

# Megan Lennon

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## Experience

### **ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT SECTION SUPERVISOR**

#### **MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE | OCTOBER 2022 – PRESENT**

- Lead and direct the development and implementation of statewide, agriculture-related energy, environmental, and land-use policies, plans, and program initiatives
- Represents the MDA and supports agency initiatives with the Legislature, state, regional, and national partners and stakeholders, task forces, committees and industry associations
- Analyze and interpret complex policy issues and provide support to the Commissioner's Office on energy and climate policy topics
- Lead MDA's climate work that focuses on interdisciplinary policy and program development, and coordination with state and federal partners to achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions in the agriculture and bioeconomy sectors
- Manage annual operational budget of \$800,000 and directs policy input for an additional \$8 million per year

### **BIOECONOMY PROGRAM MANAGER**

#### **MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE | FEBRUARY 2022 – OCTOBER 2022**

- Coordinate, develop, and implement policies and programs to support advanced biofuel production and use in Minnesota
- Lead agency efforts and collaboration with research institutions and private industry to promote technological advancement and commercialization of new biofuels and bioproducts to help Minnesota meet its climate goals
- Assess federal legislation and funding opportunities for provisions that supplement, complement or fill gaps in State programming
- Coordinate with strategic partners to create compelling grant applications for projects addressing climate impacts to agriculture and promoting climate-smart crop adoption
- Administer MDA's Bioincentive production incentive program and lead agency efforts to improve documentation and eligibility determination processes
- Distill complex technical information into easily understood talking points for the Governor's Office staff, MDA's Commissioner's Office, or legislative audiences
- Serve as agency project lead on various projects including the High Path Avian Influenza water source database and the Minnesota Business Vitality Council's sustainable aviation fuels opportunity analysis

### **LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR**

#### **MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES | NOVEMBER 2019 - FEBRUARY 2022**

- Coordinate BWSR's legislative affairs including policy, biennial budget, and capital budget processes
- Analyze and interpret complex policy issues and design strategies to manage and deliver tactical solutions
- Develop policy options and programs that align with the agency's mission and the Governor's agenda
- Create and deliver strategic communications on policy initiatives, and technical and programmatic updates; including preparing and delivering legislative testimony
- Perform tasks with a high level of autonomy based on knowledge and expertise; and coordinate and

manage numerous diverse activities simultaneously

- Build and maintain working relationships with agency partners including federal and state government agencies, local governments, NGO's, academics, legislators, and non-partisan staff
- Mentor and coach agency staff on developing legislative proposals and presentations, and serve as lead worker for student workers
- Develop and implement process improvements for legislative coordination and collaboration for senior leadership
- Convene meetings and facilitate discussions with agency partners on policy initiatives

### **SENIOR PROJECT ANALYST**

#### **LEGISLATIVE-CITIZEN COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES | NOVEMBER 2018 – NOVEMBER 2019**

- Coordinate strategic planning to guide natural resource expenditures, primarily from the ENRTF
- Conduct grant monitoring and oversight on more than 300 Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund-funded projects, totalling over \$180 million, to evaluate progress, ensure fiscal compliance and outcome achievement, and glean findings for future planning and policy considerations
- Recruit, convene, and staff a national scientifically qualified peer review panel to review and improve research projects
- Track, analyze, and synthesize bills introduced in the Minnesota legislature; and quickly and accurately respond to requests from legislators, legislative committees, and LCCMR members
- Communicate effectively via written material and oral presentation; includes development of written documentation of LCCMR processes, legislative topic of interest, and summaries of LCCMR outcomes to Commission members, the legislature, the general public and interest groups, agency staff and media
- Assist in development, drafting, and review of appropriation language, amendments, and recommend ENRTF appropriations bill annually

### **TECHNICAL TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

#### **MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES | MARCH 2016 – NOVEMBER 2018**

- Develop, lead, and direct implementation of the Technical Training and Certification Program – a novel federal, state, and local partnership designed to develop and maintain a highly trained, technically skilled workforce of natural resource professionals capable of meeting the conservation delivery needs of Minnesota
- Present timely information on program status, goals, accomplishments via webinars, and in-person conventions and partner board meetings
- Conduct strategic planning, define program goals, and establish timelines and benchmarks ensuring program goals and outcomes are achieved
- Develop RFPs, review grant proposals and work plans, oversee grant allocations to local governments, and track grant outcomes
- Oversee budgeting and planning for a \$2 million contribution agreement with program partner
- Design and execute internal and external communications plans – including quarterly publications, webinars, factsheets, guidance documents, annual reports, and accomplishment reports
- Facilitate and lead 9 multi-agency work groups throughout the state to prioritize needs and coordinate training delivery to meet program objectives
- Identify challenges and lead collaborative efforts to craft and implement innovative solutions

## **STATE SOIL SCIENTIST**

### **MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES | MARCH 2009 – MARCH 2016**

- Lead and oversee the BWSR's Soils Program by developing strategies, policies, and initiatives to improve soil and water quality, and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions through soil health practices
- Serve as technical expert on interagency teams designing and analyzing policy solutions for climate action; including agriculture, transportation, and biofuels
- Direct and manage multiple Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund grant projects including developing proposals, building collaborative partnerships, communicating results, directing external partners, and project evaluation
- Serve as lead soil scientist involved in Wetland Conservation Act implementation including investigating wetland violations, delineating wetlands, and resolving conflicts
- Develop and disseminate guidance for BWSR programs regarding soil conservation, soil quality, wetland regulation, and climate adaptation
- Synthesize scientific literature on technical topics and develop outreach and communication materials that are accurate and easily understandable
- Build partnerships with conservation partners including state and federal agencies, local government units, academic institutions, and agricultural industry groups
- Conduct quality control and data analysis on grant outcome data collected from local government partners

## **Education**

### **B.S. ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE | 2006 | UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**

Minor: Soil Science

### **M.S. SOIL SCIENCE | 2009 | UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**

Area of research: Carbon Sequestration in Restored Wetlands

## **Professional Licensure and Certificates**

### **LICENSED PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTIST**

License Number 49298

### **EMERGING LEADERS INSTITUTE**

2024 Graduate – Cohort 33

### **CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION: RESULTS BASED ACCOUNTABILITY**

Course completed in 2019