

STATE OF MINNESOTA



MARK DAYTON  
GOVERNOR

RECEIVED

JAN 27 2017

President of the Senate

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

**Rylee Main**

3204 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55406  
County of Hennepin  
Congressional District 5

Because of the special trust and confidence I have in your integrity, judgment, and ability, I have appointed and commissioned you to have and to hold the office of:

**ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION  
REPRESENTATIVE**

**CLEAN WATER COUNCIL**

Effective: January 31, 2017  
Term Expires: January 4, 2021

This appointment carries with it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the Capitol in the City of Saint Paul, January 27, 2017.



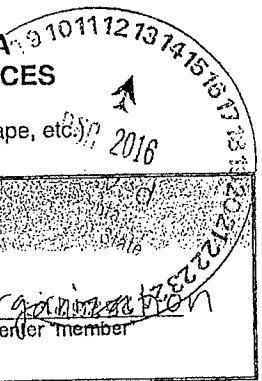
*Mark Dayton*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

*Steve Pinnon*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State

Replacing: Gene Merriam

**OPEN APPOINTMENTS APPLICATION FOR SERVICE ON MINNESOTA STATE AGENCIES, BOARDS, COUNCILS, COMMISSIONS OR TASK FORCES**

All information on this form is available to the public upon request.  
By request, this application will be made available in alternative format (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.)



**Part I: Position Sought**

Required Information: (MN Stat § 15.0597 Subd. 5)

Agency Name: Clean water council  
Name of board, council, commission or task force

Position: Environmental organization  
Membership position sought or enter "member"

**Part II: Applicant Information**

Required Information: (MN Stat § 15.0597 Subd. 5)

Name: Rylee Main  
First Last

Phone: (630) 806-9909

Email: rylee.main@lakepepinlegacyalliance.com

Mailing Address: 3204 30th Ave S  
Minneapolis MN 55406  
City State ZIP Code

County: Hennepin

MN House of Rep Dist: 63A US House of Rep Dist: 5  
Find your districts by using the Poll Finder at:  
<http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>

Have you ever been convicted of a felony:  
Yes  No

Did the Appointing Authority suggest you submit your application? Yes  No

Attach a cover letter, resume or other information that you feel would be helpful to the Appointing Authority.

**Part III: Optional Statistical Information**

The following information is optional and voluntary (MN Stat § 15.0597 Subd. 5).  
Information is collected for, and compiled in, the annual report on the open appointments process pursuant to MN Stat § 15.0597 Subd. 7.

Gender: Female  Male   
Age: 30  
Disability: Yes  No   
Political Party:  Democratic-Farmer-Labor  
 Independence  
 Republican  
 No Party Preference  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin:  Yes  No

Race:  African American or Black  
 American Indian or Alaska Native  
 Asian or Pacific Islander  
 White or Caucasian  
 Other Race \_\_\_\_\_

**Part IV: Signature and Submittal Instructions**

I swear that, to the best of my knowledge, the above information is correct and that I satisfy all legally prescribed qualifications for the position sought. (\*If another person or group is nominating the applicant, the applicant's signature indicates consent to nomination.)

Rylee Main  
Applicant Signature

12/12/2016  
(Date)

Mail or Submit In Person:  
Office of Secretary of State  
Open Appointments  
180 State Office Building  
100 Rev Dr Martin Luther  
King Jr Blvd  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1299

Phone: (651) 297-5845

Email: [open.appointments@state.mn.us](mailto:open.appointments@state.mn.us)

Online application:  
<http://www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=5>

Applicants will not receive an acknowledgment of submitted applications; the appointing authority will notify you if an interview is desired.

**RECEIVED**  
Governor  
12/14/2016

December 12, 2016

Dear Governor Dayton,

I am writing to express my deep interest in filling the vacant environmental organization seat on the Clean Water Council. I believe my experience, and my balanced and practical approach to problem solving around water resource concerns make me an ideal addition to this council, and it would be a cherished opportunity for me to serve Minnesota by utilizing my expertise in this manner.

I was hired in 2012 by Mike McKay, former chair of the Clean Water Council, to manage the day-to-day work of the Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance. I learned from him the importance of independent thinking, with an eye towards achievable progress. He instilled in me the great value in approaching problems from a starting point of common understanding and I spent many of my early days meeting with farmers and local government staff to have an on-the-ground sense of what's working and what's not from the perspective of those who are contributing the majority of the sediment and nutrients to Lake Pepin.

Mike's health changed significantly about 6 months after I joined the organization, which led me to take on more responsibility than I anticipated when first accepting the position. It pushed me to form partnerships and think even more critically about the use of the organization's financial resources to ensure we were able to make the greatest difference with very limited capacity. I have been successful in maintaining meaningful partnerships with individuals and organizations across the Minnesota River Basin, as well as in the St. Croix Watershed, and locally around Lake Pepin. With a yearly budget that has doubled to \$100,000 since I started, I have been able to leverage \$200,000 in federal funding through the Army Corps of Engineers to initiate a feasibility study to restore habitat and water quality in Lake Pepin, and I'm working to raise the funds to see this project constructed.

Minnesota certainly has more financial resources available to use toward clean water than many of its surrounding states, however, similarly to the Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance and many other environmental organizations, the funding is still insufficient to solve all of our water quality impairments in a timely fashion. Thus, it is important that those serving on the Clean Water Council are able to think comprehensively about the competing interests across the state, and target funds in a practical manner that will result in meaningful change. I believe that my background in public policy, and the mentorship I have received from Mike McKay, along with my own experience and success in applying lessons learned, put me in a position to add great value to the Clean Water Council.

In addition to my work with the Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance, I serve on the Board of the Minnesota Conservation Federation (MCF) and the Minnesota Environmental Fund (MEF). My involvement with MCF allows me to connect with sportsmen and women across the state who are concerned not just with clean water for the sake of clean water, but also the need for habitat to maintain the state's great hunting and fishing tradition, creating a healthy respect for our environment, drawing tourists to the state, and providing an important economic benefit to Minnesota. On the board of MEF, I provide opportunities for individual employees in workplaces to give to organizations like MCF and/or one of the other 22 member organizations doing environmental work in Minnesota, through a workplace giving program.

I am committed to protecting Minnesota's water resources, and I believe I demonstrate this commitment not only in my full-time work, but in the way that I choose to spend my time volunteering for causes that I believe can make a difference. I have a fierce intellect and a passion for critical thinking and practical problem-solving. If appointed to the Clean Water Council, I will bring a perspective that is focused on leveraging limited dollars toward meaningful outcomes, through a collaborative and cooperative approach.

I sincerely appreciate your consideration of my application, and look forward to hearing back regarding this appointment.

With gratitude,  
Rylee Main

# Rylee E Main

3204 30<sup>th</sup> Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Phone: 630.806.9909  
Email: [rylee.main@lakepepinlegacyalliance.com](mailto:rylee.main@lakepepinlegacyalliance.com)

## SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Deep understanding of Minnesota's impaired waters and the strategies in place to address sources of pollution, including One Watershed One Plan, Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies, and Total Maximum Daily Load studies.
- Served on the Best Management Practices sub-committee to update the Minnesota Public Drainage Manual, with emphasis on the utilization of existing law.
- Great ability to understand diverse stakeholder perspectives and processes for decision making, with particularly strong understanding of sportsmen's clubs, agricultural producers, conservationists, and local government units.
- Experience conducting qualitative and quantitative research, and writing policy and program memos and recommendations on local, regional, and national environmental issues.
- Passionate about thoughtful and equitable utilization of Minnesota's resources to preserve and restore clean water across the state.
- Strong analytical and organizational skills, with an emphasis on cooperative partnerships.

## EDUCATION

University of Minnesota, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, Twin Cities, MN  
Master of Public Policy; Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy; Water Resources Science

North Central College, Naperville, IL; Exchange Program: USIU; Nairobi, Kenya  
Bachelor of Arts; Global Studies – Developing States; Environmental Studies

## AREAS OF EXPERTISE

### Non-Point Source Pollution

- Developed a comparative tool for counties across the Minnesota River Basin to assess effectiveness of actions to reduce sediment and nutrient flow in an agricultural region.
- Attend field days, conferences, and trainings on drainage management, water storage, and stabilization techniques to evaluate the cost-benefit of best management practices.
- Interviewed over fifty local government staff and state employees to provide needed context around existing obstacles to improve water quality in the Minnesota River and the South-Metro Mississippi River.

### Policy Analysis

- Experience analyzing local, state, and federal policy alternatives based on a clear understanding of available funding, competing interests, and political climates, particularly as those alternatives relate to the reduction of non-point source pollution in Minnesota (i.e. buffer requirements, soil loss ordinances, Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program, ethanol production, and the federal Farm Bill).

### Habitat and Water Quality Restoration

- Leading planning efforts for a large-scale island construction and backwater dredging project at the head of Lake Pepin, to be completed by the Army Corps of Engineers following a federally funded feasibility study, currently underway.

## **RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE**

**Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance, Red Wing, MN**

*Executive Director (June 2015 – Present)*

Fundraising, membership development, strategic partnerships, habitat and water quality restoration lead, Minnesota River Basin County Scorecard, communications

*Project Manager (June 2012 – June 2015)*

**Lower Minnesota River Watershed District, Chaska, MN**

*Researcher and Consultant (January 2012 – May 2012)*

Stakeholder interviews as a basis for governance recommendations

**University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN**

*Access Assistant (January 2012 – May 2012)*

Graduate level statistics – Regression Analysis and Multivariate Techniques

**Freshwater Society, Anoka, MN**

*Graduate Internship (February 2011 – May 2012)*

Community engagement and environmental behavior change research, assistance with farmer-to-farmer mentor program

**Environmental Law and Policy Center, Chicago, IL**

*Graduate Internship (May 2011 – August 2011)*

Analysis of energy efficiency portfolios with policy recommendations

**Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL**

*Grounds Crew for Display Horticulture (June 2008 – August 2010)*

Certified Pesticide applicator in Illinois - 2010

## **RELATED VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

**Minnesota Conservation Federation, St. Paul, MN**

Treasurer (December 2012 – September 2016)

Board Member (December 2012 – Present)

Communications Committee Chair

**Minnesota Environmental Fund**

Board Member (January 2016 – Present)

Member Relations Committee

Member Impact Taskforce

Strategic Planning Committee

## **AWARDS**

Arthur Naftalin Award recipient for career-focused summer research

Pi Sigma Alpha Honors Society