

**Burnsville 25 by 25 Water Quality Town Hall:
Table discussion input**

Question 1: What goals could be established to improve water quality by 25 percent in the Twin Cities metro area?

| |
|---|
| Celebrate non-lawn lawns! |
| Establish green infrastructure design requirements in every new subdivision. |
| Use smart de-icing procedures at commercial properties and on roads |
| Our lake is too dirty to swim in |
| Remember to address water quantity & water quality |
| Reduce soil erosion from our lakes that goes into our rivers |
| Look for better technology & innovation for precision Ag to reduce water quality impacts |
| Manage runoff during development and redevelopment |
| Keep working with farmers to reduce runoff. Convince them and compensate them. |
| Less than 100 lbs of carp per acre of water. |
| Regulate and discourage drain tiling of agricultural fields to streams and rivers |
| Look to increase water infiltration opportunities. |
| On our lake we can't do anything w/in 150 ft of shore and no one compensated us. Why is 30 ft so hard for farmers? |
| Reduce runoff |
| Reduce chemical use |
| Enforce the laws that are already in place- buffers, chemical use, etc. |
| Encourage Organic fertilizer usage |
| End animal agriculture which is the most destructive force on water |
| It all boils down to education. Educate the farmers and ag industry. |
| Stop the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, improve buffers on farmlands, tougher mining laws in northern Minnesota, protecting the BWCA. |

| |
|--|
| Recognize that water quality challenge is a social dilemma. This recognition will be more effective than current methods. We need a new water social norm. |
| Need to reduce chloride use--set standards. |
| Encourage landowners to engage in best practices to decrease sediment and nutrient runoff and encourage infiltration |
| Use drones and GPS to more accurately use pesticides and fertilizers. |
| Stop the use of road salt |
| Need to get better information on agricultural pollution--has it improved? Promote best practices. |
| Fund research at the UM and fewer subsidies |
| Address excess water demand on aquifers through a combination of regulations and incentives at the state level |
| Increase cover crop usage |
| Our current practices to clean water are short lived & expensive. Maybe smarter to work on social change like education, Mgmt practices, etc. |
| Reduce private and commercial use of fertilizers and pesticides. |
| Empower citizens to make change today with attainable means to make a difference. Provide Quick, attainable, how-to guidance to help make a difference. |
| Monitoring aquatic invasive species and animal invasive and plant invasive species. |
| Drugs in water - pharmaceutical. It is difficult to dispose of old medications. Why aren't pharmacies and drug companies being held accountable? |

| |
|---|
| Incorporate storm water treatment in new builds and generate funds for retrofitting current stormwater catchment and treatment. |
| Prioritize and increase municipal street sweeping to decrease salt, sediment, leaves, clippings and other runoff into sewers. |
| Improve public and private salt application |
| Regional and watershed based planning and structure |
| Improve water quality swimming and recreational standards. Educate people with signage of lakes that don't meet water quality standards so they know before they jump in. |
| Education is KEY! Road/residential salt application, raingardens, etc. |
| Increase water conservation efforts |
| Halt usage of synthetic fertilizers, improve buffers on farmland, tougher mining laws in northern MN, protecting the BWCA. |
| Educate about rain gardens, natural fertilizer, water collection, and success stories. |
| Increase vegetative cover. |
| Increase public education on water quality topics |
| Develop programs that build permaculture on ag land |
| All the local government staff need to go out and work with farmers and homeowners: not tell them what to do. |
| Early and continuing education on water quality and conservation with funding to implement |
| Stop using so much road salt and use sand as an alternative. |
| Stop monoculture. Grow organic. |
| Environmental education campaign to create a clean water ethic |
| Look at impact of erosion and whether some alternative methods can be used to reduced (eg, rip rap) |
| Reviewing and assessing individual septic systems and wells for noncompliance |

| |
|--|
| Establish more infiltration areas: onsite infiltration basins, raingardens, buffers, pervious pavers, etc. |
| Use market-based techniques for water conservation not just incentive or education based |
| Increase local government authority to address local water issues |
| Increase individual homeowner awareness and buy in on pollution reduction practices. |
| City and community retrofit projects incorporate multi benefit retrofits (i.e. Water quality, quantity, reuse, etc) |
| Best Practices Certification for salt use in all jurisdictions MNDOT lead Smart water conservation in developments w buffers and rain gardens Treat bodies of water for phosphorus with alum |
| 1) improvements to education, especially hands on 2) put more resources into environmental protection 3) require agriculture to be more transparent and accountable for their activities that affect water |
| Maintain dredging on stormwater ponds |
| Increase infiltration areas and porous surfaces |
| Planning proactively for future increased rain events. |
| Watershed level planning & solutions |
| Make people aware of wasted water in automatic sprinkler systems. |
| Encourage individuals to build rain gardens. |
| Increase level of education targeting change in lawn practices to move away from the ideal of the "perfect" turf grass lawn. |
| Establish more natural shorelines |
| Increase storm water drainage areas for on site treatment |
| Reduce impacts from residential landscapes by Community audits and incentives for residential landscaping options that improve quality of water runoff. Example Raingardens. |

| |
|---|
| 1. Create incentives (tax credit, etc.) for those who demonstrate water quality 2. Market clean water to public 3. Use some of the clean water funding for I/I improvements (share cost w homeowners) |
| Reduce new fertilizer or nutrients being applied to the land. |
| Work towards long term social change through education and strategic regulation. |
| Changing municipal development practices to incentivize water quality protection |
| Encourage water education at all levels |
| The governor should take water sustainability as seriously as quality. He should direct the DNR to drop their misguided and wasteful appeal of the White Bear Lake judgment, & manage sustainably. |
| Enforce maintenance and accounting for funds for management of stormwater ponds |
| 1) Assistance to farming qualities via incentives for cover crops. |
| Increase the use of alternatives to road salts. |
| Interpreting and generating biological end points to relate real and perceived risks of various contaminants in our water resources |
| Enhance built infrastructure to minimize road salt usage. |
| Create a comprehensive policy for water to be considered as part of all policy discussions. |
| Improve information on the impact of one person's property. |
| Provide governmental structures that foster dialogues stretching from individual landowners to small watersheds to Lake watersheds to river basins, and that translate talk to targeted \$\$\$ to regs! |

| |
|--|
| Rain gardens |
| Fertilizer |
| Education |
| Require ice houses and boats to carry portable toilets so waste doesn't go in the lake |
| EDUCATION! |
| Reduce liability for entities that are trying to do the right thing. |
| Create markets to help change agriculture practices |
| Set goals across industries to illustrate that it is a shared problem. |
| Keep storm water on the land where it falls. |
| Fund University of MN to find an alternative to road salt. (Link research funding to addressing specific goals) |
| Inspire young farmers with more water quality friendly practices, create markets for crops that are grown on conservation oriented farms |
| Engaging youth and underserved communities in environmental stewardship through increased access to public land |
| More funding for education efforts for conservation, redefining a beautiful lawn, etc |
| More effective ways to get money for urban and rural bmps |
| Get over distaste for regulating agri business |
| Focus on prevention as much as clean up |
| Increase wellhead protection policies |
| Increase quantifiable and accountable outcome targets |
| Link agency performance to water quality goals |

Question 2: What actions are needed to get to these goals for the Twin Cities metro Area?

| |
|---|
| Governor needs to oppose tar sands and protect the headwaters of our state |
| Don't water lawns when it's raining. |
| Funding is needed for water action. |
| Increase natural shoreline and not use boulders. |
| Education of landowners is needed. Especially farming. |
| Increase alfalfa, maize, and other perennial crops. |
| Landowners need to want to make changes for clean water. |
| Farmers are feeling imposed upon not helped. We need to help them make choices. |
| Increase production of cellulosic ethanol. |
| Suburban lawn management practices need to change. Perhaps tax credits would be a smart way to create behavior change. |
| Whole watershed planning |
| Reduce tiling and leave water on the land |
| Increase signage at impaired waters so people are educated before the jump in or eat fish from a water that doesn't meet swimming or recreational standards. Similar to the forest fire risk signs. |
| Empower the average person about what they can do. Make it simple and easy. Baby steps. |
| Elect educated officials who care about life. Like Mark Dayton |
| Incentives through local SWCDs |
| Make a rain garden at City Hall's |
| Block captain to deliver info to their neighborhood |
| Focus on significantly increasing adoption of already proven water quality improvement practices. |
| Create a stronger communication plan/campaign for success stories, challenges and new social norms for water quality. |

| |
|---|
| Focus on PREVENTING water pollution instead of focusing on treating already impaired lakes. |
| More regulation of urban sprinklers |
| Regulate urban use of fertilizers |
| Eliminate broadcast fertilizers |
| Education geared towards specific audiences, education programming across specialities to foster discussion |
| Money for education |
| Water curriculum in the schools |
| Invest in infrastructure and socialize the cost. |
| Improving salting- both public and private applicators |
| Communication |
| Incentives for water conservation |
| Home yard tours focused on water steward projects. Similar to garden tours or Home tours. |
| Block grants for watershed so they aren't competing for the same money |
| Tiered payments for water bills-to decrease water use |
| Increase education |
| Change the CRP program to allow more management of those lands |
| Financial assistance to aid in implementing conservation programs |
| Reduce liability for entities that are trying to do the right thing. |
| Funding for water resource education for youth, including electronic based learning |
| Support education both K-12 and community for culture change. |
| Look to the mn nutrient reduction strategy for solutions |
| Highlight cool new innovative approaches people in the community are doing |
| 1. Media campaign 2. Go to city council meetings 3. Do your own part (rain gardens, minimize fertilizer use, rain barrels, etc.) |
| Educate people not to use lakes as bathrooms |

| |
|---|
| Education so people understand the effects of their actions |
| Different concept of a "beautiful" yard |
| Teach lakeshore wonders that they shouldn't have green lawn up to the lake |
| Statewide Campaign for water quality that will make people aware of consequences of individual actions and create the belief that they can make a difference. |
| Increased street sweeping; increased storm drain education and community engagement |
| Keep actions accountable and a fit for goals |
| Sustainable design and ongoing maintenance with reliable funding sources aimed at water quality |
| Provide targeted, prioritized and measurable incentives for best practices for drinking water and surface water |
| Run the water through a filtration system whether that be natural or not |
| Engage youth and underserved communities in environmental stewardship through increased access to public lands |
| Less PLANNING more DOING. Allow funding for innovation where people can try and fail and make improvements and modifications more quickly to new water quality practices. |

| |
|--|
| Determine real vs perceived risk. |
| Encourage better promotion of best practices used on residential property to neighbors and other communities. |
| 1. Watershed regional planning with city county's help 2. Educating the public 3. Zoning, regulations can make things happen 4. Water quality training for farmers, new businesses, home, homebuilders |
| Incentives for salt and fertilizer application and management |
| Increased community buy-in and incentives for neighborhood level stormwater reduction practices |
| More dollars |
| Engage the schools and get to the children! |
| Plant lawns w different type of grass / more natural vegetation |
| State money needs to be more sustainable to local government to maintain water quality programs. |
| Hold water on the land |
| No mining anywhere near the BWCAW |
| Provide more opportunities to share water quality best practices among a greater cross-section of the community. Including those who may not be traditionally be brought to the table. |
| Think of solutions as a glide path to landing on our goals |

Question 3: What specific next steps are needed to move the actions forward now?

| |
|---|
| Elect female officials with water quality oriented goals |
| As campaigns to reduce salt use in the winter. |
| Require that every dollar spent from the Legacy water fund contribute to our understanding of a new sustainable way to do business without forever creating water problems. |
| Education |
| Taxes and legislation |
| Sign the impaired water if they are not fit for swimming. |
| Zoning ordinances |
| A comprehensive communication plan about water quality is needed |
| Provide finding for the Minnesota River basin center. |
| Increase awareness of how bad the water quality is. |
| Putting stats on water bill to show homeowner how their water use compares to city or neighborhood or comparable home average. |
| Understand why people don't perceive that there is a water quality problem. |
| Change laws or educate on laws that reduce liability if you do the right thing. |
| Changing cultural standard of what's acceptable for green lawns, etc. |
| Sit down w/ chemical companies and show them how they are overspraying |
| Fund more upland storage projects in the Minnesota River basin. Similar to those that have been done in the Red River. |
| Start training at the local level -- sharing of best practices |
| Create incentives for more sustainable lawns |
| Start young on instilling a water protection ethic. |
| Change people's attitudes |
| Spread the word |
| Education to switch landscape norms from high irrigation to low irrigation |

| |
|--|
| Counter the cultural idea of green lawns |
| Take action yourself...even small, individual things will have an impact |
| Incentives and market for water friendly crops |
| Start the change with the next generation. |
| Educate the educators, tailor the message to get people's attention |
| Target market specific problem areas/watersheds/communities for education efforts--""flash mob" for water conservation and quality education |
| Multi-stakeholder conversations to promote water quality and conservation |
| More low maintenance development in neighborhoods. |
| Give incentives to the watersheds to distribute. |
| Celebrate people/organizations who are leaders and are doing things well. |
| Create a day without clean water initiative. |
| Share "sustainability man" videos broadly--on Burnsville YouTube channel |
| Create a salt certification program for applicators. |
| Need to fund maintenance of best management practices to ensure they continue to function |
| Limit absentee farming. People should live where they farm. |
| Storm Water BMP maintenance |
| Communicate |
| Legislative action to provide research funding on road salt alternatives / best practices |
| Fund research at university |
| Impaired/not impaired signs at public accesses for lakes and rivers |
| Certification program for private salt applicators |
| Be bold and courageous and try new things. |

| |
|--|
| Simplify water oversight for the state. Make it centralized. Find a way to consolidate efforts among various agencies. |
| Reach out to neighboring states to share best practices--good laws that promote water quality |
| We need to better value water and not take it for granted |
| Work with your neighbors |
| Perennial cover crops on ag land |
| Better use of public land to manage water quality. Not just storage but also improve quality. |
| Identify ways to inspire & educate citizens to take action in their own communities, starting with kids in primary grades. |
| Limited liability for private salt applicators |
| Have pharmaceutical drop off sites at pharmacies and include a flyer with med drop off info |
| 1. Community engagement. Get people excited by communicating more through newsletters, social media, use famous people to promote message. |
| Sponsor community events, like buckthorn removal, native plantings etc. In neighborhoods. |
| Funding the salt certification program |
| Change law that keeps pharmacies from collecting old medications |
| Bathrooms on boats and ice houses |
| Fund agricultural best management practices and monitoring/ research. MS4's already very regulated. |
| Have cities do water softening and use lime instead salt |

| |
|---|
| Long-range comprehensive city plans must include water quality on our personal properties, business properties and public lands. |
| Natural Resource Agencies that protect water should work together against monied interests. For example Enbridge and other monied that don't care about our water |
| Support legislators who support innovative and fundamental environmental protection. |
| Increase funding to University of Minnesota to find creative solutions for land drainage to reduce tiling |
| Have honest conversations. Communicate real versus perceived risks...not all problems are equally bad. Communicate successes as well as opportunities. People get tired of always hearing bad news. |
| Education. Public Advertising for Water. |
| Increase focus on water reuse and conservation not just quality |
| Identify water quality sound bites that's can be repeatedly brought to the public to increase awareness |
| Consolidation of water quality regulations among different bodies of government |
| Create tiered water bill structure to incentive water conservation |
| Block Captains who pass out info on best practices |
| Make sure there are strategic links between actions and desired outcomes. |

