

Info Item 4: Legislative Update

Presented to the Environment Committee

February 28, 2012

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Legislative Update

■ Council bills

- Housekeeping (HF 2148)
- Data Practices (HF2146)
- Water Supply (HF 2147)
- SAC

■ Metro Cities bill

- State Bond Funding for I&I (HF 2286 & SF 2023)



Bill Housekeeping

■ M.S.473.157

- Request: Removes statutory requirement that Council compile “target pollution loads”
- MPCA:
 - Does Total Max Daily Loads (TMDLs) for entire state
 - Agrees with this proposal to eliminate duplication

■ M.S.473.519

- Request: Removes requirement for Council to review local government wastewater charging systems
- Local charging systems are local government responsibility and this regulation was part of old EPA grant requirements
 - EPA has not acted on this in decades
 - Retain permissive language only in case EPA requires the review



Bill Housekeeping

■ M.S.473.541

- Request: Removes requirement that Council “shall” levy taxes; replace with “may”
 - All MCES debt service is paid from user fees
 - Note: “may” allows “general obligation” bonding which provides lower interest rates

■ M.S.473.517

- Request: Allows Council to make small loans to cities for wastewater charges when they request
 - Charges to cities are based on measured flow which can vary substantially from year to year
 - Requested by Metro Cities



Data Practices

- **Modifies M.S.473.504**
- **Add subdivision to protect from public disclosure:**
 - **Security features, building plans, detailed system plans, building specifications for Council's wastewater treatment facilities**
 - **Also for specifications submitted to Council by third parties in connection with performance of Council's wastewater functions**
- **Rationale:**
 - **Security of Council's wastewater treatment facilities and systems is important because:**
 - **Terrorism vulnerability**
 - **To keep private information private**
 - **Proposed legislation is modeled after M.S.13.64, subd. 2 for state-owned or state-leased facilities**



Water Supply

- **Council to carry out water supply planning activities:**
 - **Gather and maintain technical information**
 - **Develop Master Water Supply Plan**
 - **Make recommendations regarding roles, processes and funding**
- **Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee to assist Council**
- **Council to report to Legislature**



Committee Membership

- **Commissioners of Agriculture, Health, Natural Resources, Pollution Control Agency or designees**
- **1 official from each of the 7 metro counties***
- **Metropolitan Council Chair or designee**
- **1 official each from Chisago, Isanti, Sherburne, and Wright Counties***

**Governor appointed members*



Need for Extension

■ Slowdown in growth

- Little water supply system expansion
- Few water appropriation permits
- Few modifications to water supply plans

■ Lack of information to demonstrate how Master Water Supply Plan affects water supply planning



Sunset Language

- **Advisory committee members appointed by the governor**
- **Members serve without compensation**
- **Committee expires December 31, ~~2012~~
2016**