

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA
September 9, 2015
MSRS, Room 106
60 Empire Drive
Saint Paul, MN**

In attendance Attorney General Lori Swanson
 Secretary of State Steve Simon
 State Auditor Rebecca Otto

Absent Governor Mark Dayton
 Lt. Governor Tina Smith

The meeting was chaired by Secretary of State Steve Simon.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Secretary of State Steve Simon. Emily Piper, Governor's General Counsel and Deputy Chief of Staff, sent regrets from Governor Dayton and Lieutenant Governor Smith's absence due to firefighter Shane Clifton's funeral service. The minutes of the June 3, 2015 meeting were approved with a motion made by State Auditor Rebecca Otto, seconded by Attorney General Lori Swanson and unanimously approved.

MINNESOTA MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Assistant Commissioner Kristin Hanson requested approval of the list of new collateral used to secure state funds on deposit as required by Minnesota Statutes, Section 9.031, subdivisions 2 and 3.

- Motion to approve was made by Attorney General Lori Swanson, seconded by State Auditor Rebecca Otto and unanimously approved.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Director of the Division of Lands and Minerals Jess Richards provided an update on the nonferrous metallic minerals lease sale process including the numerous information meetings held with constituents. Mr. Richards explained the process that solicited public comment from June 21, 2015 through August 24, 2015. Secretary Simon asked when the Executive Council may be expected to take action. The Council may expect to act on lease sales in March 2016.

State Auditor Otto commented that she received 650 emails and letters from concerned citizens regarding mineral lease sales.

Public testimony regarding the environmental impact and process for mineral lease sales was taken from several audience members. Those expressing concern included Paula Maccabee representing Water Legacy; Kristen Larson representing Friends of Cloquet Valley Forest; Bob Tammen, resident of Soudan, Minnesota who worked in iron mines; Scott Mead, resident of Superior Township; Wendy Roberts, resident of Superior National Forest; and Phyllis Mead representing Pequaywan Lakes Association.

Mr. Richards stated that the Department of Natural Resources inspects exploration during and at the closure of all state lands however noted DNR has no authority over private or federal land.

The meeting was adjourned by **Secretary Steve Simon**.

Approved 12.02.15