve Jacobs made a motion to oppose the resolution. Commissioner Charlie Borrell seconded the motion. More discussion took place. A motion was made and seconded to end debate and vote on the motion. Members voted by holding up their county name card. 34 members voted in support of the motion, 24 members voted in opposition. **Motion carried.**

**k) County boundary mapping**

**AMC supports that the State of Minnesota reevaluate and map accordingly the establishments of county boundaries for the purposes of accuracy and proper property taxation and recording of deeds.**

The committee discussed the resolution and the issues around the Minnesota River in Nicollet and Le Sueur Counties. The committee decided this was not an issue relevant to the Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee and took no position.

**V. AMC Appointments to the Minnesota AIS Advisory Committee**

With the retirements of Commissioner Jim Stratton and Commissioner Paul Thiede, two AMC members need to be appointed to the Minnesota AIS Advisory Committee. Aitkin County Commissioner Bill Pratt volunteered to serve on this committee. There were no other volunteers. Commissioner Anne Marcotte made a motion to appoint Commissioner Bill Pratt to the AIS Advisory Committee. Commissioner Mike Beard seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

AMC staff will do further outreach to find a second AMC member to serve on this committee.

**VI. Adjourn**

Commissioner Jim Stratton made a motion to adjourn the Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee meeting. Commissioner Steve Rohlfing seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

The AMC Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee adjourned at 10:03 AM.