

CHAPTER 103G

WATERS OF THE STATE

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103G.201. PUBLIC WATERS INVENTORY.

(a) The commissioner shall prepare a public waters inventory map of each county that shows the waters of this state that are designated as public waters under the public waters inventory and classification procedures prescribed under Laws 1979, chapter 199. The public waters inventory map for each county must be filed with the auditor of the county.

(b) The commissioner is authorized to revise the list of public waters established under Laws 1979, chapter 199, to reclassify those types 3, 4, and 5 wetlands previously identified as public waters wetlands under Laws 1979, chapter 199, as public waters or as wetlands under section 103G.005, subdivision 19. The commissioner may only reclassify public waters wetlands as public waters if:

(1) they are assigned a shoreland management classification by the commissioner under sections 103F.201 to 103F.221;

(2) they are classified as lacustrine wetlands or deepwater habitats according to Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States (Cowardin, et al., 1979 edition); or

(3) the state or federal government has become titleholder to any of the beds or shores of the public waters wetlands, subsequent to the preparation of the public waters inventory map filed with the auditor of the county, pursuant to paragraph (a), and the responsible state or federal agency declares that the water is necessary for the purposes of the public ownership.

(c) The commissioner must provide notice of the reclassification to the local government unit, the county board, the watershed district, if one exists for the area, and the soil and water conservation district. Within 60 days of receiving notice from the commissioner, a party required to receive the notice may provide a resolution stating objections to the reclassification. If the commissioner receives an objection from a party required to receive the notice, the reclassification is not effective. If the commissioner does not receive an objection from a party required to receive the notice, the reclassification of a wetland under paragraph (b) is effective 60 days after the notice is received by all of the parties.

(d) The commissioner shall give priority to the reclassification of public waters wetlands that are or have the potential to be affected by public works projects.

History: 2001 c 7 s 24; 2001 c 146 s 5

103G.2242 WETLAND VALUE REPLACEMENT PLANS.

[For text of subs 1 to 8, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 9. **Appeal.** (a) Appeal of a replacement plan, exemption, wetland banking, wetland boundary or type determination, or no-loss decision may be obtained by mailing a petition and payment of a filing fee of \$200, which shall be retained by the board to defray administrative costs, to the board within 30 days after the postmarked date of the mailing specified in subdivision 7. If appeal is not sought within 30 days, the decision becomes final. The local government unit may require the petitioner to post a letter of credit, cashier's check, or cash in an amount not to exceed \$500. If the petition for hearing is accepted, the amount posted must be returned to the petitioner. Appeal may be made by:

- (1) the wetland owner;
- (2) any of those to whom notice is required to be mailed under subdivision 7; or
- (3) 100 residents of the county in which a majority of the wetland is located.

(b) Within 30 days after receiving a petition, the board shall decide whether to grant the petition and hear the appeal. The board shall grant the petition unless the board finds that:

- (1) the appeal is meritless, trivial, or brought solely for the purposes of delay;
- (2) the petitioner has not exhausted all local administrative remedies;
- (3) expanded technical review is needed;
- (4) the local government unit's record is not adequate; or
- (5) the petitioner has not posted a letter of credit, cashier's check, or cash if required by the local government unit.

(c) In determining whether to grant the appeal, the board shall also consider the size of the wetland, other factors in controversy, any patterns of similar acts by the local government unit or petitioner, and the consequences of the delay resulting from the appeal.

(d) All appeals must be heard by the committee for dispute resolution of the board, and a decision made within 60 days of filing the local government unit's record and the written briefs submitted for the appeal. The decision must be served by mail on the parties to the appeal, and is not subject to the provisions of chapter 14. A decision whether to grant a petition for appeal and a decision on the merits of an appeal must be considered the decision of an agency in a contested case for purposes of judicial review under sections 14.63 to 14.69.

[For text of subd 10, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 12. **Replacement credits.** (a) No public or private wetland restoration, enhancement, or construction may be allowed for replacement unless specifically designated for replacement and paid for by the individual or organization performing the wetland restoration, enhancement, or construction, and is completed prior to any draining or filling of the wetland.

(b) Paragraph (a) does not apply to a wetland whose owner has paid back with interest the individual or organization restoring, enhancing, or constructing the wetland.

(c) Notwithstanding section 103G.222, subdivision 1, paragraph (h), the following actions, and others established in rule, that are consistent with criteria in rules adopted by the board in conjunction with the commissioners of natural resources and agriculture, are eligible for replacement credit as determined by the local government unit, including enrollment in a statewide wetlands bank:

(1) reestablishment of permanent native, noninvasive vegetative cover on a wetland on agricultural land that was planted with annually seeded crops, was in a crop rotation seeding of pasture grasses or legumes, or was in a land retirement program during the past ten years;

(2) buffer areas of permanent native, noninvasive vegetative cover established or preserved on upland adjacent to replacement wetlands;

(3) wetlands restored for conservation purposes under terminated easements or contracts; and

(4) water quality treatment ponds constructed to pretreat storm water runoff prior to discharge to wetlands, public waters, or other water bodies, provided that the water quality treatment ponds must be associated with an ongoing or proposed project that will impact a wetland and replacement credit for the treatment ponds is based on the replacement of wetland functions and on an approved stormwater management plan for the local government.

(d) Notwithstanding section 103G.222, subdivision 1, paragraphs (e) and (f), the board may establish by rule different replacement ratios for restoration projects with exceptional natural resource value.

History: 2001 c 7 s 25; 2001 c 146 s 6,7

103G.2243 LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE WETLAND PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLANS.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 2. **Plan contents.** A comprehensive wetland protection and management plan may:

(1) provide for classification of wetlands in the plan area based on:

(i) an inventory of wetlands in the plan area;

(ii) an assessment of the wetland functions listed in section 103B.3355, using a methodology chosen by the technical evaluation panel from one of the methodologies established or approved by the board under that section; and

(iii) the resulting public values;

(2) vary application of the sequencing standards in section 103G.222, subdivision 1, paragraph (b), for projects based on the classification and criteria set forth in the plan;

(3) vary the replacement standards of section 103G.222, subdivision 1, paragraphs (e) and (f), based on the classification and criteria set forth in the plan, for specific wetland impacts provided there is no net loss of public values within the area subject to the plan, and so long as:

(i) in a 50 to 80 percent area, a minimum acreage requirement of one acre of replaced wetland for each acre of drained or filled wetland requiring replacement is met within the area subject to the plan; and

(ii) in a less than 50 percent area, a minimum acreage requirement of two acres of replaced wetland for each acre of drained or filled wetland requiring replacement is met within the area subject to the plan; except that replacement for the amount above a 1:1 ratio can be accomplished as described in section 103G.2242, subdivision 12;

(4) in a greater than 80 percent area, allow replacement credit, based on the classification and criteria set forth in the plan, for any project that increases the public value of wetlands, including activities on adjacent upland acres; and

(5) in a greater than 80 percent area, based on the classification and criteria set forth in the plan, expand the application of the exemptions in section 103G.2241, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clause (4), to also include nonagricultural land, provided there is no net loss of wetland values.

[For text of subds 3 to 6, see M.S.2000]

History: 2001 c 7 s 26

103G.2372 ENFORCEMENT.

Subdivision 1. **Commissioner of natural resources.** The commissioner of natural resources, conservation officers, and peace officers shall enforce laws preserving and protecting wetlands and public waters. The commissioner of natural resources, a conservation officer, or a peace officer may issue a cease and desist order to stop any illegal activity adversely affecting a wetland or public waters. In the order, or by separate order, the commissioner, conservation officer, or peace officer may require restoration or replacement of the wetland or public waters, as determined by the local soil and water conservation district for wetlands and the commissioner of natural resources for public waters. Restoration or replacement orders may be recorded or filed in the office of the county recorder or registrar of titles, as appropriate, in the county where the real property is located by the commissioner of natural resources, conservation officers, or peace officers as a deed restriction on the property that runs with the land and is binding on the owners, successors, and assigns until the conditions

of the order are met or the order is rescinded. Notwithstanding section 386.77, the agency shall pay the applicable filing fee for any document filed under this section.

[For text of subs 2 and 3, see M.S.2000]

History: 2001 c 146 s 8

103G.245 WORK IN PUBLIC WATERS.

[For text of subs 1 to 4, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 5. Delegation of permit authority to local units of government. (a) The commissioner may delegate public waters work permit authority to the appropriate county or municipality or to watershed districts or watershed management organizations that have elected to assert local authority over protected waters. The public waters work permit authority must be delegated under guidelines of the commissioner and the delegation must be done by agreement with the involved county, municipality, watershed district, or water management organization and in compliance with section 103G.315.

(b) For projects affecting public waters wetlands and for wetland areas of public waters affected by a public transportation project as determined by the commissioner, the commissioner may waive the requirement for a public waters work permit if the local government unit makes a replacement, no-loss, or exemption determination in compliance with sections 103A.201, 103B.3355, and 103G.222 to 103G.2373, and rules adopted pursuant to these same sections.

(c) For projects affecting both public waters and wetlands, the local government unit may, by written agreement with the commissioner, waive the requirement for a replacement plan, no-loss, or exemption determination if a public waters work permit is required and the commissioner includes the provisions of sections 103A.201, 103B.3355, and 103G.222 to 103G.2373, and rules adopted pursuant to these same sections in the public waters work permit.

[For text of subs 6 to 12, see M.S.2000]

History: 2001 c 146 s 9

103G.271 APPROPRIATION AND USE OF WATERS.

Subdivision 1. Permit required. (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), the state, a person, partnership, or association, private or public corporation, county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state may not appropriate or use waters of the state without a water use permit from the commissioner.

(b) This section does not apply to use for a water supply by less than 25 persons for domestic purposes.

(c) The commissioner may issue a state general permit for appropriation of water to a governmental subdivision or to the general public for classes of activities that have minimal impact upon waters of the state. The general permit may authorize more than one project and the appropriation or use of more than one source of water. Water use permit processing fees and reports required under subdivision 6 and section 103G.281, subdivision 3, are required for each project or water source that is included under a general permit, except that no fee is required for uses totaling less than 15,000,000 gallons annually.

[For text of subs 2 to 4a, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 5. Prohibition on once-through water use permits. (a) The commissioner may not, after December 31, 1990, issue a water use permit to increase the volume of appropriation from a groundwater source for a once-through cooling system using in excess of 5,000,000 gallons annually.

(b) Once-through system water use permits using in excess of 5,000,000 gallons annually, must be terminated by the commissioner by the end of their design life but

not later than December 31, 2010; unless the discharge is into a public water basin within a nature preserve approved by the commissioner and established prior to January 1, 2001. Existing once-through systems must not be expanded and are required to convert to water efficient alternatives within the design life of existing equipment.

Subd. 5a. **Maintenance of surface water levels.** Except as provided in subdivision 5, paragraph (b), the commissioner shall, by January 31, 1994, revoke all existing permits, and may not issue new permits, for the appropriation or use of groundwater in excess of 10,000,000 gallons per year for the primary purpose of maintaining or increasing surface water levels in the seven-county metropolitan area and in other areas of concern as determined by the commissioner. This subdivision does not apply until January 1, 1998, to a municipality that, by January 1, 1994, submits a plan acceptable to the commissioner for maintaining or increasing surface water levels using sources other than groundwater.

[For text of subs 6 to 7, see M.S.2000]

History: 2001 c 160 s 1-3

103G.301 GENERAL PERMIT APPLICATION PROCEDURES.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 2. **Permit application fees.** (a) An application for a permit authorized under this chapter, and each request to amend or transfer an existing permit, must be accompanied by a permit application fee to defray the costs of receiving, recording, and processing the application or request to amend or transfer.

(b) The fee to apply for a permit to appropriate water, a permit to construct or repair a dam that is subject to dam safety inspection, or a state general permit or to apply for the state water bank program is \$75. The application fee for a permit to work in public waters or to divert waters for mining must be at least \$75, but not more than \$500, according to a schedule of fees adopted under section 16A.1285.

[For text of subs 3 to 7, see M.S.2000]

History: 2001 c 160 s 4