

Environment Omnibus Final Agreement

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Article 1 – Environment and Natural Resources Appropriations

[See accompanying spreadsheet]

Article 2 – Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Appropriations

[See accompanying spreadsheet]

Article 3 – Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund: Grant Programs

Section 1 [ENRTF Community Grants Statute Modifications] modifies the statute that governs Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) community grants to:

- require that community grants be expended for benefits across all regions and residents of the state; and
- allow community grants to be awarded for trail maintenance and improvement and aquatic invasive species management.

Section 2 [ENRTF Community Grants Prohibitions] prohibits the awarding of community grants to a state agency, the University of Minnesota, or for scientific research.

Section 3 [ENRTF Community Report] requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to submit a report to the appropriate legislative committees by December 15, 2025, on how the agency plans to implement the ENRTF community grants program.

Section 4 [Community Grants Appropriation] appropriates \$28,180,000 in fiscal year 2026 from the environment and natural resources trust fund to the DNR for community grants under § 116X.03.

Section 5 [Effective Date] makes the article effective the day following final enactment.

Article 4 – Environment and Natural Resources Policy

Section 1 [DNR Enhanced Outreach] requires the DNR to ensure that its work is carried out in a manner that facilitates enhanced outreach to all Minnesotans and that its interactions with the public include audiovisual communication components that do not rely exclusively on written forms of communication.

Sections 2 and 3 [Technical Changes] modifies language in the DNR community tree-planting grants statute to remove reference to a federal tool that has been discontinued and provide for the continued use of the technical documentation for the tool as it existed July 31, 2024. Clarifies that the DNR may follow chapter 16B requirements and consider the ability of grant recipients to complete the work when prioritizing grants.

Section 4 [Abandoned Watercraft] authorizes peace officers to tag abandoned watercraft and requires the DNR to notify the registered owner that the watercraft has been tagged. Requires the DNR to seize and forfeit the watercraft if the condition that led to its tagging has not been remedied within 14 days. Makes the owner criminally and civilly liable for abandoning the watercraft.

Section 5 [Watercraft Surcharge Increases] increases the aquatic invasive species surcharge for watercraft effective January 1, 2026. Replaces the current surcharge (\$10.60) with a surcharge that varies based on the size, type, and use of the watercraft.

Sections 6 [Technical Change] modifies language in the Minnesota Releaf program statute to remove reference to a federal tool that has been discontinued and provide for the continued use of the technical documentation for the tool as it existed July 31, 2024.

Section 7 [Conforming Change] modifies the statute that governs seizure of property by conservation officers to include seizures of abandoned watercraft.

Section 8 [Consequences of Abandoning Watercraft] makes a person who is convicted of abandoning a watercraft subject to certain penalties until the person has reimbursed the DNR for all of the department's costs associated with the abandoned watercraft enforcement action. The penalties include loss of game and fish and recreational vehicle licenses and registrations.

Section 9 [Reduced Fee Game and Fish License for Veterans] provides for resident veterans with a 50-99% service-connected disability to obtain certain game and fish licenses at a reduced cost, effective March 1, 2027.

Section 10 [Disabled Veterans Licenses to Take Deer and Small Game] provides that for a

resident veteran with a 50-99% service-connected disability, the fee for a license to take deer or small game is \$5, effective March 1, 2027.

Section 11 [Disabled Veterans Angling Licenses] provides that for a resident veteran with a 50-99% service-connected disability, the fee for an angling license is \$5, effective March 1, 2027.

Section 12 [Counties May Limit Firearms Used for Deer Hunting] authorizes a county located in the former shotgun zone (which is being repealed in this act) to limit the type of firearms that may be used to hunt deer within the county, effective January 1, 2026.

Section 13 [Extension of Authority to Use Crossbow] extends by one year the authority for a person to hunt and fish with a crossbow during the respective archery seasons.

Section 14 [Continuous Bass Fishing Season] makes the open season for bass continuous.

Section 15 [Water Use Permit Fee Increases] increases water-use permit fees, effective January 1, 2026.

Section 16 [Water Appropriation Permit Application Fee Increase] increases the water appropriation permit application fee, effective January 1, 2026.

Section 17 [Closed Landfill Investment Fund] extends a statutory appropriation of money from the closed landfill investment fund by four years (from 2025 to 2029) and increases the annual appropriation from \$4.5 million to \$6.5 million.

Section 18 [PCA Enhanced Outreach] requires the Pollution Control Agency (PCA) to ensure that its work is carried out in a manner that facilitates enhanced outreach to all Minnesotans and that its interactions with the public include audiovisual communication components that do not rely exclusively on written forms of communication.

Section 19 [PFAS Definitions Modifications] defines “internal components” for purposes of regulating the sale of products containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Excludes certain children’s recreational vehicles, including all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and snowmobiles), children’s electric-assisted bicycles, and replacement parts for these items from the prohibition on the sale of items containing intentionally added PFAS.

Section 20 [Exemption for Items Containing PFAS Only in Internal Components] exempts from the prohibition on selling items that contain intentionally added PFAS items that contain intentionally added PFAS only in internal components.

Section 21 [Exemption to Prohibition on Firefighting Foam Containing PFAS] exempts PFAS-containing firefighting foam used in fixed firefighting systems at airport hangars from the ban on PFAS-containing firefighting foam. This exemption expires on January 1, 2028.

Sections 22 and 23 [Technical Changes] modifies language in the Metropolitan Council community tree-planting grants statute to remove reference to a federal tool that has been

discontinued and provide for the continued use of the technical documentation for the tool as it existed July 31, 2024.

Section 24 [Sustainable Foraging Task Force] establishes a task force to recommend to the legislature science-based foraging guidelines for state lands that balance public access with conservation needs.

Section 25 [Outdoor Recreation Endorsement Recommendations] requires the DNR, in consultation with other parties, to submit to the appropriate legislative committees recommendations and a statutory framework for establishing an outdoor recreation license plate endorsement by January 15, 2026.

Section 26 [Notification of Firearms Restriction Option] requires the DNR to notify counties located in the shotgun zone being repealed in this act of the option to adopt an ordinance limiting which firearms may be used for deer hunting.

Section 27 [Foraging Rules Moratorium] places a moratorium on rulemaking related to foraging until July 1, 2026.

Section 28 [Repealer] repeals a drainage-related reporting requirement and, effective January 1, 2026, repeals the shotgun zone.

Article 5 – State Lands

Section 1 [Addition to State Park] adds certain land to Carley State Park in Wabasha County.

Section 2 [Private Sale of Tax-Forfeited Land; Aitkin County] authorizes the private sale of certain tax-forfeited land in Aitkin County.

Section 3 [Private Sale of Tax-Forfeited Land; Aitkin County] authorizes the private sale of certain tax-forfeited land in Aitkin County.

Section 4 [Private Sale of Surplus State Land; Cass County] authorizes the private sale of certain surplus land in Cass County.

Section 5 [Private Sale of Tax-Forfeited Land; Itasca County] authorizes the private sale of certain tax-forfeited land in Itasca County.

Section 6 [Private Sale of Tax-Forfeited Land; Sibley County] authorizes the private sale of certain tax-forfeited land in Sibley County.

Section 7 [Private Sale of Tax-Forfeited Land; St. Louis County] authorizes the private sale of certain tax-forfeited land in St. Louis County

Article 6 – Environmental Permitting Reform

Section 1 [PCA Permitting Efficiency Modifications] modifies PCA permitting efficiency requirements in various ways, including:

- Requiring the PCA’s annual permitting efficiency report to focus on the more complicated Tier 2 permits, and include additional information about permits that have not met the statutory goal, as well as other modifications.
- Requiring the PCA to give permit applicants five business days to remedy identified deficiencies in permit applications.

Section 2 [Expedited Permitting] authorizes the PCA to decline to provide expedited permitting when it lacks the staff or contractor capacity to provide it. Authorizes an expedited permitting agreement to provide that if permitting is completed ahead of schedule, the PCA may retain fees that would have been due and appropriates those proceeds to the PCA to administer its permitting duties.

Section 3 [Discretionary EAW Petition Modifications] requires signatories to a petition for a discretionary environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) to reside in the county in which the proposed action will be undertaken or in one or more adjoining counties.

Section 4 [Timing of Local Government Review of Feedlot Applications] authorizes a local unit of government to begin reviewing a feedlot permit application that is subject to environmental review before environmental review has begun.

Section 5 [Elimination of Requirement for Certain Scoping EAWs] requires the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) to amend its rules to remove the requirement to produce a scoping EAW where state law mandates the creation of an environmental impact statement (EIS).

Section 6 [Intent] states that the intent of the article is to balance the state’s economic interests with protection of the state’s environment and natural resources.

Section 7 [Report on Certain Agency Actions] requires the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to report on the number of extensions of certain local government wetland-related decisions made during a two-year period.



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