I. **Call to Order**
Chair Randy Kramer called the Committee on Environment & Natural Resources to order at 9:30 AM and welcomed members and guests. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Anne Marcotte made a motion to amend the minutes from December 3, 2018 as follows: page 5, section V., line 5, after “motion” insert: “to recommend to the board”. Commissioner Neil Peterson seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Commissioner Doug Krueger made a motion to approve the minutes, as amended, from December 3, 2018. Commissioner Luke Johnson seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

II. **Presentation from the Department of Natural Resources**
Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Sarah Strommen introduced herself and some of the department’s general/high level priorities around connecting people to the outdoors and promoting public engagement. Assistant Commissioner Bob Meier addressed several policy items that they hope to
work on this year including; permitting for endangered species, and beaver control and beaver dam removal regulations. He asked people to contact their local legislator if you are planning a local land sale to get your language into the lands bill. The Assistant Commissioner answered questions and participated in general discussion with the committee on Chronic Wasting Disease, Chloride pollution, nuisance beavers and drainage.

III. Presentations from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)
BWSR Executive Director, John Jaschke, updated the committee on Buffer Law implementation, compliance challenges, and compensation efforts at the legislature. He reviewed the Drainage Work Group proposal for this legislative session. The DWG bill focuses primarily on two objectives: Drainage authority acquisition of ditch buffers; and a runoff and sediment delivery option for repairs. Finally, did a basic review of One Watershed/One Plan. Les Lemm, Wetland Section Manager, BWSR, presented on state assumption of section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and the Local Roads Wetland Replacement program. BWSR has been a partner in the AMC effort to assume section 404 waters from the Army Corps of Engineers. The Local Government Roads Wetland Replacement Program is facing credit and funding challenges that need to be addressed or will have negative impacts on local road projects.

IV. Committee open discussion
Brian Martinson updated the committee on a few issues coming up for discussion in the early part of the legislative session. There is concern about legislation to set a zero-carbon goal for the state (HF700/SF850) that includes removing the renewable energy credit for waste to energy facilities. AMC is working with partners against that provision. Environmental issues at the Anoka County Landfill have drawn a great deal of attention in the opening week and some efforts would take money from the Closed Landfill Fund to address it. AMC is supporting the use of bonding dollars as a preference. The Clean Water Act Modification; Coordinated Watershed bill (HF875) is moving forward with AMC support. The bills would eliminate duplicative planning efforts and open access to more funding streams. The committee also revisited its position on SWCD levy authority considering renewed and strengthening efforts to pass this bill in the legislature.

Commissioner Charlie Borrell made a motion to continue to oppose SWCD levy authority legislation. Commissioner Doug Krueger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

V. Adjourn
Commissioner Anne Marcotte made a motion to adjourn the Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee meeting. Commissioner Neil Peterson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The AMC Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee adjourned at 11:35AM.