



SENATOR  
PATRICIA L. BIRKHOLZ  
Chair

**Committee on Natural Resources  
and Environmental Affairs**

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Minutes of the Joint Committee Meeting  
of the  
**Senate Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs**  
and  
**House Standing Committee on Great Lakes and Environment**

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Thursday, January 14, 2010

8:00 a.m.

Senate Hearing Room,  
Ground Floor, Boji Tower

The Senate Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs was called to order by Senator Patricia Birkholz, Chair.

The Senate Clerk called the roll; **members present were Senators Birkholz, Van Woerkom, Basham and Gleason. (4/5)**

**Member absent and excused was Senator Patterson. (1/5)**

Jon W. Allan, Executive Director of Environmental Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs at Consumers Energy, led the members of the committee in the recital of the *Pledge of Allegiance to the flag*.

Senator Birkholz introduced to the Joint Committee Yulanda Bellingar, Morton Township Clerk, who was job shadowing the Chair for the day.

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The Senate Chair laid before the committee the minutes of December 9, 2009 as printed.

**Senator Van Woerkom moved to adopt the minutes of December 9, 2009 as printed.**

**Senator Basham supported the motion.**

**There being no objection the motion prevailed by unanimous consent of the members present; the minutes were adopted as printed.**

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The House Standing Committee on Great Lakes and Environment was called to order by Representative Rebekah Warren, Chair.

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The House Clerk called the roll; **members present were Representatives Warren, Nerat, Bledsoe, Kennedy, Leland, Roberts, Scripps, Meekhof, Daley, Haveman, Rick Jones, Pavlov and Wayne Schmidt. (13/15)**  
**Members absent were Representatives Ebli and Meadows. (2/15)**

The House Chair laid before the committee the minutes of December 17, 2009 as printed.

**Representative Leland moved to adopt the minutes of the meeting of December 17, 2009 as printed.**

**There being no objection the motion prevailed by unanimous consent of the members present; the minutes were adopted as printed.**

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**Representative Meekhof moved to excuse absent members.**

**There being no objection the motion prevailed by unanimous consent of the members present; the absent members were excused.**

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Senator Birkholz was in the Chair.

The Senate and House Chairs laid before the committees the “Council of State Governments 2009 Innovations Award.”

Frank Ruswick, Senior Policy Advisor for the Department of Environmental Quality, informed the members of the joint committee Michigan Department of Environmental Quality was selected to be the recipient of the Council of Stat Governments 2009 Innovations Award. Mr. Ruswick recognized the members of the Groundwater Conservation Advisory Council who were in attendance at the joint hearing. The council members stood and were recognized the joint committee members.

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The Senate and House Chairs laid before the committees the “Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.”

Cameron Davis, the Senior Advisor to the United States Environmental Protective Agency Administrator, briefed the committees with a PowerPoint presentation on the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Following his presentation, Mr. Davis responded to questions from members of the joint committee. A printed copy of his presentation is attached to the minutes

Senator Birkholz recognized and introduced Ken DeBeaussaert, Director of the Office of Great Lakes in the Department of Environmental Quality.

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Per Rule 27 of the Senate Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee Rules, **Senator Patterson was excused from today’s committee meeting.**

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There being no other business before the committee; **the Senate Chair adjourned** the Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee meeting, the time being 9:55 a.m.  
The Senate Committee was adjourned.

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Representative Warren was in the Chair.

There being no other business before the committee; **the House Chair adjourned** the Great Lakes and Environment Committee meeting, the time being 9:55 a.m.  
The House Committee was adjourned.

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Patricia L. Birkholz, Chair  
Senate Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs

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Rebekah Warren, Chair  
House Standing Committee on Great Lakes and Environment

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Joy A. E. Brewer, Committee Clerk

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Date approved by the committee