

I am in favor of HB2695 regarding changes to the OSMB board.

While personally I'd like to see one State Agency responsible for all aspects of waterways management, from pollution to tree cutting, to habitat, I do think this bill is a step in the right direction.

I find it unimaginable that there are currently no expertise requirements for anyone sitting on the Board. These are people who are making important decisions on all waterways in the State and yet they seem to have no knowledge regarding anything to do with waterway management or the conditions affecting these water bodies. It's rare to even find one who has been out to, or on, the water bodies they are making decisions about.

I would actually like to see more than one member with environmental and habitat expertise as well as hydrology or other water related expertise. But again at least this bill is a step in the right direction.

Adding members from other Agencies is a good idea. This will force at least some coordination among the myriad of State Agencies responsible for various aspects of the rivers and lakes.

Leslie Harris