

**West Central Minnesota 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 West Central Minnesota?

Nitrate reductions
Reduce phosphorus levels in lakes by 25%
Less runoff. Wildflower. Buffer for lake people. Turf grass but prefer natives.
encourage cities to educate citizens about the overuse of lawn fertilizer
Improve science & technology education and research
Enforce the shoreland wetland protection for ALL shoreland wetlands. These shoreland wetlands are VITAL in the preservation of our lakes which feed the aquifers for drinking water.
Increase our understanding about starry stonewort ways to eliminate it by 25%
Chloride use.
Sustain progress
Monitor or restrict fertilizing. Particularly fertilizer containing phosphorus.
The ultimate goal should be to eliminate starry stonewort.
Don't stock pile chemicals that should no longer be used.
Address Stream bank erosion by implementing bmp's
Preserve rural land by higher or redevelopment of infrastructure.
Improve agriculture tech for chemical application.
Co-op have to be on board with water quality goals.
Establish regional inspection stations for AIS
Provide resources to help municipalities follow St Clouds example in using wastewater systems as resource collection and processing systems
Co-ops and money driving everything is a problem.

Mandate septic system replacement of needed.
Inspect all boats coming into the state for AIS
Provide incentives to grow native plant gardens
Slow and hold water
we need to increase the partnerships within academia and government agencies
Accelerate soil health on production land (tillage, cover crops) using technology
Improve soil health conditions
Reduce P in the high runoff events - hold the soil
Shared responsibility with farmer and urban. Identify weak areas look for partnerships to help solve problems.
80% of Farmer will comply but the others will still just do whatever they want.
Mandate water buffers on all water ways.
Increase public awareness on what happens to waste.manmade waste needs to be rethought.
Farmers must plant more cover crops
Farmers are finally seeing value in cover crops. Soil health is everything!
Establish rain gardens
We need to reduce the amount of Road salt used in the state. Salt can not be removed from water
giving up productive farm land is like another tax---it is costing the farmer the end user-- should help pay. (cities and consumers should pay the farmer)
Educate residents on the value of holding their rainwater on their property for 24 hours or more.
Reduce P use
Make people aware that not all there waste is treated before it enters a water sources.

Increase outreach and education about arsenic in private wells
1. Addressing water runoff from agricultural fields and urban parking lots. 2. Smart irrigation systems. 3. Protecting rivers lakes and streams with more buffers.
Mandate membership for lake association
The older generation don't want to change and the younger generation don't have control. Tile is a good example of that. Government use to subsidized tile.
Recognize and make the public aware that a large percentage of the food grown nation wide is wasted. Individuals need to be good stewards just like farmers are good stewards.
Street sweepers, infiltration ponds and buffer strips
Buffer zone along lake shore. Do not mow to shore line!!
Improve soil health through incentives for continuous cover and livestock integration
Testing water and education in general people.
Raise public awareness
Increase the number of farms that are Ag water Quality Certified
Incentives for land owners to do conservation
Look at limiting access to bodies of water
Create watershed level goals and align political resources.
We agree the Twins will win the penitent
25% less salt on roads in winter
Reduce run off
Restore the list wetlands of our State.
Establishing baseline measurement for monitoring
Naturalize shorelines
Wetland creation and restoration funding increase
Reduce road salt use, increase or research road salt alternatives

Departments in the state should simplify goals. Like DNR "protect natural resources" and everything they do is tested against that goal. Goals or mission should not compete.
Regulations of chemicals running off in water sheds
Financial incentives for buffering along waterways and rain gardens in cities
50% increase in MDA certified farms MAWQCP
Explore drainage management and flexibility with regard to regulation
Change in farming practices to reduce nutrient loading.
Education of all Mn citizens on the use of chemicals in all households.Statewide campaign to reduce the use of chemicals.
Increase acreage in no-till
Every farm needs to have a manure management plan.
Property tax reductions on land enrolled in conservation easements
Educate people on the importance of advancing detection and removal technology in the water and waste water industry.
Reduce runoff and have mandatory requirements regulations and control to prevent nitrogen losses from fields
Educate public about microbiology of soils...
Have more CCA's within SWCD's
Corporate farm. Cheap food. Farm bill. There should be subsidized organic food. Make it more profitable for organic.
Shared responsibility, shared goals. Dollar flexibility. Greater cooperation rural and urban.
Eliminate internal nutrient loading in lakes What goes into storm drains like road salt Better quality drinking water Educa about personal responsibility
25% less nutrients from storm drain runoffs

Step away from standard thinking. Don't do the same thing over and over and expect different results.
Increase wetland restoration and banking options
Increase education for urban residents. Urban water quality certification program from front yard to back yard
Use transparency to hold individual farmers and land owners accountable for their management decisions that impact water quality and environmental outcomes.
no till seeders need to be available so that farmers can seed grasses to slow run off
People should think about how their lifestyle can impact others.
Deep-rooted plants rather than manicured lawns
More general awareness and education. Regulations on lawn fertilizer companies-residential. Non-fertilizer buffers on all around all bodies of water.
Enforcement of buffers on private as well as public waters. Improve conservation practices by a measurable significant amount. Increase perennial crops by significant measurable amounts.
Develop need long-range planning for public utilities with long-range funding, . Water Utility consortium that is regional and state-wide to develop best practices.
Pre-solution on roads and other options to reduce road salt
Corporate best practices, education and marketing
Information sharing

Work with ag landowners for fair regulations and economic incentives for conservation practices.
- More engagement w/various publics (home owners, cabin owners, farmers, etc.) - Unified planning for watersheds, using process that involves all stakeholders - Reduce number of problem septic systems
Microplastics/fiber/CFL
Buffer Zones and Run off
Greater education. Expand awqcp to include urban residents and industrial
Remove micro-plastic and plastic
Handle storm water better taking into account mega rainfall
Buffer zones
Apply pre-solution for road salt before snow storms.
More awareness and education on management practices concerning different sources of water Issues Homeowner education on what actually makes a good lawn example don't take the clippings off.
Education and knowledge with easy access to information.
Better collaboration (agencies,landowners,homeowners) single source for information. Financial incentives for water quality improvements. Education!!
Storm water management regular and Mega rainfalls
Work to decrease use of personal vehicle and increase use of walking, bicycles, transit.
Cut down on impermeable surfaces (roadways, parking, roofs) allowing water to seap into aquafers and groundwater,
Better farming practices regarding setbacks and fertilizer, nitrates...

Question 2: What actions are needed to get to these goals for West Central Minnesota?

Create a coalition of Mayors who are dedicated to promoting sustainable land use so that there is a local voice to educate residents
Reclaim shallow tile / high nitrate water from tiling and use it to irrigate.
License/fee to educate law fertilizer application
Educate and require and incentive to have lakeshore lawn to natural vegetation buffer.
Educate the public on their impact on water quality from their water use in their homes.
Change in behavior related to land management
Education of school age children
Public investment in research on alternative perennial crops like kernza
Contact your city leaders to initiate conservation procedures and mitigate erosion practices.
Regulate lawn fertilizer treatment practices
Waste water treatment improvement and additional waste water facilities for rural areas
Water improvement capital project programs available to residents.
More sediment basins on landscape both farm fields and urban rain gardens
Promote organic farming. Provide incentives.
Educate the public, especially the younger generation on the importance of water quality.
Tile drainage needs to be regulated!!!!!!
Harvest bad algae from lakes and use it for energy
Stop subsidized crops
Stable funding to support continuous cover
Regulate residential lawn fertilizers and watering (overuse)
Have tax deductions on farms that have ag cerninty certification
Increase funding for AIS
Increase organic farming and allow urban residents to grow their own food (ie chickens)

Education education education. It takes time.
The DNR has too many topics to oversee. There should be ONE group to oversee water quality that only focuses on water quality and can NOT pass the buck for the good ole boys!
have programs available that provide incentives to do the correct thing
Grants, low interest loans, research and public outreach.
Mark funding these actions a priority.
Grants for implementation
Support of Governor and State Legislature. More flexibility in sharing funds. Clear, statewide enforcement of standards acknowledging the need to be flexible depending on local issues.
Give it time. If the levels are dropping and going the right direction give it time.
Drinking water source water protection
More certified farms
Establishment of baselines for current water quality. Education on how to protect our resources.
More grants and funding for cities and producers
Drinking water quality public outreach
More source water protection grants
No additional pipelines that could contaminate aquifers and other surface waters
1. Reconsider the Clean Water Act exemption for non-point source agriculture for highly impaired Watersheds. 2. Check septic systems on a semi regular basis.
Water certification for residential properties like ag water cert
Better cooperation among government agencies; more targeted incentives
Provide incentives for Water Quality Certified farms
More technical assistance for protecting city wells
Work with farmers, educate them
More storage areas for runoff to prevent sediment build-up in rivers and lakes.

Know where politicians stand on environmental laws and protection
Education and science starting education with little children
all water fronts must have a buffer
Safer pipeline technology - pipe within a pipeline.
Leadership changes
Education for residents and ag community regarding Best Management Practices for water quality
More support from leadership.
3. Provide incentives for feedlot for animals out of waterways. Most in need for fencing and provide funding to keep animals out of waterways.
Regional inspections of boats and inspection of every boat coming into the state to eradicate stary stonewort
Pounding and holding areas. Perhaps change ditch law.
Must form partnerships between rural and urban folks, Dems and Repubs, for WQ
Strong encouragement of buffers on lakeshore.
More dollars and staff (MDH & MRWA) to concentrate on implementation of drinking water protection plans.
Increase education. Increase understanding of problems.
Certify more farmers for better water quality
Too much bureaucracy without a real understanding of the problem. Then do the right thing regardless of the loudest voice.

Change the mindset and social aspects. Change attitudes
identify point source problems and deal with them
Incentivize and increase research and education in environmental science and technology
Provide grant funding to support the proposed Little Rock Lake Drawdown project
Give grants to Cities to improve waste treatment plants to remove micro-plastics and fibers. Legislate away the micro beads.
Develop and implement an effective drinking water protection public education campaign.
1. Promote equitable public outreach and education. 2. Investigate establishing County-wide minimum standards for septic systems. 3. Incorporate requirements for new parking lots to not run-off.
have more quantifiable data from farming to become more clean
Legislative action to remove phosphorus from lawn fertilizer
Education through major news networks on a regular basis, like once a week highlighting actions individuals can do to improve water quality.
Quit filling in wetlands!
Put the focus of waterway buffer zones onto the areas of concentrated drainage, not the entire land line.

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

In municipalities/ create more storm water holding ponds/ for recharge.
Identify successful programs and projects and help others replicate.
Allow for innovative projects to become the next best management practice.
The MPCA adds more restrictions to our leachate project. We are the 1st in the State to treat leachate. Agencies need to be more of a partner.
Public advertising of individuals impact on water and wastefulness.
Raise public awareness of the issues impacting local drinking water quality.
Help with finding and writing grant applications. More resources.
Develop local water quality workgroups, with adequate funding, to bring together all of the players to focus on local issues.
Environmental certification program for residents.
money is needed no matter what you decide to do --- it will take money
Educational promotions throughout the State through the media that identify a problem and show a variety of successes. Local faces help influence others.
Implement shoreline and urban water quality certification like MAWQCP
Stable funding for staffing, programs and incentives.
5 year inspections for all septic systems to make sure they are up to code.
Education, awareness and incentives for participation.
Increase funding for education for urban, rural, and ag lanowners
1. Demonstration gardens and demos of design of parking lots with less runoff. 2. Educate & emphasize reading fertilizer and chem. App. Instructions. 3. Emphasize more pollinator and rain gardens.

Base-line test on all water that is in lakes and for drinking water.
Boat inspections on all lakes for inspecting for invasive species.
bring the tribes back to the table, change some of the gambling laws and bring some of the money to cover state's expenses.
Treat phosphorus with alum. And it would drop to the bottom of the lake. And can this be paid for by Legacy fund
Increase awareness of problems and solutions through outreach.
Elect reps who will support 25x25.
be able to enforce fines and make rules that to cover the changes that need to be made.
We need a statewide analysis of the best land use statewide for improved water quality. i.e. Solar farms on less productive agricultural land Less tiles.
Establish working agreements between agencies to better enforce current laws and standards and consolidate assistance to the public/cities/etc.
fines need to be paid to the local law enforcement agencies.
Fund significant, unique attempts to impact water quality, i.e. Little Rock Drawdown Do something new and different
ALL attendees here tonight will speak to a friend/neighbor/colleague about 25x25 discussions.
Eliminate phosphates from lawn fertilizers to eliminate runoff to lakes and streams.
Improve soil health to reduce nutrient loading and better management of rain events as a result of climate change.
Peer to peer education on the best methods for water quality...share your story!
Micro fiber removal from waste water at treatment facilities

Increase water quality education in primary schools.
Use Outdoor Heritage funds to support water quality projects.
Change requirements of manure management plans to include all animal farms
Change our attitudes to improve cooperation and solve our environmental issues as a group. There is shared responsibility and shared goals.
Have a program for leaf pick up in all cities so that leaves do not get into storm systems and create phosphates.
Incentivise the use of cover crops and no till farming.
Maintain and increase funding to support the SWCD work
Determine a baseline to measure changes in water quality
Develop best practices on water conservation and then provide education to citizens and school children.
Move towards a requirement to upgrade septic systems that are failing, ALL systems inspected by 2025. Not just properties that are being sold.

Easy access to information. Education and knowledge that starts young.
Ditch testing for phosphorus and water levels and then control. Maybe owned by MNPCA to test.
Incentivize the right actions.
Have water education required in schools. Educate adults.
New ideas should be tried, not feared.
We need to look out long term for improved water quality and future generations . For the good of others not just self.
Legislate to remove micro beads from products. Give Cities grants to upgrade water treatment plant.
Get rid of the state layers of government.
Require buffer zones not just on River and lake edges, but also drainage ditches and Urban areas so storm water doesn't follow directly into the rivers & lakes without going into holding pond first.
Remove water from the aquifer, clean it up and then put it back such as through irrigation.
I am curious how the 25 by 25 will be measured. Published somewhere?