

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Executive Department



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JAN 3 2022

President of the Senate

Governor Tim Walz

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Sarah Strommen

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 Department of Natural Resources

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it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.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

SARAH STROMMEN

Plymouth, Minnesota

Career interests: Land and water conservation; citizen science; environmental policy.

EDUCATION

MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, May 1999

Nicholas School of the Environment

Duke University, Durham, NC

Master's project: Practical applications of ecotourism to avian conservation in the Neotropics.

Concentration: Conservation biology. Courses in biological conservation, sustainable development, tropical ecology, forest ecosystems, wetland plant identification, natural resource policy, regression analysis, experimental design, survey research methods, environmental education.

Certificate in Non-Profit Management: Courses in program evaluation, grant writing, negotiation skills, writing press releases.

Certificate of Latin American Studies: Courses in ecology, history, international development and fluency in Spanish.

BACHELOR OF ARTS, May 1995

Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA

Major: Biology. *Concentration:* Latin American Studies.

Coursework in ecology, biological diversity, population biology, genetics, cell biology, Latin American politics and history. Completed semester of field research in Costa Rica on the ecological effects of ecotourism on resplendent quetzals.

Senior thesis: Indigenous knowledge in conservation strategy in Latin America.

Honors: Phi Beta Kappa, Elsie Stoufer Fellowship for study of diplomacy.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), St. Paul, MN

Served as the administrative and executive head of the department, including overseeing a DNR staff of about 2,700 located around the state. The commissioner has authority over public lands and waters, state parks and forests, timber, mineral resources, recreational trails, and wildlife of the state, and their use, sale, leasing or other disposition. The powers and duties of the commissioner are detailed in Minnesota Statutes 84.027. 2019- to date

Assistant Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), St. Paul, MN

Provided high level oversight and direction for Fish and Wildlife and Parks and Trails divisions as well as agency work with Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council and Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources. Served as member of agency Executive Team and Senior Management Team. Advised Commissioner on agency policy. Supervised two division directors and one members of the executive administration team. 2015- 2019

Mayor, Ramsey, MN

Provided leadership to seven member city council. Initiated and oversaw development of city strategic plan with performance measures. Championed innovative citizen engagement process. Represented the city at the Minnesota Legislature, Chamber of Commerce events, and other community events. Served as member of the North Metro Mayors Association and the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative. 2013-2018

Acting Deputy Director/Assistant Director, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), St. Paul, MN

Served as member of agency Executive Management Team and Senior Management Team. Advised executive director on agency policy and programs. Led development of agency biennial budgets and policy initiatives. Oversaw implementation of

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conservation programs and projects in collaboration with landowners, local communities, conservation organizations, and other agencies. Served as agency's liaison to the Minnesota Legislature, Governor's Office, Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources, and Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Represented BWSR on the clean water Interagency Coordination Team and other interagency efforts. Supervised acting assistant director for programs and policy, acting assistant director for regional operations, senior program advisor, organizational effectiveness director, administrative services director positions. 2012-2015

Associate Director, Minnesota Land Trust, St. Paul, MN

Developed conservation programs and projects in collaboration with landowners, volunteers, local communities, public agencies, and other conservation organizations. Assisted with building of annual budgets and work plans. Negotiated and completed conservation easement transactions. Developed and managed state grants funded by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources and Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Represented the Land Trust at legislative hearings and other meetings. Coordinated Metropolitan Conservation Corridors Partnership. Supervised land protection associate and project manager positions. 2010-2012

Conservation Director, Central Region, Minnesota Land Trust, St. Paul, MN

Implemented Land Trust programs within the 26-county central region, which includes the greater Twin Cities metropolitan region. Identified priority conservation areas. Negotiated and completed conservation easement transactions. Worked collaboratively with landowners, volunteers, local communities, public agencies, and other conservation organizations. 2005-2010

Councilmember, Ramsey, MN

Orchestrated establishment of City's first Environmental Policy Board. Provided leadership to an innovative comprehensive planning and public participation process. Chair, Finance Committee; Member, Housing and Redevelopment Authority; Member, Economic Development Authority; Member, Personnel Committee; Council Liaison, Environmental Policy Board; Secretary, Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization. 2003-2008 and 2011-2012

Policy Director, Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness, Minneapolis, MN

Recommended policy positions, created policy statements and issued fact sheets. Drafted formal comment letters to state and federal agencies in response to environmental review and other agency documents. Cultivated and maintained relationships with key agency and legislative staff. Conducted media relations. Testified at legislative hearings. Supervised policy associate position. 2001-2005

Outreach and Education Director, Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness, Minneapolis, MN

Prepared educational communications for members, media, and legislators on a variety of conservation issues relating to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Initiated educational campaigns and curricula on fire ecology and boreal owls. Coordinated speaker series. Edited quarterly newsletter and e-mail action alerts. 2000-2001

Director of Natural History Adventures, Preferred Adventures Ltd, St. Paul, MN

Developed birding, natural history, and educational travel programs for small groups and families to Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Minnesota. Designed tour brochures and catalog. Edited quarterly newsletter. Planned travelogues. Assisted with marketing and public relations. 1996-2000

K-12 Environmental Education Liaison, Center for Environmental Education, Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University

Facilitated partnership between the Nicholas School of the Environment and two public elementary schools. Coordinated interaction between graduate student

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volunteers and public school. Developed and taught weekly lessons on rainforests to second grade students. 1997-1998

Fulbright Scholar, Costa Rica

Investigated the role of agroforestry and ecotourism in the conservation of avian habitat in the Cerro de la Muerte region of Costa Rica. 1995-1996

Research Assistant, Dr. Charles Brown, Ogalala, NE

Assisted with long-term study on the ecology and behavior of cliff swallows. Netted and banded swallows. Recorded birds' weight, sex, and band number. Summer 1995

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Organizations

The Forum of Women in the Environmental Field, Board Member. 2002-2004

City of Ramsey Environmental Policy Board, Member. 2002-2003

Unified Forests Defense Campaign, National Steering Committee. 2004-2005

Minnesota Clean Water Council, Governor-Appointed Member. 2007-2010

Friends of the Mississippi River, Board Member. 2009-2011

Land Trust Alliance, Member and Rally Faculty. 2009-2012

Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative, Executive Board Member. 2017-2018

Bassinators Junior Fishing Club, Volunteer Social Media Coordinator. 2018

Selected Presentations

Developing a Conservation Easement Program: Customized workshop and trainings given at multiple venues including Stearns County, Scott County, City of Scandia.

Introduction to Conservation Easements: Presented at multiple venues including Living in the Avon Hills Conference and various landowner gatherings.

Conservation Easement Monitoring: Workshop presented at Land Trust Alliance Rally, Portland, 2009.

Management and Stewardship on Protected Lands: Workshop for the Conservation Coalition of Northeast Mexico, San Diego, 2010.

Conservation Easement Stewardship Funds: Seminar presented at Land Trust Alliance Rally, Hartford, 2010 and Milwaukee, 2011.

Planning and Implementing Conservation at the Watershed Scale: Workshop presented at Land Trust Alliance Rally, Milwaukee, 2011.

Fostering Diversity: Plenary Session moderator for keynote speaker Dr. Carolyn Finney at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Virtual, 2021.

Connecting People to the Outdoors: Keynote presentation at the American Planning Association Minnesota Chapter Conference, Duluth, 2022.

Opening of the Congress: Welcome to Minnesota presented at the Women's Forest Congress, Minneapolis, 2022.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Proficient with both Mac and PC systems, Microsoft Office (Excel, Word, Publisher, PowerPoint, etc.), internet and e-mail. Proficient in Spanish. Experienced in presentations to community groups, legislative bodies, and professional gatherings.

REFERENCES

Available upon request.

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