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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NINETIETH SESSION

H. F. No. 1498

02/20/2017 Authored by Loonan, Masin, Christensen, Hoppe, Thissen and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to natural resources; providing for goals and strategies for Minnesota River
1.3 basin; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes,
1.4 chapter 103B.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. **[103B.75] MINNESOTA RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT.**

1.7 Subdivision 1. **Coordination; goals and strategies.** (a) The Board of Water and Soil
1.8 Resources must coordinate development and implementation of Minnesota River basin
1.9 goals and strategies for sediment reduction, flow reduction, and nutrient reduction and
1.10 allocation of those reductions proportionally to the 13 major watersheds in the Minnesota
1.11 River basin. The goals and strategies, as well as a coordinated schedule for finalizing the
1.12 watershed restoration and protection strategies and the comprehensive watershed management
1.13 plans required under section 103B.801 for the 13 major watersheds in the Minnesota River
1.14 basin, must be completed by December 31, 2019.

1.15 (b) The Board of Water and Soil Resources must ensure use of sound science, hydrologic
1.16 and hydraulic modeling, and related technical information to achieve the desired outcomes
1.17 for the Minnesota River basin goals and strategies under paragraph (a).

1.18 Subd. 2. **Comprehensive watershed management plans.** Comprehensive watershed
1.19 management plans developed under section 103B.801 for the 13 major watersheds in the
1.20 Minnesota River basin must include the goals and strategies developed under subdivision
1.21 1. The comprehensive watershed management plans for the 13 major watersheds in the
1.22 Minnesota River basin must be completed consistent with the schedule in subdivision 1,
1.23 but no later than December 31, 2023.

2.1 Subd. 3. **Advisory committees.** The Board of Water and Soil Resources must establish
 2.2 technical, scientific, and policy advisory committees to advise the board in developing goals
 2.3 and strategies under subdivision 1. The advisory committees must be representative of the
 2.4 13 major watersheds in the Minnesota River basin and must represent the diversity of
 2.5 interests and sectors in the Minnesota River basin. The board must convene a meeting of
 2.6 the advisory committees at least quarterly during development of the goals and strategies.

2.7 Subd. 4. **Report.** (a) By January 15 each odd-numbered year, the Board of Water and
 2.8 Soil Resources must report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the house of
 2.9 representatives and senate committees with jurisdiction over environment and natural
 2.10 resources and agriculture on:

2.11 (1) the goals and strategies developed under subdivision 1;

2.12 (2) the progress toward meeting the goals and strategies; and

2.13 (3) the biennial funding needed to continue to achieve outcomes consistent with the
 2.14 goals and strategies.

2.15 (b) For each of the 13 major watersheds in the Minnesota River basin, the report must
 2.16 include funding requests to implement comprehensive watershed management plans, from
 2.17 each of the following funds:

2.18 (1) outdoor heritage;

2.19 (2) clean water;

2.20 (3) environment and natural resources trust;

2.21 (4) general; and

2.22 (5) bond proceeds.

2.23 **Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION.**

2.24 \$2,250,000 in fiscal year 2018 and \$2,250,000 in fiscal year 2019 are appropriated from
 2.25 the clean water fund to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for implementing Minnesota
 2.26 Statutes, section 103B.75. Of this amount, \$1,000,000 each year is for grants to local
 2.27 government units in the 13 major watersheds in the Minnesota River basin to initiate and
 2.28 complete comprehensive watershed management plans under Minnesota Statutes, section
 2.29 103B.801; \$250,000 each year is for Board of Water and Soil Resources staffing and
 2.30 coordination; and up to \$1,000,000 each year is for developing technical and scientific
 2.31 information and hydrologic and hydraulic modeling to support the goals in Minnesota
 2.32 Statutes, section 103B.75, subdivision 1. This appropriation, to the extent practical, must

- 3.1 leverage federal money related to implementing Minnesota River basin goals and strategies.
- 3.2 Any unexpended balance of this appropriation may be used to implement priority flow and
- 3.3 sediment reduction practices in the Minnesota River basin. This appropriation is available
- 3.4 until June 30, 2022.