

**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
Executive Department



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JAN 3 2022

**Governor Tim Walz**

President of the Senate

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT**

**Katrina Kessler**

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

**Commissioner**

**Minnesota Pollution Control Agency**

Effective: January 2, 2023

Expires: January 4, 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it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.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 January 2, 2023.



Handwritten signature of Tim Walz in black ink.

Tim Walz

Governor

Handwritten signature of Steve Simon in black ink.

Steve Simon

Secretary of State

Reappointment

Filed on January 2, 2023  
Office of the Minnesota  
Secretary of State,  
Steve Simon

**KATRINA KESSLER, P.E.**  
520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul, MN 55155 · 651 296 6300  
katrina.kessler@state.mn.us

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## **EXPERIENCE**

**NOVEMBER 2021 – PRESENT**

**COMMISSIONER, MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY**

Provide oversight and strategic direction for agency's 900 plus employees working to ensure that every Minnesotan has healthy air, sustainably lands, clean water and a better climate through implementation of state and federal authorities. Inspire and champion work to strengthen partnerships with Minnesota's 11 tribal nations. Work collaboratively with businesses, local governments, and stakeholders to develop innovative community-centered approaches to protect and improve human health and the environment and foster economic growth. Chair the Governor's Climate Change Subcabinet established to identify policies and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance resilience, and promote equitable solutions to reduce disparate impacts from climate change. Represent the state on the Environmental Council of States, the Great Lakes Commission, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force.

**APRIL 2019 – OCTOBER 2021**

**ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, WATER POLICY AND AGRICULTURE, MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY**

Established the vision for Minnesota's Clean Water Act programs. Led work adapt to climate change impacts on water infrastructure and natural and working lands. Advocated for, and oversaw integration of, environmental justice and tribal sovereignty in the state's water regulatory efforts. Led the interagency preparation and implementation of Minnesota's Clean Water Fund budget. Coordinated with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on mining projects, pipeline construction, animal agriculture operations, and discharges to surface waters and groundwater. Supported opportunities to meet environmental responsibilities and foster economic growth. Liaised with federal and state legislators, tribal leaders, local governments, stakeholders and media on high profile and/or contentious issues. Represented the state on the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association, the Association of Clean Water Administrators, and the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force.

**APRIL 2016 – APRIL 2019**

**DIRECTOR, SURFACE WATER AND SEWER DIVISION, MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC WORKS**

Directed the design, construction, operation and maintenance of City's sanitary and storm sewer systems. Set strategic vision for 140 staff. Developed and oversaw \$120 million annual budget. Regularly interacted with elected officials to make policy recommendations to maximize public investments in infrastructure. Engaged with members of the public and the media to build connections to water resources and support for work to maintain and improve the City's sanitary and storm sewer systems. Oversaw implementation of state's first "Integrated" Clean Water Act municipal stormwater permit. Leveraged strong relationship with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Metropolitan Council Environmental Services to terminate the state's last Combined Sewer Overflow permit following a 17-year stalemate in permit negotiations. Collaborated with other local, regional, and state partners to address challenges of aging infrastructure, flooding, and water quality through a resilience lens.

# KATRINA KESSLER, P.E.

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katrina.kessler@state.mn.us

**OCTOBER 2012 – APRIL 2016**

**MANAGER, WATER ASSESSMENT SECTION, MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY**

Led work to promulgate water quality standards including the adoption of eutrophication standards and wild rice. Oversaw implementation of water quality and treatment standards into discharge permits. Built relationships with municipal and industrial permit holders, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, tribal representatives and advocacy groups through interactions related to water quality standards, permit limits, compliance schedules, and variances. Managed efforts to assess water bodies, develop and communicate the impaired waters list.

**FEBRUARY 2008 – OCTOBER 2012**

**SUPERVISOR, EFFLUENT LIMITS UNIT, MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY**

Supervised the development and implementation of water quality and technology based effluent limits into NPDES permits for municipal and industrial wastewater treatment facilities.

**MARCH 2004 – FEBRUARY 2008**

**NPDES PERMIT ENGINEER, MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY**

Developed NPDES permits for large municipal and industrial wastewater treatment plants with emphasis in the areas of electrical generation, petroleum refining, mining, and food processing.

**JAN 2001 – MARCH 2004**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER, THE RETEC GROUP, INC.**

Evaluated and engineered remediation and storm water treatment systems. Collected field data, wrote project reports, corresponded with clients and regulators, and tracked budgets.

## EDUCATION

**SEPTEMBER 1999 – JUNE 2001**

**MS ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**

G.P.A 3.8/4.0

**SEPTEMBER 1995 – MAY 1999**

**BA ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON DC**

G.P.A 3.7/4.0

**SPRING 1997**

**SEMESTER AT SEA, STUDY ABROAD IN NINE COUNTRIES**

## SKILLS

- Can synthesize complex technical information and communicate relevance to wide range of stakeholders
- Able to foster a shared vision and inspire engagement to achieve results  
Critical thinker that enjoys problem solving with diverse groups
- Committed to collaborating across organizational boundaries to build and leverage relationships
- Strong understanding of water regulations and water and climate challenges facing Minnesota

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