

2022 Minnesota Legislative Session Recap



The 2022 Minnesota legislative session came to an end on Monday, May 23 with legislative leaders unable to make progress on several big-ticket items still left on the table. Despite an earlier global budget agreement between the DFL-led House and the GOP-led Senate on providing tax relief and additional spending for government agencies and programs, conference committee leaders and Walz administration officials watched as time on the clock expired at midnight.

Among some of the omnibus bills that the leaders could not come to an agreement on were ones dealing with taxes, environment and natural resources, transportation, public safety, capital investment, and health and human services. House Speaker Melissa Hortman (DFL – Brooklyn Park) and Senate Majority Leader Jeremy Miller (R – Winona) met with Gov. Tim Walz after the regular session adjourned to determine if the parameters of a special session could be agreed upon to complete work on the outstanding legislation.

Negotiations over a potential special session “reached an impasse” according to Gov. Tim Walz, leaving billions of dollars from the state’s surplus unspent. The DFL governor and legislative leaders had been meeting for weeks since the regular session ended in May, trying to finalize a deal to pump billions into tax cuts and new spending over the next three years while also leaving billions on the bottom line. Senate Republicans however indicated that they did not plan to bring any more offers to the table. Senate Majority Leader Miller stated that the DFL-led House wasn’t willing to pass a \$4 billion tax cut proposal without “billions more in spending” which led to the impasse.

While the prospects for a special session have certainly dimmed, one bright shining accomplishment achieved by lawmakers was agreement on the [agriculture, broadband, and drought relief omnibus bill](#) that was passed on the last weekend of session. For MCPR, passage of this bill was a major accomplishment as language to increase the maximum reimbursement amount of the [Agricultural Chemical Response & Reimbursement Account \(ACRRA\)](#) was included in the final version of the bill that was [signed into law by Gov. Walz](#). Starting on January 1, 2023, the current maximum reimbursement amount of \$350,000 will be increased to \$550,000. In addition, the fund balance maximum will be increased from \$5,000,000 to \$6,500,000.

MCPR testified several times during the 2022 session in support of the ACRRA language change, as well as continued to work with bill author and Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Torrey Westrom (R – Elbow Lake) to ensure its inclusion in the final bill. MCPR provided critical testimony during conference committee deliberations in the final week of session, as well as had key conversations with Minnesota Department of Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen and House Agriculture Committee Chair Mike Sundin (DFL – Esko) to come to an agreement on language that could be supported by all parties.

Conversely, several onerous provisions that MCPR steadfastly opposed throughout session were excluded in the final agriculture, broadband, and drought relief omnibus bill. Among them were ones that would have prohibited the sale or application of pesticides and fertilizers coated with not readily biodegradable plastic, as well as language dealing with the disposal of untreated seed, seed label information, prohibition on seed uses, creation of a product stewardship program for neonic treated/coated seed, and creation of a disposal of treated seed consumer brochure.

Also included in the bill was MCPR-supported language to establish an agriculture best management practice grant program to support health soil management practices. Other key provisions in the final package included \$18.4 million in direct grant funding for farmers who were affected by the drought last year, as well as a large infusion of over \$200 million dollars to support broadband development.

Lastly, due to impasse between Gov. Walz and legislative leaders, the prospects for the passage of an Environment & Natural Resources omnibus bill during a potential special session has also been greatly diminished. For MCPR and our membership, this development is positive as the House of Representatives version of this omnibus bill contained several provisions that would have been extremely detrimental to Minnesota's ag retail community and production agriculture as a whole. This included language that would have allowed cities to prohibit the use of pesticides, prohibit the use or sale of seeds treated with neonicotinoids, and the prohibition on certain disposal methods of neonicotinoid-treated seed.

If you have any questions about the 2022 regular legislative session, please contact MCPR Executive Director Patrick Murray at patrick@mcpr-cca.org or (651) 238-0089.

MCPR Represents Members Interests at State Capitol During 2022 Legislative Session

Throughout the 2022 legislative session, MCPR connected with legislators and staff to state our organizational positions on several key legislative proposals that were heard in various committees, as well as those that were up for consideration during conference committee deliberations. In representing MCPR member interests, we successfully engaged on the following legislative proposals that were of great interest to our membership and were debated in both the House and Senate during the 2022 legislative session:

- **Disposal of untreated seed, seed label information, seed uses prohibited, creation of a product stewardship program for neonic treated/coated seed, and creation of a disposal of treated seed consumer brochure**

[H.F. 766](#) authored by Rep. Rick Hansen (DFL – South St. Paul) would have amended several sections of [Minnesota's Seed Law](#), promulgated rule-making, and created a product stewardship program. This bill was heard in the House Agriculture Committee and the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee during the regular session. Prior to the hearing in the Agriculture Committee, an [eleventh-hour amendment](#) was offered by Rep. Hansen that changed the intent of the bill to direct the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to produce a consumer brochure on the proper disposal of treated seed. None of these provisions were included in the final version of the [agriculture, broadband, and drought relief omnibus bill](#) that was signed into law by Gov. Walz, nor included in the Environment and Natural Resources omnibus bill that was not passed by the legislature before the regular session ended in May.

Lastly, MCPR led efforts in submitting letters of opposition to the legislation during the regular session as well, which included support from several MCPR members and a host of Minnesota agricultural organizations.

- **Application of certain pesticides prohibited by authorizing cities to adopt pesticide control ordinances**

[H.F. 718](#) authored by Rep. Samantha Vang (DFL – Brooklyn Park) would have removed existing state authority that ensures safe and consistent regulatory standards for pesticides in the state. MCPR opposed this legislation that would have repealed the statewide exemption of local ordinances regarding crop production inputs, as well as weakened the state's ability to effectively regulate pesticides that are registered and regulated by the Minnesota

Department of Agriculture. This legislation was not included in the Environment and Natural Resources omnibus bill which ultimately was not passed by the legislature before the regular session ended in May.

- **Prohibition on the sale or application of pesticides and fertilizers that are coated with plastic or another material that is not readily biodegradable**

[H.F. 3751](#) authored by Rep. Rick Hansen (DFL – South St. Paul) was heard as a stand-alone bill in the House Agriculture Committee in early March. The bill language was included in the [House Agriculture Omnibus bill](#) which was advanced by the full House of Representatives towards the end of session. The provision was not included in the final version of the [agriculture, broadband, and drought relief omnibus bill](#) that was signed into law by Gov. Walz.

(Right: Officials from [Nutrien](#) joined MCPR at the State Capitol to discuss several legislative proposals with lawmakers, including one that would [ban the use of plastic-coated pesticides and fertilizers](#). MCPR Executive Director Patrick Murray (center), was joined by Kent Broscoff (left) and Paul Poister (right) as they met with members of both the Agriculture, Broadband, and Housing Conference Committee, as well as the Environment & Natural Resources Conference Committee.)



- **ACRRA maximum reimbursement payment increase legislation**

Sen. Torrey Westrom (R – Elbow Lake) was the author of legislation which was included in Senate Agriculture & Rural Development omnibus bill dealing with the [Agricultural Chemical Response & Reimbursement Account](#) administered by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. MCPR testified in support of this legislation during both the regular session and during conference committee deliberations. We indicated our members are active participants in the ACRRA program, but did have concerns with the current ACRRA cap reimbursement amounts which we believed too low and would be addressed by the language included in the omnibus bill.

In addition, earlier this year during MCPR's "Day on the Hill" event our members were able to relay our support for the legislation directly to Chair Westrom, as well as with House Agriculture Committee Chair Mike Sundin (DFL – Esko), MDA Commissioner Thom Petersen, and several Agriculture Committee members in the House and Senate.



**HF 4366 Conference Committee
Agricultural Chemical Response and Reimbursement Account**

MN House

Thursday, May 12, 2022

(Left: MCPR Executive Director Patrick Murray testifies before the Agriculture, Broadband & Housing Conference Committee in support of legislation to increase the Agricultural Chemical Response & Reimbursement Account (ACRRA) maximum reimbursement payment amount.)

- **MCPR Hosts 1st Annual Day on the Hill in St. Paul**

MCPR board directors and members from across the state attended the 1st Annual MCPR Day on the Hill at the State Capitol in St. Paul, Minnesota on March 1. The goal of the gathering was for MCPR members to build relationships with legislators, committee chairs in the House and Senate, and Department of Agriculture administration officials.

Among some of the issues and topics that were discussed during the day included MCPR supported legislation that would increase the maximum reimbursement allowed for the agricultural chemical response and reimbursement account (ACRRA), the MCPR administered 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Program, regulatory decisions affecting the use of chlorpyrifos and dicamba, the state's \$9.25 billion budget surplus, MCPR's support for Minnesota's biofuel economy, rising energy prices across the globe, and the Walz Administration's adoption of a Clean Cars Standard.

Throughout the course of the day, MCPR members had the pleasure of meeting with the following lawmakers:

- Minnesota Department of Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen and Deputy Commissioner Andrea Vaubel
- Senate Agriculture & Rural Development Committee Chair Torrey Westrom (R – Elbow Lake)
- House Agriculture Committee Chair Mike Sundin (DFL – Esko)
- Senate Transportation Committee Chair Scott Newman (R – Hutchinson)
- House Agriculture Committee Ranking Member Paul Anderson (R – Starbuck)
- Senate Minority Whip and Agriculture & Rural Development Committee Member Kent Eken (DFL – Twin Valley)
- House Energy & Climate Committee Ranking Member Chris Swedzinski (R – Ghent)
- Senate Commerce Committee Chair Gary Dahms (R – Redwood Falls)
- House Assistant Minority Leader and Redistricting Committee Lead Paul Torkelson (R – Hanska)
- House Assistant Minority Leader and Workforce Development Committee Ranking Member Dave Baker (R – Willmar)



(Above: Minnesota Department of Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen and House Agriculture Committee Chair Mike Sundin (DFL – Esko) met with MCPR members in the State Capitol.)



(Above: House Agriculture Committee Ranking Member Paul Anderson (R – Starbuck), who also farms with his family in Pope County, met with MCPR members to kick-off the 1st Annual MCPR Day on Hill.)



(Above: MCPR members met with Senate Agriculture & Rural Development Committee Chair Torrey Westrom (R – Elbow Lake) during MCPR Day on the Hill. Pictured are Patrick Murray, MCPR Executive Director; T.J. Phillips, Van Diest Supply Company; Scott Barnes, Nutrien Ag Solutions; Dale Johnson, AgPartners; Bryan Strickler, Valent USA; Arnie Sinclair, Heartland AG Systems; Sen. Westrom; Adam Herges, Mosaic Company; Rick Walker, West Central Ag Services; Doug Becher, Brevant Seeds; and Andy Oeding, Nutrien Ag Solutions.)

2022 Annual Golf Outing

Thursday, August 18th 2022

The 2022 MCPR Annual Golf outing will be held Thursday, August 18th at Dacotah Ridge Golf Club, located in the Morton, MN.

Registration and lunch at the Wabasha Creek Restaurant will begin at 10:30 AM. After lunch the shot gun start will take place at 11:30 am. Dinner and awards will conclude the days event.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

10:30 AM	Registration & Lunch
11:30 AM	Shot Gun Start
4:30 PM	Dinner & Awards

EVENT PRICING

Single Registration: \$150 per golfer includes golf, cart, lunch, dinner, refreshment ticket and raffle ticket.

Foursome Registration: \$600 for foursome – includes same as above.

Save the Date! 2022 CPM Short Course and MCPR Trade Show

The 2022 CPM SHORT COURSE and MCPR TRADE SHOW will be held December 6th - 8th exclusively at the Minneapolis Hilton hotel.

Visit the MCPR website - mcpr-cca.org for programming details and registration info!



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