


DATE: June 9, 2016

TO: MPCA Advisory Committee Members

FROM: Shannon Lotthammer 
Division Director
Environmental Analysis and Outcomes Division

PHONE: 651-757-2537

MEETING
DATE: June 21, 2016SUBJECT: **Information Item and Public Meeting: Amendments to Minnesota's Water Quality Standards: Tiered Aquatic Life Uses****I. Status**

The Commissioner has determined that upcoming revisions to Minnesota's Water Quality Standards (WQS) for Tiered Aquatic Life Uses (TALU) will be the subject of an informational meeting in front of the MPCA Advisory Committee during the June 21, 2016, meeting. The purpose of the informational meeting is twofold: (a) it enables the Advisory Committee to become informed of this rulemaking and provide advice to the Commissioner before the draft amendments are finalized and formally proposed to be adopted later this summer; and (b) it fulfills the Environmental Protection Agency's requirement for the MPCA to provide the public an opportunity to offer comments on the draft WQS amendments.

II. Background.

Please see my attached April 28, 2016, memorandum to the MPCA Advisory Committee (linked electronically below).

III. Issues [Points on which the Commissioner seeks advice]

- A. Has the MPCA demonstrated the need for the rule amendments?
- B. Does the approach taken and science supporting the rule amendments seem reasonable?
- C. Does today's informational meeting leave you with any questions?
- D. Do you think the TALU framework will improve water quality protection?
- E. Are there other groups or associations the MPCA should consider contacting for additional input before proposing to adopt the amendments?

Attachments (see link for electronic access)

- April 28, 2016, Memo to MPCA Advisory Committee: https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/05-06-16%20Memo%20to%20MPCA%20Advisory%20Committee_0.pdf
- Public Notice issued May 6, 2016: https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/05-06-16%20Public%20Notice_0.pdf
- Fact Sheet: https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/TALU%20Factsheet_1.pdf
- Overview of TALU: https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/Overview%20of%20TALU_1.pdf
- Draft Rule Amendments: https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/Draft%20Rule%20Amendments_1.pdf