

**SENATE**  
**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION**

**S.F. No. 2204**

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DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
05/16/2015		Introduction and first reading Referred to Environment and Energy

1.1 A bill for an act  
 1.2 relating to natural resources; establishing Minnesota River Basin Commission;  
 1.3 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.70] MINNESOTA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION.**

1.7 Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The Minnesota River Basin Commission is  
 1.8 established to provide strong, diverse public and private interest-based planning,  
 1.9 development, implementation, administration, construction, and maintenance of water  
 1.10 resources projects and programs of benefit to the Minnesota River Basin.

1.11 Subd. 2. **Member appointments; terms.** (a) The governor shall appoint one person  
 1.12 from each of the 13 major watersheds in the Minnesota River Basin and five citizens at  
 1.13 large. Six members serve initial appointments of three years, six members serve initial  
 1.14 appointments of four years, and six members serve initial appointments of five years.  
 1.15 Terms are for five years thereafter. Initial appointments must be finalized by July 1, 2016.

1.16 (b) Commission members must include:

1.17 (1) four soil and water conservation district supervisors;

1.18 (2) three county commissioners;

1.19 (3) three watershed managers;

1.20 (4) three city council members or mayors; and

1.21 (5) five citizens at large representing nongovernmental, private interests in the  
 1.22 Minnesota River Basin.

1.23 (c) The executive director of the Board of Water and Soil Resources is a nonvoting  
 1.24 member of the commission. The state organizations representing local governments and

2.1 the Minnesota River Congress may submit recommendations for appointments to the  
2.2 governor during the open appointment period.

2.3 Subd. 3. **Advisory committee.** The Minnesota River Congress may serve as the  
2.4 citizen advisory committee to the commission. If the Minnesota River Congress serves  
2.5 as the citizen advisory committee, the congress must be representative of the 13 major  
2.6 watersheds, represent the diversity of the various interests or sectors in the Minnesota  
2.7 River Basin, and meet at least once annually to advise the commission.

2.8 Subd. 4. **Technical and scientific advisory committee.** The commission must  
2.9 appoint a technical and scientific advisory committee to provide technical and scientific  
2.10 information and analysis in support of the water quality and water quantity efforts. The  
2.11 technical and scientific advisory committee must represent a range of diverse public and  
2.12 private disciplines, including hydrology, engineering, ecology, soil science, and economics.  
2.13 The technical and scientific advisory committee's work must be based on consensus and  
2.14 its work products must reflect consensus recommendations of the committee.

2.15 Subd. 5. **Governing procedures.** The commission must establish bylaws and  
2.16 governing documents guiding the executive, administrative, and operational activities of  
2.17 the commission. The commission must elect a chair, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer  
2.18 with terms and responsibilities set forth in the commission bylaws. The commission may  
2.19 hire staff to assist in the administration and operation of the commission.

2.20 Subd. 6. **Administrative oversight.** The Board of Water and Soil Resources is  
2.21 responsible for providing oversight and assistance to the commission. The Board of  
2.22 Water and Soil Resources may provide guidance relating to bylaws, administration, and  
2.23 operation of the commission. The Board of Water and Soil Resources must provide  
2.24 interagency coordination with the commission.

2.25 Subd. 7. **Budget.** The commission must submit a biennial budget request to the  
2.26 Board of Water and Soil Resources by September 1 each even-numbered year for the  
2.27 administrative, organizational, and technical operations of the commission. The request  
2.28 must identify any funding authorities needed for the commission's ongoing administration,  
2.29 operation, programs, and projects and for matching state and federal funds for project and  
2.30 program implementation.

2.31 Subd. 8. **Water management implementation.** (a) The commission must  
2.32 coordinate with each of the 13 major watersheds in the Minnesota River Basin to complete  
2.33 a comprehensive water quantity and water quality enhancement plan of action for  
2.34 achieving a proportional share of the basin's water quality and water quantity management  
2.35 goals. Each plan and plan cycle must identify priority projects and programs that will  
2.36 achieve a minimum ..... percent reduction in phosphorus, nitrogen, and sediment and a .....

3.1 percent reduction in flow by distributed and managed water storage from the respective  
3.2 watersheds to the Minnesota River. The watershed action plans must be updated at  
3.3 least every five years to reflect realized outcomes and to update targeted priorities. The  
3.4 commission must submit an annual report on the progress of outcomes to the Board of  
3.5 Water and Soil Resources and the chairs of the legislative committees and divisions having  
3.6 jurisdiction over environment and agriculture policy and finance and the legacy funds.

3.7 (b) The commission must prepare and submit to the Board of Water and Soil  
3.8 Resources a five-year request for funding from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage  
3.9 Council, the clean water fund, and the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota  
3.10 Resources for implementation of targeted priority water quality and quantity projects and  
3.11 programs. The request must optimize leveraging of federal, local, and private funding  
3.12 sources as matching funds toward achieving the desired outcomes.

3.13 **Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION.**

3.14 \$500,000 is appropriated in fiscal year 2017 from the clean water fund to the Board  
3.15 of Water and Soil Resources for a grant to the Minnesota River Basin Commission for  
3.16 initial organizational and administrative start-up.