



# Legislative Update: May 13, 2019

## MN Association of Watershed Districts

### Conference Committee – Omnibus Environment and Natural Resources Bill

**Website:** [Conference Committee Activity SF2314 \(2019\)](#)

**Conferees:** **House:** Rep. Rick Hansen (D), Rep. John Persell (D), Rep. Peter Fischer (D), Rep. Jamie Becker-Finn (D), Rep. Nathan Nelson (R)

**Senate:** Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen (R); Sen. Carrie Ruud (R); Sen. Justin Eichorn (R); Sen. Mark Johnson (R); Sen. David Tomassoni (D)

**Files:** [SF 2314 Omnibus environment and natural resources bill](#) (3<sup>rd</sup> Engrossment)  
[HF2209 Omnibus environment and natural resources finance bill](#) (1<sup>st</sup> Engrossment - amended version)  
[HF 2032 Environment and natural resources trust funds appropriated...](#) (3<sup>rd</sup> Engrossment)  
[HF 653 Omnibus legacy finance bill - Article 3](#) (2<sup>nd</sup> Engrossment)

**Summary:** The conference committee is reviewing a bill broken down into the following articles:  
Article 1. Environment and Natural Resources Appropriations [Side by Side Comparison File 1](#)  
Article 2. Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund [Side by Side Comparison File 2](#)  
Article 3. Statutory Changes [Side by Side Comparison File 3](#)  
[Tracking Worksheet for Statute Changes](#) – a summary list of the proposed statute changes (Article 3).

#### MAWD Platform Items Included:

- SF 1677 – the “[Carp Bill](#)” removes the area assignment restrictions for commercial fishing when removing invasive species, including common carp. (Article 3, Page R57-58)
- SF 2451 – the “[Per Diem Bill](#)” increases maximum watershed district manager compensation from \$75/day to \$125/day. (Article 3, Page R63)
- SF 1063 – the “[Coordinated Watershed Management Bill](#)” improves coordination and removes duplicative efforts of water management planning that is being conducted at both the local and state levels. (Article 3, Pages R58-R61, R72-R79)
- HF 1502 – the “[Commercial Salt Applicator Bill](#)” provides limited liability protections for certified commercial salt applicators. (Article 3, Pages R110-112)

#### Other Items of Interest:

- The Senate Article 1 appropriations reduces spending by \$57M which is a 25% reduction from the last biennium.
- A new section has been added to MN Statute 103C that pulls together the responsibilities that have been placed on SWCDs over the years through various statutes and other directives. (Article 3, Pages R61-R63)
- New sections were added to state statute that would prohibit the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Pollution Control Agency (PCA) from enforcing unadopted rules. An unadopted rule is guidance document or similar item that meets the criteria of a rule. If the unadopted rule is challenged, it is presumptively not enforceable. (Article 3, Pages R7-R8 (DNR) and R108-R109 (PCA))
- New provisions added to allow a government unit to kill beaver causing damage and remove or destroy any associated beaver lodge or dams subject to existing permit requirements. (Article 3, Pages R52-54)
- Reinstates the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Citizens Board which was eliminated in 2015. (Article 3, Pages R100-R103)

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## Conference Committee – Omnibus Taxes Bill

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**Website:** [Conference Committee Activity HF2125 \(2019\)](#)

**Conferees:** **House:** Rep. Paul Marquart (D), Rep. Diane Loeffler (D), Rep. Dave Lislegard (D), Rep. Aisha Gomez (D), Rep. Greg Davids (R)

**Senate:** Sen. Roger Chamberlain (R), Sen. David Senjem (R), Sen. Gary Dahms (R), Sen. Jeff Howe (R), Sen. Ann Rest (D)

**Files:** [HF 2125 Omnibus Tax Bill](#) (3<sup>rd</sup> Engrossment)  
[SF 0005 Omnibus Tax Bill](#) (1<sup>st</sup> Engrossment)

**Summary:** Side by side comparison files are not yet available

### MAWD Platform Items Included:

- SF 1391 – the “[Project Tax Levy Bill](#)” modifies the existing project tax levy statute to allow this funding mechanism to be applied for ALL types of state and federal grants, not just grants (and loans) associated with the Clean Water Partnership (CWP) program. (SF 5, Article 4, Sections 1 and 2, pages 92-93)

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## Conference Committee – Omnibus Legacy Bill

There is currently no conference committee set up for the Legacy Bills.

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### SENATE LEGACY FINANCE OMNIBUS BILL

[SF 836 Regional parks and trails appropriation](#) (1<sup>st</sup> Engrossment as posted 4/30/19)

**Background:** The breakdown of the bill is as follows:  
Article 1. Outdoor Heritage Fund (Pages 1-36)  
Article 2. Clean Water Fund (Pages 36-56)  
Article 3. Parks and Trails Fund (Page 56-61)  
Article 4. Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (Pages 61-75)

**Status:** Conferees appointed 5/09/19: Rep. Leon Lillie (D), Rep. Mary Murphy (D), Rep. Amy Wazlawik, Rep. Rick Hansen (D), Rep Greg Boe (R)

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### HOUSE LEGACY FINANCE OMNIBUS BILL

[HF 653 Omnibus legacy finance bill](#) (1<sup>st</sup> Engrossment as posted on 4/25/19)

**Background:** The breakdown of the bill is as follows:  
Article 1. Outdoor Heritage Fund (Pages 1-36)  
Article 2. Clean Water Fund (Pages 36-56)  
Article 3. Clean Water Act Modifications (Pages 56-67)  
Article 4. Parks and Trails Fund (Page 67-72)  
Article 5. Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (Pages 72-89)  
Article 6. General Provisions; All Legacy Funds (Pages 89-90)

**Status:** On 5/13/19, the Senate agreed to appoint conferees.

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For questions, errors, or omissions, please contact Emily at 651-440-4907 or [emily@mnwatershed.org](mailto:emily@mnwatershed.org)