



STATE of MINNESOTA

Executive Department

Governor Tim Walz

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Ed Brands

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:

Public Member

Environmental Quality Board

Effective: July 3, 2024

Expires: January 5, 2027

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it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.

Signed and sealed June 28, 2024.

Tim Walz, GOVERNOR

Steve Simon, SECRETARY OF STATE



Filed June 28, 2024
Office of the Minnesota
Secretary of State
Steve Simon

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JUN 28 2024

Replacing: Kenneth Foster

President of the Senate

**Application for the position Public Member - 7th Congressional District Application Date:
4/30/2024 9:50:50 PM**

Note: If your application needs to be amended, including updates to any uploaded documents, contact open.appointments@state.mn.us. Please provide your name, board, position you've applied to, and any other documentation you'd like included in your application along with a brief summary of your request.

Part I: Position Sought

Agency Name: Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
Position: Public Member - 7th Congressional District

Part II: Applicant Information

Name: Ed Brands
Phone: (612) 607-4461
County: Stevens
Recommended by the Appointing Authority: False
Mn House District: 12A
US House District: 7

Part III: Appending Documentation

Cover Letter and Resume

Type	File Type
Cover Letter	application/pdf
Resume	application/pdf

Additional Documents (.doc, .docx, .pdf, .txt)

Type	File Name
No additional documents found.	

Part V: Signature

Signature: Ed Brands
Date: 4/30/2024 9:50:50 PM

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President of the Senate



EDWIN P. BRANDS

PROFILE

Engaging students and communities in interdisciplinary and collaborative projects that address contemporary challenges and opportunities related to water policy, food/agriculture, and sustainable building/infrastructure systems.

CONTACT

PHONE:
612 607 4461

EMAIL:
edwin.brands@gmail.com

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/ed-brands-8124a86

HOBBIES/INTERESTS

Home building and remodeling
Fitness/wellness
Gardening
Accordion

LANGUAGES

English (Native)
German (Reading-Fluent;
Conversation-Intermediate)

EDUCATION

The University of Iowa
PhD, Geography

Grinnell College
BA, Biology and German

WORK EXPERIENCE

University of Minnesota Morris – Associate Professor of Environmental Studies, Coordinator of Environmental Studies
2015-

University of Minnesota Morris – Associate Professor of Environmental Studies
2011-2015

Birmingham Southern College – Assistant Professor of Geography, Coordinator of Urban Environmental Studies
2008-2011

The University of Iowa - Adjunct Instructor of Geography
2004-2008

Iowa Department of Natural Resources -Water Quality Consultant
2006-2008

SKILLS

- Environmental policy evaluation and assessment
- Analytical thinking and writing
- Research design and implementation
- Data (quantitative, qualitative, spatial) collection and analysis
- Meeting/classroom facilitation
- Problem solving in the classroom – at a building job site anywhere
- Active listening

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Peer reviewed:

Brands E, Manolis A, Kenyon D, Sugimura L, Koos A. (2024). Food Security and Desertification: A West-Central Minnesota Case Study. *Journal of Food Security*. 12(1): 1-12.

Brands, E. and R. Rajagopal. 2018. Which Water to Drink? Costs and Benefits of Alternatives. *SF J Pub Health*. 2(1).

Brands, E. 2014. Prospects for Sustainable Sanitation in Developed Nations: A Critical Review. *Environmental Reviews*. 22(4): 346-363. doi: 10.1139/er-2013-0082.

Brands, E. 2014. Siting restrictions and proximity of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations to surface water. *Environmental Science & Policy*. 38: 245-253.

Assessment Reports:

Brands, E., Marks, C. 2023. Stevens County Organics Program Evaluation and Comparison Report.

Brands E., Kenyon D., Koos A., Sugimura L., Manolis A. 2022. Stevens County Food Assessment. Center for Community Partnerships. University of Minnesota Morris. 96.p. <https://morris.umn.edu/center-small-towns/stevens-county-food-assessment>.

Edited Encyclopedia Articles:

Rajagopal, R. Wichman, M. Brands, E. 2017. "Drinking Water." *In* International Encyclopedia of Geography: People, the Earth, Environment, and Technology. Wiley – Association of American Geographers.

Brands, E., Rajagopal, R., Natarajan, U., Li, P. 2017. "Groundwater." *In* International Encyclopedia of Geography: People, the Earth, Environment, and Technology. Wiley – Association of American Geographers.

COMMUNITY SERVICE (Selected)

Stevens County Food Shelf Volunteer	March 2020-
City of Morris Planning Commission	2017-2023
Pomme de Terre River Watershed Citizens' Advisory Committee	2017-2019

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President of the Senate

Dear Environmental Quality Board Selection Committee:

Thank you for considering my application for the Legislative District 7 Environmental Quality Board position. Below I outline 1) why I am interested in the position, 2) my relevant professional experience, and 3) why I think I would be an asset to the Environmental Quality Board.

Why I am Interested in this Position

I am interested in an EQB position because of obvious overlaps with my professional interests which I outline below. But perhaps more importantly, I am interested as a citizen. I grew up on a small (hogs, corn, beans, asparagus) farm in Northeastern Iowa and have for my whole life been a keen observer of rapid changes in and the attendant impacts of these changes in agriculture and related industries. I am also interested in what works, not in what is popular or what fits well in a soundbite. At present, we face many environmental challenges (e.g., PFAS, nitrates in groundwater, air quality, energy transition, and biodiversity loss) in Minnesota. One thing that I think works well: provide as many residents as possible the opportunity to participate in the policy making and revision process: to voice their opinions, to propose solutions or alternatives. Let the best ideas supported by the best information that stand for the most pragmatic solutions come to the top.

Relevant Professional and Community Experience

I am presently an Associate Professor of Environmental Studies with training in environmental geography, wide-ranging teaching experiences (more than 20 unique courses taught) spanning the physical and social sciences, 15 years of experience coordinating internships, and more than 10 years of experience coordinating interdisciplinary environmental programs at liberal arts institutions. My research focus has shifted over the years but has for many years fit within the broad context of environmental impacts of agriculture and food production, beginning with my dissertation work on drinking water quality in Iowa cities reliant upon surface water and most recently on assessing community food security in Stevens County MN and surrounding counties. I use a variety of research methods, including surveys which have been an important part of food security assessment work as well as a recent evaluation of our local organics recycling (composting) program. I also have extensive experience collaborating with community partners through projects assessing food security, organics recycling program effectiveness, and wastewater treatment operator needs.

Important Qualities as a Board Member

As a board member, I could bring several strengths that include active listening, ability to help decipher and decode science and policy concepts surrounding complex environmental issues, deep knowledge of relevant environmental policy, and occasional humor. Though I am not currently far from where I grew up, I can also provide a variety of perspectives on environmental quality and policy based on having lived and worked in the state immediately south of Minnesota, as well as in Alabama, Germany, and Ecuador. Finally, I very much enjoy an engaging conversation and even the occasional debate on environmental issues.

Thanks again for your consideration. Sincerely,

Ed Brands

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