

Blake, Cumah (GOV)

From: Zakula, Linden (GOV)
Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2015 10:13 PM
To: GMD; Smith, Tina (GOV)
Cc: Tincher, Jaime (GOV); Hume, Bob (GOV); Sen, Katy (GOV); Hardy, Shawntera (GOV); Dornfeld, Joanna (GOV); Piper, Emily (GOV); Swenson, Matt (GOV)
Subject: Communications Update - May 5, 2015
Attachments: 2015_05_06_drinking_water_quality.docx; 2015_05_05_chamber_transportation_letter.pdf; 2015_05_05_capitol_restoration_letter.pdf

Communications Update

May 5, 2015

DECISIONS

QUOTE FOR WATER QUALITY NEWS CONFERENCE – Tomorrow, you will hold in a news conference announcing a new drinking water report which names nitrate contamination a growing concern in Minnesota water. Please provide any edits to the following quotation. The news release is attached for your reference.

“This report underscores the very real need for action this session to improve water quality in our state,” said Governor Dayton. **“The degradation of our water supplies has serious implications for our health, our economy, and our future. We need to work together to find solutions to address these problems at every level. The cost of waiting is too high.”**

PRESS UPDATES

CHAMBER TRANSPORTATION LETTER – Today, the St. Paul, Minneapolis, Duluth, Mankato, and Marshall Chambers sent a joint letter to legislative leaders urging them to find a long-term, predictable and sustainable transportation funding solution. The full letter is attached.

AGENCY UPDATES

WCCO SWLRT DATA PRACTICES REQUEST – Tomorrow, the Met Council will provide WCCO a data practices request for emails related to SWLRT. Most emails are pretty standard and not newsworthy. Some emails show the project office staff's original press release and other material drafts, which were much more positive about the future of the project, than were the final versions ended up that questioned the viability of the SWLRT moving forward. There is also an email from Joanna requesting information on your behalf about the consequences of SWLRT not receiving funding this session. However, Joanna and Linden are not overly concerned about the stories it may generate.

PCA DATA PRACTICES REQUEST – KARE 11 is working on a follow-up story to their report on two individuals, who allegedly committed PCA fraud and kept children in unsafe environments. DHS deemed that much of the information requested by the reporter is not public. No timeline for the new story is known.

CAPITOL RESTORATION TIMELINE – The Pioneer Press asked the Department of Administration for a letter sent by Commissioner Massman to legislative leaders regarding the work that will begin in the House and Senate chambers immediately after the session concludes. In the attached letter, the department outlines when and what work will start on adjournment and the importance of meeting those timelines to keep the project on track.

SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA – As planned, MDE staff spoke with the Star Tribune today about how the school funding formula works. The reporter is writing a story about the assertion of some school districts that they are facing a funding pinch. The department walked the reporter through the formula and how funding increases have compared with inflation during the last decade. This article is for later this week.

NEWS CLIPS

AP – Boat diplomacy: Capitol's top 3 leaders headed on Fishing Opener outing, may squeeze in talks
<http://www.startribune.com/politics/statelocal/302602081.html>

Pioneer Press – Minnesota Senate confirms Met Council chair
http://www.twincities.com/politics/ci_28054891/minnesota-senate-confirms-met-council-chair-35-40pt

Star Tribune – Minnesota's first marijuana crop is in bloom
<http://www.startribune.com/lifestyle/health/302609101.html>

Star Tribune – Mayo Clinic plans La Crosse area campus that could employ 3,800
<http://www.startribune.com/business/302655361.html>

Pioneer Press – Dayton and Daudt dish turkey
<http://blogs.twincities.com/politics/2015/05/05/dayton-and-daudt-dish-turkey/>

MPR – Dayton: Real ID may have to wait until next year
<http://blogs.mprnews.org/capitol-view/2015/05/dayton-real-id-may-have-to-wait-until-next-year/>