

# Mississippi River Sartell Watershed Policy Committee Meeting Agenda



**Date / Time:** Wednesday, March 11 8:30am - 10:00am

**Location:** Rice Lions Building  
Located by West Side Park at 101 4th Ave NW, Rice, MN

**Invitees:**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Policy Member</b>	<b>Staff</b>
Benton County	Primary: Ed Popp Alternate: Scott Johnson	Roxanne Achman, Luke Edlund
Benton SWCD	Primary: Chuck Rau Alternate: Wade Bastian	Mike McMillin
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Primary: Kelly Applegate Alternate: Susan Klapel	Perry Bunting, Robert Wall
Morrison County	Primary: Randy Winscher Alternate: TBD	Amy Kowalzek
Morrison SWCD	Primary: Scott Saehr Alternate: Dave Hubner	Destiny McDonald
Stearns County	Primary: Joe Perske Alternate: Tarryl Clark	Emily Forbord, Becky Schlorf
Stearns SWCD	Primary: Arlyn Lawrenz Alternate: Tom Gregory	Kyle Weimann, Stephanie Hatzenbihler
BWSR	N/A	Zach Guttormson, Brad Wozney

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# Mississippi River Sartell Watershed Policy Committee Meeting Agenda



Agenda Topic	Action	Time
Call to order	Discussion	8:30 – 8:33am
1. Introductions: Name, Title, Organization		3 minutes
2. Approve Policy Committee Meeting Minutes from 1.14.2026	Decision	8:33 – 8:35am 2 minutes
3. Public Comment Period (limit 3 minutes per person, up to 5 persons)	As Needed	8:35 – 8:50am 15 minutes
4. Fiscal Agent Report on Planning Grant	Information	8:50 – 8:55am 5 minutes
5. Recent Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Summaries	Information	8:55 – 9:00am 5 minutes
6. Community Advisory Committee Update	Information	9:00 – 9:05am 5 minutes
7. Landscape Stewardship Plan Process Update	Information	9:05 – 9:10am 5 minutes
8. Plan Section 3: Watershed Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommended for approval as working draft of plan</li> </ul>	Decision	9:10 – 9:15am 5 minutes
9. Measurable Goals, Implementation Programs, Action Table Format	Information	9:15 - 9:25am 10 minutes
10. Discuss Formal Agreement Structures	Discussion	9:25 – 9:30am 5 minutes
11. Little Rock Lake Drawdown Project Report	Information	9:30 - 10:00am 30 minutes
Adjourn		10:00am

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# Mississippi River Sartell Watershed Policy Committee Meeting Minutes



**Date/Time:** Wednesday January 14, 8:30 am – 10:00 am

**Location:** Rice Lions Building – 101 NW 1<sup>st</sup> St. Rice MN 56379

**Voting members present:** Chuck Rau (Benton SWCD), Ed Popp (Benton County), Arlyn Lawrenz (Stearns SWCD), Joe Perske (Stearns County), Scott Saehr (Morrison SWCD), Randy Winscher (Morrison County).

**Voting members absent:** Kelly Applegate (MLBO),

**Staff/Public present:** Stephanie Hatzenbihler (Stearns SCD), Mike McMillin (Benton SWCD), Destiny McDonald (Morrison SWCD), Zach Guttormson (BWSR), Robert Wall (Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe), Rachel Olm (HEI), Duane Kroll (Ag), Randy Klaphake (Ag)

**Minute taker:** Mike McMillin – Benton SWCD

- **Call to order:**
  - Popp called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. Introductions were made.
- **Approve Policy Committee Meeting minutes from 10/8/25:**
  - Rau moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Lawrenz, motion carried.
- **Public Comment Period:**
  - Kroll mentioned that he had some comments on Plan Section 3: Watershed opportunities that he will address in that section of the agenda.
- **2026 Meeting Calendar and Election of Officers:**
  - 2026 Officers - Rau moved to keep 2026 officers the same as 2025 – Chair – Ed Popp, Vice Chair – Joe Perske, Secretary – Arlyn Lawrenz, Second by Lawrenz, motion carried.
  - Meeting Dates – Discussion on current site and proposed meeting dates. General consensus is that the location will work, November meeting date is moved 1 week earlier to account for Veterans Day and December meeting date will conflict with the MCIT conference. The Steering

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# Mississippi River Sartell Watershed Policy Committee Meeting Minutes



Committee will aim to provide one month notice of meeting cancellation for Policy Committee Meetings when possible. Motion by Saehr to accept proposed meeting dates as presented, seconded by Winscher, motion carried.

- **Fiscal Agent Report on Planning Grant:**
  - McDonald stated that \$73,324.92 has been spent so far and \$187,375.08 remains. LSP will be starting soon and there are no concerns with funding for that.
- **Recent Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Summaries:**
  - Olm gave updates on the November 12<sup>th</sup> and December 10<sup>th</sup> TAC meetings.
- **Community Advisory Committee Update:**
  - Hatzenbichler gave an update on the first Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings in November. CAC comments are included in the board packet. The next meeting is planned for January 28, 2026.
- **Plan Section 2: Land and Water Resource Narrative:**
  - Olm updated PC on changes to the section since that last draft was presented to the PC.
    - Discussion on the value of older/incomplete data and what should be included.
    - Discussion on what the Counties and SWCD's have been doing already with Buffer's, SSTS and improvements to water quality over the years.
    - Discussion on Trout Stream Designations.
    - Saehr would like some separation in the Urban Areas and Towns to separate out the Rural Areas and SSTS.
  - Motion by Winscher to accept the section as a working document, Second by Saehr. Rau commented that this will continue to evolve as a working document. Motion carried.
- **Plan Section 3: Watershed Opportunities:**
  - Olm updated the PC on changes to the section since the last draft was presented to the PC.
    - Kroll commented that what is presented is not what was approved by the TAC. The current location of Environmental

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## Mississippi River Sartell Watershed Policy Committee Meeting Minutes



Justice under the Planning Lens section of the plan is putting it on the same priority level as the Mississippi and not as a statement.

- Discussion followed on what Environmental Justice is, locations in the watershed and how the Environmental Justice statement in the plan can possibly affect future non-WBIF funding.
- Olm recommended moving the Environmental Justice statement to another section of the plan, “Other Considerations”
- Consensus of the Policy Committee was to send Plan Section 3: Watershed Opportunities back to the TAC to move the Environmental Justice summary to the plan subsection “Other Considerations.”
- **Measurable Goals:**
  - Olm introduced the measurable goals framework
  - Motion by Perske to approve the measurable goal framework, second by Lawrenz, motion carried.
- **Introduction to Formal Agreement Structures:**
  - Guttormson (BWSR) presented Formal Agreement Structures and the requirement to have one in place to access funding in the future during CWMP implementation.
  - A brief overview of Joint Powers Collaborative vs. Joint Powers Entity
  - Consensus of the Policy Committee was to have representatives liaison with their respective boards and discuss preferences to share with the group.
- **2019 Little Rock Lake Drawdown:**
  - Perske questioned if drawn results are available and the opportunity to use the results in future planning. Rau commented that additional information is available and a future presentation could be possible.

Popp adjourned the meeting at 10:10 am.

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## Mississippi River Sartell One Watershed, One Plan Partnership GRANT BUDGET and TRACKING

This document is an attachment to the 1W1P grant work plan and will be put into e Budget update 1/29/26 JLK

		LEAD	ESTIMATED COST			Total Expenses for entire grant	Total Avail
Plan Development Costs		Consultant Contract Budget	Consultants	Collaborative	Total		
<b>Pre-Planning</b>							
Kickoff Event		Faciltator	\$ 3,000.00		\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00
<b>Planning</b>							
Landscape Stewardship Plan		LSP Consultants	\$ 13,000.00		\$ 13,000	\$ -	\$ 13,000.00
Aggregate watershed information		Plan Writer	\$ 9,617.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000	\$ 9,617.00	\$ (1,617.00)
Write the land and water resources narrative		Plan Writer	\$ 7,480.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,480.00	\$ (480.00)
Identify and prioritize resources and issues		Facilitator, Plan Writer	\$ 12,768.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000	\$ 12,768.00	\$ 5,232.00
Establish measurable goals		Facilitator, Plan Writer	\$ 19,548.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000	\$ 17,785.00	\$ (2,785.00)
Develop a targeted implementation schedule		Facilitator, Plan Writer	\$ 23,250.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000	\$ -	\$ 35,000.00
Describe implementation programs		Facilitator, Plan Writer	\$ 2,992.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ 8,000.00
Determine plan administration and coordination		Policy Committee	\$ 2,304.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Write draft plan for review		Plan Writer	\$ 16,995.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000	\$ 850.00	\$ 24,150.00
<b>Plan Review and Submission</b>							
Conduct formal review			\$ 4,104.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00
Write final plan and submit to BWSR			\$ 5,406.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ -	\$ 6,000.00
<b>Other Costs</b>							
Consultant participation at committee meetings		Plan Writer	\$ 53,150.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000	\$ 28,701.00	\$ 6,299.00
Expenses: printing, travel				\$ 11,000.00	\$ 11,000	\$ -	\$ 11,000.00
<b>SUBTOTAL: Plan Development</b>			<b>\$ 157,614</b>	<b>\$ 200,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 200,000</b>	<b>\$ 77,201.00</b>
<b>Administration Costs</b>							
	<b>LGU Lead</b>	<b>Hourly Rate</b>	<b>Hours</b>			<b>Total</b>	
Fiscal Coordination	Morrison SWCD		14.5			\$ 5,000	\$ 1,880.02
Grant Reporting (Elink)	Stearns SWCD					\$ 500	\$ -
Grant Reporting (Elink)	Morrison SWCD					\$ 1,000	\$ -
Note Taking	Benton SWCD		14			\$ 5,000	\$ 929.26
Policy /Advisory Committee Coordination	Stearns SWCD		107.25			\$ 16,000	\$ 8,611.39
Outreach Coordination	Stearns SWCD		13			\$ 2,000	\$ 791.45
Website Development & Maintenance	Morrison SWCD		3.5			\$ 3,500	\$ 687.57
Meeting Expenses (facility, materials, food)						\$ 3,000	\$ 560.48
Publication Expenses (notices, invitations)						\$ 1,000	\$ -
<b>SUBTOTAL: Administration</b>						<b>\$ 37,000</b>	<b>\$ 13,460.17</b>
<b>CONTINGENCY (add 10% to final amount)</b>						<b>\$ 23,700</b>	<b>\$ 23,700.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>\$ 260,700</b>	<b>\$ 90,661.17</b>	<b>\$ 170,038.83</b>
						35%	

## Mississippi River Sartell One Watershed, One Plan Partnership GRANT BUDGET and TRACKING

This document is an attachment to the 1W1P grant work plan and will be put into eLINK.

		LEAD	ESTIMATED COST			Total Expenses for entire grant	Total Avail	
			Consultant Contract Budget	Consultants	Collaborative			Total
<b>Plan Development Costs</b>								
<b>Pre-Planning</b>								
Kickoff Event		Facilitator		\$ 3,000.00		\$ 3,000	\$ 315.61	\$ 2,684.39
<b>Planning</b>								
Landscape Stewardship Plan		LSP Consultants		\$ 13,000.00		\$ 13,000	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Aggregate watershed information		Plan Writer	\$ 9,617.00	\$ 8,000.00		\$ 8,000	\$ 9,617.00	\$ (1,617.00)
Write the land and water resources narrative		Plan Writer	\$ 7,480.00	\$ 7,000.00		\$ 7,000	\$ 7,480.00	\$ (480.00)
Identify and prioritize resources and issues		Facilitator, Plan Writer	\$ 12,768.00	\$ 18,000.00		\$ 18,000	\$ 12,768.00	\$ 5,232.00
Establish measurable goals		Facilitator, Plan Writer	\$ 19,548.00	\$ 15,000.00		\$ 15,000	\$ 17,785.00	\$ (2,785.00)
Develop a targeted implementation schedule		Facilitator, Plan Writer	\$ 23,250.00	\$ 35,000.00		\$ 35,000	\$ -	\$ 35,000.00
Describe implementation programs		Facilitator, Plan Writer	\$ 2,992.00	\$ 8,000.00		\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ 8,000.00
Determine plan administration and coordination		Policy Committee	\$ 2,304.00	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Write draft plan for review		Plan Writer	\$ 16,995.00	\$ 25,000.00		\$ 25,000	\$ 850.00	\$ 24,150.00
<b>Plan Review and Submission</b>								
Conduct formal review			\$ 4,104.00	\$ 15,000.00		\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00
Write final plan and submit to BWSR			\$ 5,406.00	\$ 6,000.00		\$ 6,000	\$ -	\$ 6,000.00
<b>Other Costs</b>								
Consultant participation at committee meetings		Plan Writer	\$ 53,150.00	\$ 35,000.00		\$ 35,000	\$ 28,701.00	\$ 6,299.00
Expenses: printing, travel				\$ 11,000.00		\$ 11,000	\$ -	\$ 11,000.00
<b>SUBTOTAL: Plan Development</b>			<b>\$ 157,614</b>	<b>\$ 200,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 200,000</b>	<b>\$ 80,516.61</b>	<b>\$ 122,799.00</b>
<b>Administration Costs</b>		<b>LGU Lead</b>	<b>Hourly Rate</b>	<b>Hours</b>		<b>Total</b>		
Fiscal Coordination		Morrison SWCD	Varies - see invoi	20.5		\$ 5,000	\$ 2,434.86	\$ 2,565.14
Grant Reporting (Elink)		Stearns SWCD	Varies - see invoices			\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Grant Reporting (Elink)		Morrison SWCD	Varies - see invoices			\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Note Taking		Benton SWCD	Varies - see invoi	29.5		\$ 5,000	\$ 2,096.88	\$ 2,903.12
Policy /Advisory Committee Coordination		Stearns SWCD	Varies - see invoi	136.25		\$ 16,000	\$ 10,970.54	\$ 5,029.46
Outreach Coordination		Stearns SWCD	Varies - see invoi	13		\$ 2,000	\$ 791.45	\$ 1,208.55
Website Development & Maintenance		Morrison SWCD	Varies - see invoi	6		\$ 3,500	\$ 889.80	\$ 2,610.20
Meeting Expenses (facility, materials, food)						\$ 3,000	\$ 560.48	\$ 2,439.52
Publication Expenses (notices, invitations)						\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
<b>SUBTOTAL: Administration</b>						<b>\$ 37,000</b>	<b>\$ 17,744.01</b>	<b>\$ 23,539.83</b>
<b>CONTINGENCY (add 10% to final amount)</b>		(Not added in total at this time)				<b>\$ 23,700</b>		<b>\$ 23,700.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>\$ 260,700</b>	<b>\$ 98,260.62</b>	<b>\$ 162,439.38</b>
							38%	



# Mississippi River Sartell One Watershed, One Plan

## TAC Meeting Report • January 14, 2026

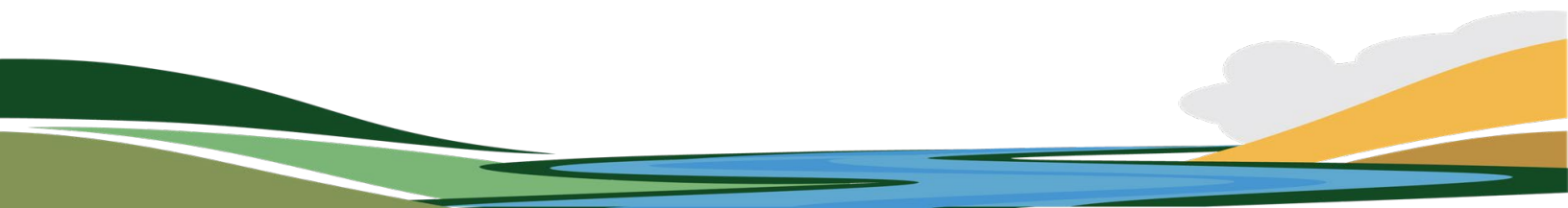
### Attendees

**In Person:** Luke Edlund, Mike McMillin, Destiny McDonald, Emily Forbord, Stephanie Hatzzenbihler, Robert Wall, Zach Guttormson, Brad Wozney, Annie Felix, Paul Anez, Duane Kroll, Randy Klaphake, Kayli Overland, Rachel Olm

**Remote:** Jeff Weiss, Dan Whitney, Steve Commerford

### Planning Timeline

This graphic is a simplified version of the overall timeline. This timeline is a general guide, and can be adapted to fit group needs as we go.





## Meeting Summary

### Measurable Goals

Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI) provided a brief overview of the revised measurable goal framework. The framework was revised by the Steering Committee as a result of TAC feedback to more closely connect goals to priority opportunities and mirror the way the Mississippi River-St. Cloud (a neighboring watershed) plan functions.

The new framework was discussed and further revised based on TAC meeting discussion (see Attachment A). The TAC approved HEI creating an initial draft of the measurable goals plan section. The section will follow the format of:

- Organizing opportunities by resource category
- Including 10-year and desired future condition goals, similar to Mississippi River – St. Cloud
- Including an informational map that summarizes key aspects of the resource being discussed.

The TAC reviewed initial informational maps for Surface Water Quality (priority lakes), Groundwater, and Surface Water Quantity, and recommended proceeding with draft maps for initial plan section. The TAC also provided feedback on priority streams during a group break-out activity.

The TAC recommended creation of a multi-benefit analysis map, or comprehensive implementation map. HEI will begin recommending layers to include in this map, and incorporate them into the resource informational maps.

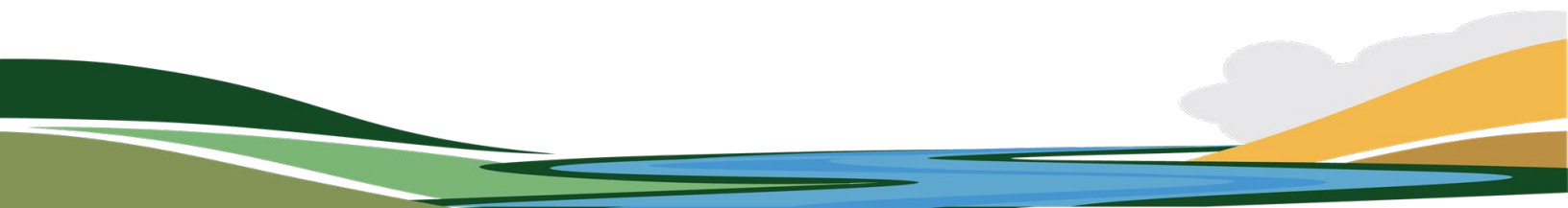


#### Next Steps:

- HEI to create initial draft of *Section 4. Measurable Goals*
- HEI to create a revised list of priority streams for February TAC meeting

### Action Table

HEI introduced plan content requirements for the targeted implementation schedule, or “action table.” HEI then provided examples using Long Prairie and Mississippi River-St.



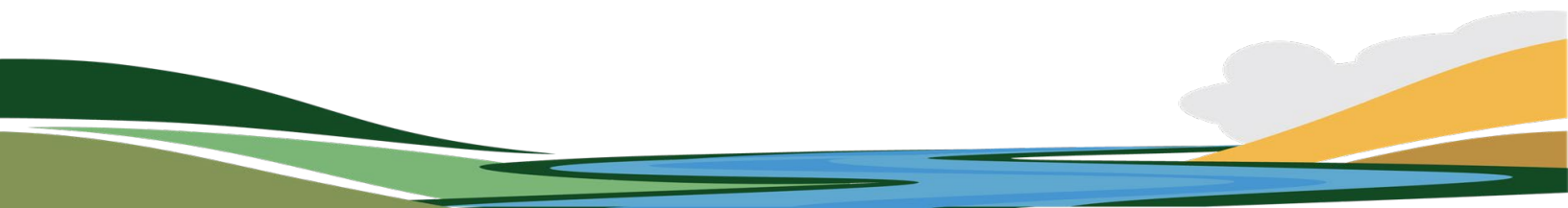


Cloud. The TAC recommended mirroring the first draft of the action table on the Mississippi River-St. Cloud, and organizing actions around “management zones” or “planning regions.” This will help to tailor implementation activities to where actions are most needed and opportunities are most prominent.



#### Next Steps:




- HEI to create initial action table to use as a starting point during February TAC meeting
- HEI to continue working with the Steering Committee on budgets to inform HSPF-SAM scenario. This will inform action table outputs and costs, in addition to measurable goal numbers.






# Mississippi River-Sartell: Draft Goal Framework

Presented here are priority opportunities and **draft** goal framework, as revised by the Technical Advisory Committee on January 14, 2026.

Resource	Opportunity	10-Year Goal Concept
 <p><b>SURFACE WATER QUALITY</b></p>	<b>Nutrients</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce TP by X% or X lbs per year; Reduce TN by X% or X lbs per year; Reduce sediment by X% or X lbs per year                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Implement X acres annually of soil health or nonstructural BMPs</li> <li>○ Implement X acres / counts of structural BMPs</li> <li>○ Implement X stormwater BMPs</li> <li>○ Replace X noncompliant septic systems</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Reduce TP by X at priority lakes</li> </ul>
	<b>Erosion and Sedimentation</b>	
	<b>Soil Health</b>	
	<b>Chloride</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement X smart salting clinics</li> </ul>
 <p><b>GROUNDWATER</b></p>	<b>Bacteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement X bacteria management projects including waste storage, exclusion, etc.</li> </ul>
	<b>Groundwater Quality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seal 50 wells in the watershed                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Note: SW actions are also going to pertain here ← potentially list goal multiple times</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Treated acres of nutrient mgmt. in DWSMAs (e.g. cover crops)</li> </ul>
 <p><b>SURFACE WATER QUANTITY</b></p>	<b>Groundwater Supplies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement X acres of irrigation water management practices</li> <li>• Establish X turf management projects in priority areas</li> </ul>
	<b>Surface Water Quantity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add X acre-feet of water storage</li> <li>• Stabilize or enhance 6,000 linear feet of streambank, ditches, or shoreline around priority lakes and streams</li> </ul>



Resource	Opportunity	10-Year Goal Concept
 <p><b>LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES</b></p>	<p><b>Land Use Management</b></p>	<p><i>Pause for now- will align with Landscape Stewardship Plan.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Zoning and land use?</li><li>• Easements</li><li>• Managed lands</li></ul>



# Mississippi River Sartell One Watershed, One Plan

## TAC Meeting Report • February 11, 2026

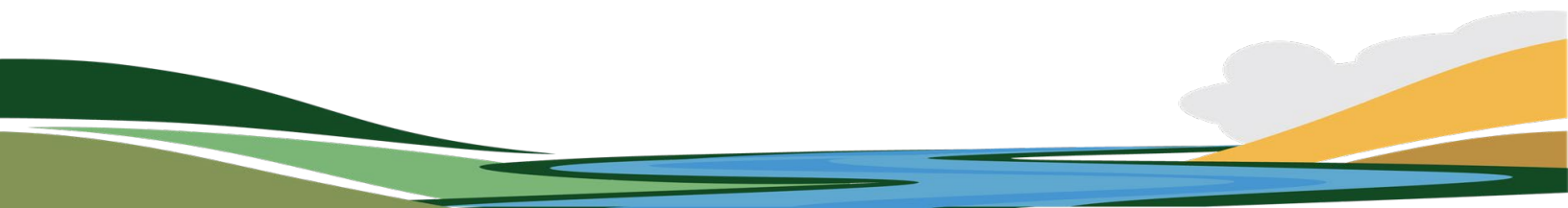
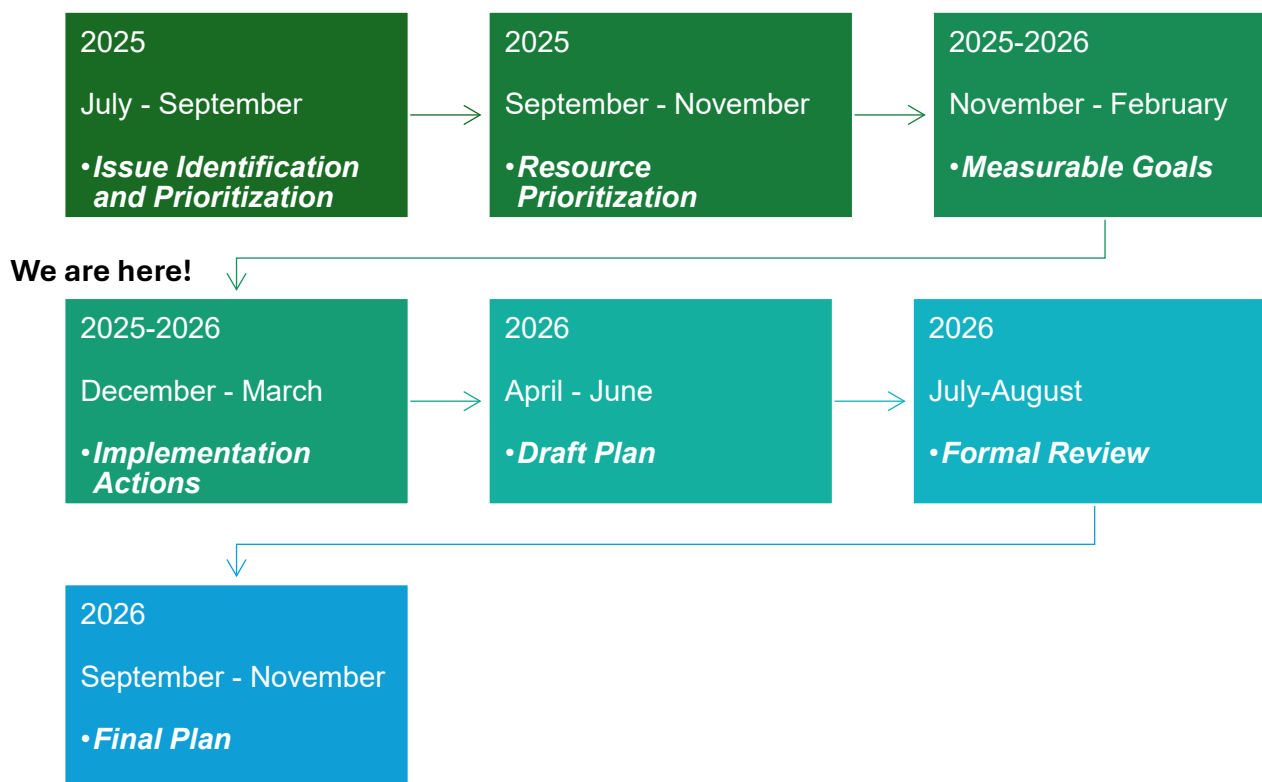
### Attendees

**In Person:** Luke Edlund, Mike McMillin, Destiny McDonald, Emily Forbord, Stephanie Hatzenbihler, Robert Wall, Zach Guttormson, Brad Wozney, Annie Felix, Chad Anderson, Phil Votruba, Duane Kroll, Randy Klaphake, Kayli Overland

**Remote:** Casey Field, Jeff Weiss, Tim Terrill

### Planning Timeline

This graphic is a simplified version of the overall timeline. This timeline is a general guide, and can be adapted to fit group needs as we go.





## Meeting Summary

### Measurable Goals

Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI) distributed a draft of *Section 4. Measurable Goals* in TAC packets. HEI provided an overview of the plan section and received suggestions on goal revisions from TAC members. Then, HEI introduced a small group activity. Each small group (3-4 people per table) provided feedback on the goals as drafted, and actions that were important to address each goal. Feedback from small group discussion is provided in Attachment A. Suggestions on goals were used to inform plan section revisions. Suggestions on actions led into the Action Table activity.



#### Next Steps:

- HEI to revise *Section 4. Measurable Goals* based on TAC feedback

### Action Table

HEI introduced the draft, watershed-wide “action table.” Actions were organized into one of five action tables, which represent draft “implementation programs”:

- Projects, Practices, and Land Management
- Public Participation and Engagement
- Data, Studies, and Monitoring
- Local Controls

The TAC broke into rotating small groups. The TAC rotated between the action tables to receive feedback on the initial watershed-wide action tables HEI generated. At each station, TAC members provided feedback on the following:

- Added any missing actions generated during the Measurable Goals small group activity above
- Revised action details, including description, cost, goals, or responsibility.



#### Next Steps:

- HEI to revise action tables based on feedback received and organize into management zones
- HEI to continue working with the Steering Committee on plan budget and priority areas to inform HSPF-SAM scenario. This will inform action table outputs and costs, in addition to measurable goal numbers.



## Attachment A

Small group feedback is organized by goal and by small group recorder's name.

### General Layout

- Make sure section is ADA compliance (red writing)
- Lots of information shoved together per page (SW-nutrients, etc)
- We could live with the layout but don't love it
- Multiple benefits page: include in implementation tables as a check for other categories benefitted

### Nutrient / Erosion and Sedimentation / Soil Health

#### Mike's Table

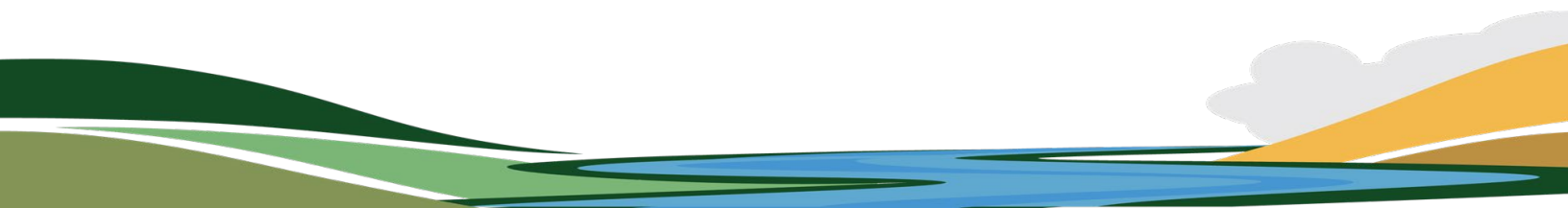
- The issue is not just excessive nutrients, it about the 4 R's. There are just as many issues with the wrong placement and timing even if applying at the right rate. With today's commodity prices and crops prices most farmers are no longer apply extra because it cheap, they are trying to save every penny they can. Improvements can be made with split applications and inhibitors/coatings that can limit the loss. On the flip side there are others that have no idea what they are putting on or why.
- The amount of tillage has taken step backwards the last few years and new equipment like high-speed discs replacing traditional equipment is creating new issues with erosion and nutrients leaving fields.

#### Actions

- Nutrient Management
- Reduced tillage at a minimum
- Urban Lawn Management Education – Homeowners and Companies

#### Brad's Table

- Possible hurdle to buy tillage equipment
  - But not a problem if economics play out
- Low till / no-till / strip till soil health
- Efficient use of fertilizer / nutrient management
  - ESN / precision ag
- Ammonia regulations are strict such that more N fertilizer is applied





### Luke, Annie, Emily Table

- None

### Kayli's Table

#### Actions:

- Shorelines, soil health practices, BMP's, education and outreach. Also all four bullet points under the first 10-year goal concept on the handout

#### Other comments/questions

- Why are all of these goals stacked within the first section (Nutrients, Erosion and Sedimentation, and Soil Health)? Are there any impairments for sedimentation? Emphasize habitat goals and actions in the LSP section, for example; IBI's, AIS, etc.)

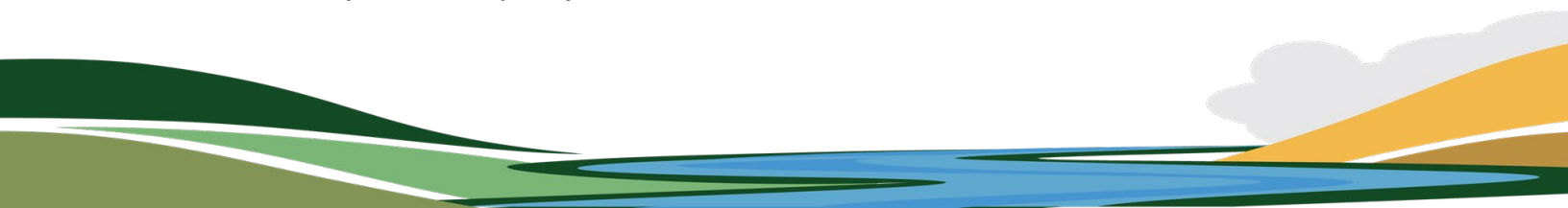
### Remote Group

- Goal section functioning well
- Actions
  - Soil health practices
  - Irrigation management
  - Structural practices
    - WASCObS
  - Vegetative practices
    - Buffers
  - Stream channel restoration / enhancements to address bank erosion/ habitat
- Note: Consideration for drinking water

## Chloride

### Mike's Table

- What are other states doing? – Other states are able to get by with out using chemicals why can we,
- Alternatives – What could be used instead
- Education -
- Public expectations – Need to change the publics expectations, people want clear dry roads right after a snowstorm. People might have to drive slower, leave early or change plans.
- Safety vs. water quality





### Brad's Table

- Heated roads in certain locations
- Find chloride alternative
- Snow pile locations
- What are the airports doing right?

### Luke, Annie, Emily

- Like the revision of the 10-year goal

### Kayli's Table

#### Actions:

- baseline assessment of chloride, not only a winter use: gravel road application spraying in off-seasons - application training?, education and outreach, new technologies, training for agencies and county staff, general public PSA's, smart salting clinics, chloride reduction plans

### Remote Group

- Goal: Focus on what you CAN address – salting trucks, etc. using management
- Action bank
  - Smart salting clinics / trainings / workshops
  - Promotion of alternatives to salt
  - Monitoring to better understand scale and locations of concern

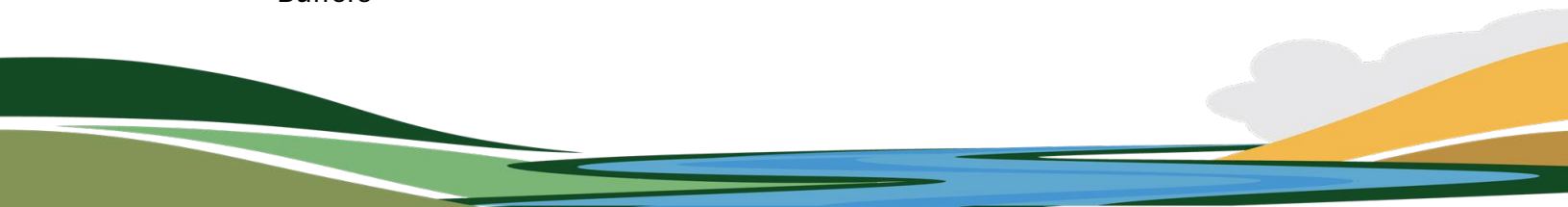
## **Bacteria**

### Mike's Table

- Septic's
- Nutrient Management
- Pasture Management
- Livestock access to surface water
- Better enforcement of current state laws and/or new restrictions on cattle access to streams.
- Manure Storage

### Brad's Table

- Some naturally occurring in soils
- Buffers





- Stormwater management
- Cattle exclusion
- SSTS
- Supporting communities for upgrading wastewater

#### Luke, Annie, Emily

- Don't remove bacteria as a priority
- Activities: manure management plans, SSTS upgrades, runoff, funds for soil samples

#### Kayli's Table

##### Actions:

- septic replacement and compliance maintenance, exclusion fencing for livestock, comprehensive management plans, stacking slabs, water management systems for grazing operations

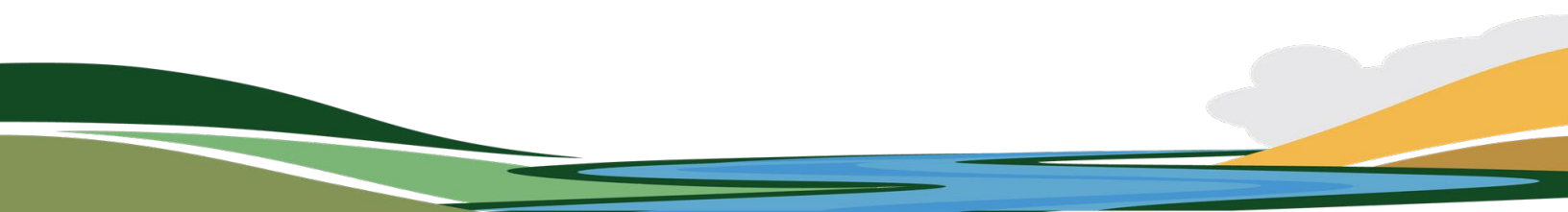
Suggested 10-year goal: delist x # of impaired streams

##### Other comments/questions

- strong need for septic replacements for low-income communities. Ag BMP loan, education and outreach for septics in addition to. Work with counties to develop/improve a low-income septic replacement program.

#### Remote Group

- Goal: Desire to reference to TMDLs but understood issue about tracking- Appendix table for bacterial TMDL targets- average reduction from there to create a watershed wide DFC
- Action
  - Exclusion fencing
  - Watering systems – for cattle instead of streams
  - Manure mgmt. plans
  - Septic systems
  - Feedlot fixes
  - Rotational grazing





## Groundwater Quality

### Mike's Table

- Seal Wells
- Septic's
- Nutrient Management

### Brad's Table

- More beavers / dams/ analog dams (little rock creek)
- Nutrient management (fertilizer management)
- SSTS
- Perennial vegetation

### Luke, Annie, Emily

- See also bacteria and soil health goals (10-year)
- Well test kits, nitrate clinics, workshops
- Peer-peer groups for nitrate usage / prevention

### Kayli's Table

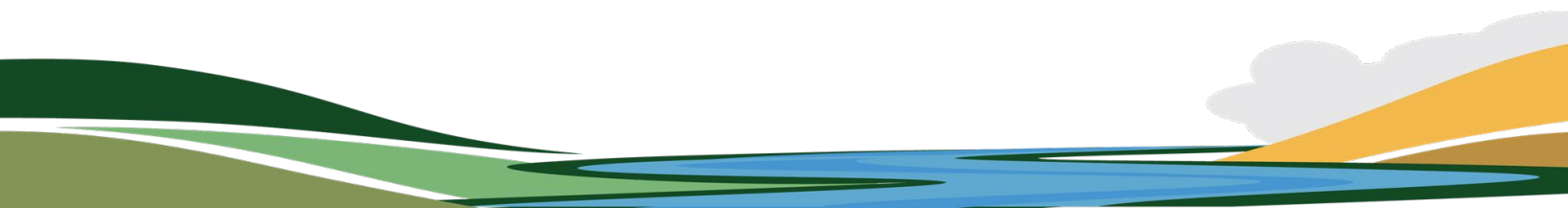
#### Actions:

- nitrate clinics, education and outreach, highlight surface water protection areas as protection priorities in addition to DWSMA's, non-structural ag BMP's

"Seal 50 wells" is an action item, not a goal. Revised goal suggestion of "reduce direct pathways to groundwater"

### Remote Group

- Goals: Looking OK
- Action
  - Goal 2- nutrient mgmt. should be everywhere there is vulnerable groundwater, not just DWSMAs
  - Split applications- putting on nitrogen while the crop is growing in season, helps protect nutrient from coming out of the root zone
    - Nutrient timing; 4Rs
    - Prioritize areas – MDA Fall fertilizer restriction map (vulnerable soils, etc.)
  - Irrigation mgmt





## Groundwater Supply

### Mike's Table

- Irrigation Improvements
- Wetland Restorations/Creations

### Brad's Table

- Claim is groundwater supplies are sustainable
- Need improved variable rate irrigation systems
  - Technology may not be working or reliable

### Luke, Annie, Emily

- Goal: establish a baseline of where we are at

### Kayli's Table

#### Actions:

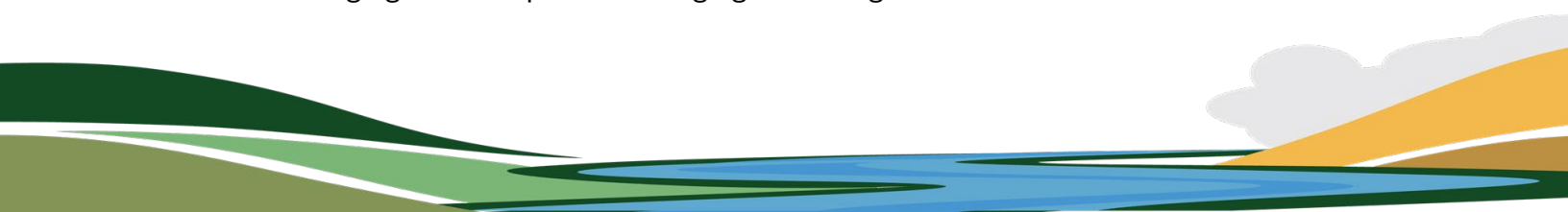
- education and outreach, monitor data, infiltration basins, rain gardens, wetland restorations

#### Goal comments/questions

- Could create a goal around water usage (irrigation meters) with the goal to reduce usage? Is there an existing baseline already that the ag community uses? Could this be measurable?
- Does DNR have a baseline for water permit usage? Or the goal could be to implement new technology for monitoring water usage?

### Remote Group

- Goals: OK
- Actions
  - Aquifer studies – understanding baseline conditions; difficult to measure
  - Margin of safety with groundwater levels- making sure use is preventative to still support natural resources / water availability and build resilience to dry conditions/ seasons / years
  - Advanced irrigation water management / soil moisture probes, variable rate irrigation
  - Promotion of infiltration or recharge: Soil health / cover crops
- Emerging Issue: Impact of emerging issues e.g. data centers





## Surface Water Quantity

### Mike's Table

- Wetland Restorations/creations
- Tile Drainage

### Brad's Table

- Tiling

### Luke, Annie, Emily

- Wetland storage on or near ag grounds
- Tiling education and storage

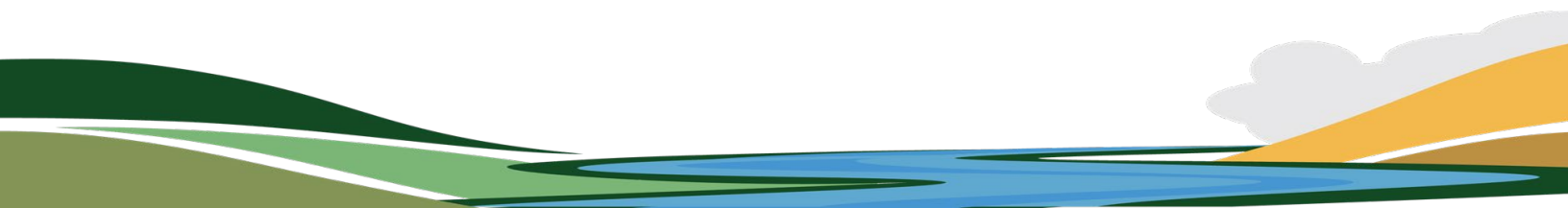
### Kayli's Table

#### Actions:

- x acre-feet of water storage, rain gardens, infiltration basins, wetland restoration, collaborate with local ditch authorities to identify potential storage areas, education and outreach

### Remote Group

- Goal is required
- Actions
  - Floodplain connectivity
  - Wetland restoration AND creation – not sure on opportunity
  - Urban stormwater practices – mitigate peak flows in a highly altered system
  - Considerations for waste management systems / protection against water quantity
  - Tile drainage assessment / multi purpose management



# Mississippi River Sartell Watershed Community Advisory Committee Meeting Summary



**Date / Time:** Wednesday, January 28 2 - 4pm  
**Location:** Watab Town Hall  
660 75th St NW, Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

**Attendees:** Jerome Kahl, Janet Salk, Diane Wojtanowicz, Craig Hanson, Bob Guggenberger, Nate Hylla, Jed Konsor, Greg Symanietz, Clint Kathrein, Don Tschida, Elizabeth Mboutchom, Paul Kuske, Darrel Ridler, and Greg Standafer.

Stephanie Hatzenbihler, Emily Forbord

**Unable to attend:** Kelly Martini, Rob Jacobs, Jamie Moonen, John Geisler

Agenda Topic	Action	Time
1. Introductions and Check In	Discussion	20 minutes
2. Watershed Refresh	Information	10 minutes
3. Plan Sections Drafted to Date <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● LWRN</li><li>● Opportunities</li></ul>	Information	20 minutes
BREAK		5 minutes
4. Measurable Goals Feedback	Activity	30 minutes
5. Implementation Actions	Activity	30 minutes

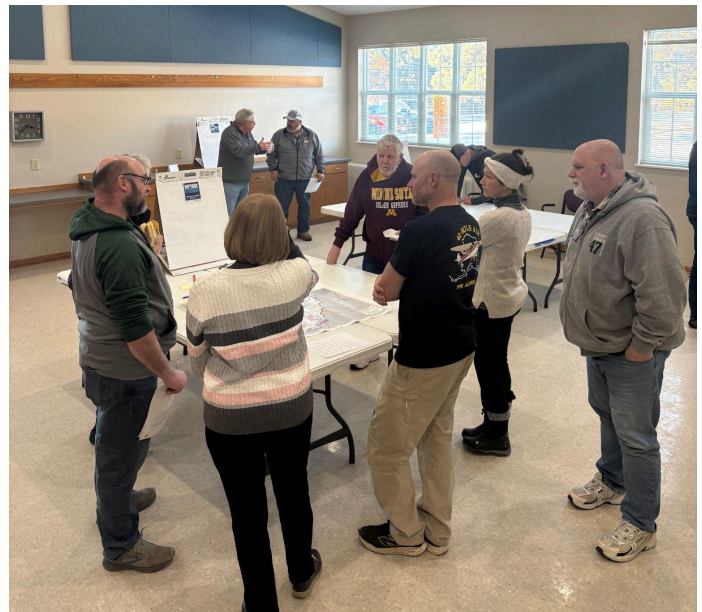
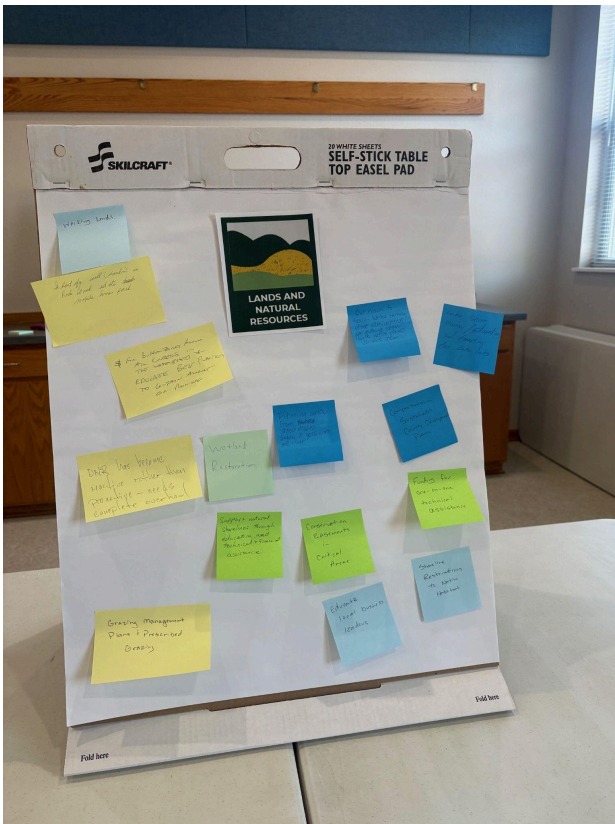
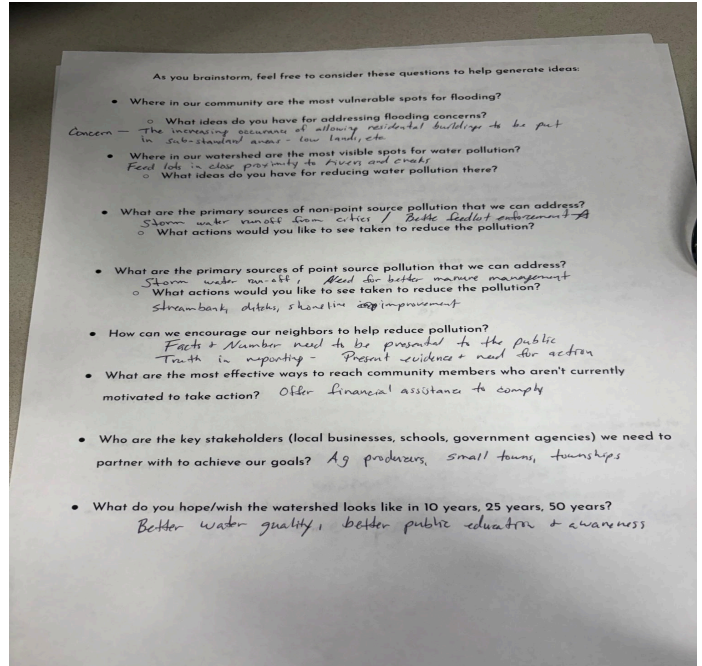
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ensuring sustainable natural resources for our community's future.*



# Mississippi River Sartell Watershed Community Advisory Committee Meeting Summary



## Feedback Received through discussions, worksheets, and sticky notes:



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**Mississippi River Sartell Watershed  
Community Advisory Committee  
Meeting Summary**



**Implementation Actions Brainstorming:**

**Ground Water (Quantity and Supplies)**

- County ditches need maintenance to avoid flooding.
- Drain tile projects require more review to include where the water is going
- Require many more holding ponds to handle “100-year rains”
- DWSMA protection

**Lands and Natural Resources**

- Working lands
- Abandoned wells
- Money for buffer zones
- Make sure to educate in the watershed about BMPs to contain amount of runoff
- DNR has become reactive rather than proactive - needs a complete overhaul
- Wetland restorations
- Filtering water from the storm drains before it goes in the river
- Comprehensive sustainability county development plans
- Funding for one-on-one technical assistance
- Conservation easements in critical areas
- Support natural shorelines through education and technical/financial assistance
- Shoreline restorations to native habitats
- Educated local business leaders
- Grazing management plans and prescribed grazing
- Outreach to teach homeowners about alternatives for ground cover like native plants vs turf grass
- Education for shoreline owners/funding for habitat projects

**Surface Water Quality**

- Better fertilizer and pesticide application practices are needed for golf courses, businesses, turf grass owners, etc
- Wetland restorations
- Septic system updates to address levels
- Support all small towns to implement a stormwater ponds who don't have them
- Erosion control practices
- Stormwater collection systems for flood control and stormwater filters
- Soil health practices

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# Mississippi River Sartell Watershed Community Advisory Committee Meeting Summary



- More education about residential lawn care
- Lakeshore education of fertilizer, lawns, etc
- Encourage more farmers to become Ag water Certified

## Surface Water Quantity

- Support legislative efforts to limit TP levels
- Irrigation management practices
- Wetland restorations
- Stormwater management systems that offset development/impervious surfaces to capture more water where it falls to handle 100-year rain events
- One-on-one technical assistance
- Erosion control like WASCObS, grassed waterways etc
- Eliminate private sewage flowing directly into the lake or stream

## Worksheet Questions & responses:

- What ideas do you have for reducing water pollution?  
Golf courses, flooding, earthen berms, and monitoring stations
- What actions would you like to see taken to reduce the pollution?  
Stormwater, over application of manure/fertilizer/chemicals, by ag producers and municipalities
- Who are the key stakeholders we need to partner with to achieve our goals?  
Local businesses, schools, government agencies, civic groups, students.  
Ag producers, small towns, townships
- What ideas do you have for addressing flooding concerns?  
Concern: the increasing occurrence of allowing residential buildings to be put in the sub-standard areas - low land, etc
- Where in our watershed are the most visible spots for water pollution?  
Feedlots in close proximity to rivers/streams.
- What are the primary sources of non-point source pollution that we can address?  
Stormwater runoff from cities/better feedlot enforcement\*

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**Mississippi River Sartell Watershed  
Community Advisory Committee  
Meeting Summary**



- What are the primary sources of point source pollution that we can address?  
Stormwater runoff and better manure management
- What actions would you like to see taken to reduce the pollution?  
Streambanks, ditches, shoreline improvements
- How can we encourage our neighbors to help reduce pollution?  
Facts and numbers need to be presented to the public truthfully.  
Presenting evidence and need for action. Education
- What are the most effective ways to reach community members who aren't currently motivated to take action.  
Offering financial assistance to comply.
- What do you hope/wish the watershed looks like in 10 years, 25 years, 50 years?  
Better water quality, better public education and awareness

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## **Summary Based on Comments Received**

### **1. Ground Water (Quantity & Supply)**

Participants identified the need for improved water infrastructure and long-term planning to address flooding and groundwater protection.

### **2. Lands & Natural Resources**

There is strong interest in proactive land stewardship and conservation efforts with an emphasis on education and outreach

### **3. Surface Water Quality**

Improving water quality requires both structural practices and behavioral changes  
Primary pollution sources identified:

- Non-point source: Urban stormwater runoff and agricultural runoff.
- Point source: Manure management and stormwater discharge.
- Visible pollution hotspots: Feedlots near rivers and streams.

### **4. Surface Water Quantity & Flooding**

Flood mitigation and water retention are major concerns

### **5. Community Engagement & Partnerships**

Achieving watershed goals will require collaboration  
Recommended strategies to increase engagement:

- Transparent presentation of facts and data.
- Public education campaigns.  
Financial assistance and incentives for compliance.
- One-on-one technical support.

### **6. Long-Term Vision (10–50 Years)**

Stakeholders envision:

- Significantly improved water quality.
- Reduced flooding impacts.
- Stronger protections for groundwater.
- Greater public awareness and stewardship.
- Sustainable land use practices embedded in development planning.

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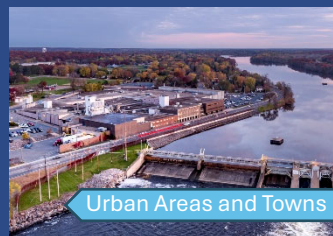
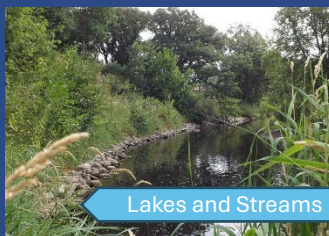
## Section 3. Watershed Opportunities

### Introduction

As evidenced by the *Land and Water Resource Narrative*, the Mississippi River Sartell Watershed (MRSW) is home to an abundance of diverse natural resources, including forests, agricultural land, wetlands, and surface waters. This plan focuses on opportunities, which are prospects to protect, restore, or improve on current management of these natural resources through voluntary conservation action over the next ten years.

In order to effectively plan to manage these resources, issues and opportunities impacting them need to be inventoried and prioritized. This section summarizes the process used to identify priority issues and opportunities that are the focus of this ten-year plan. Priority opportunities are those that were deemed throughout the planning process to be a focus for plan implementation.

This plan focuses on opportunities to protect, restore, or improve on current management of watershed natural resources through **voluntary conservation action**.



### Identifying Opportunities

This plan relies and builds upon existing data and information. In summer of 2025, issues and opportunities impacting natural resource management were inventoried from numerous existing data sources including county water plans, priority concern letters from state agencies and organizations, and local and state reports. A list of all inventoried plans and reports is provided in Appendix X. **This is a local plan that focuses on local issues.** For this reason, receiving feedback from planning committees and the community was critical prior to developing a full inventory of local issues and opportunities (Figure 3-1).

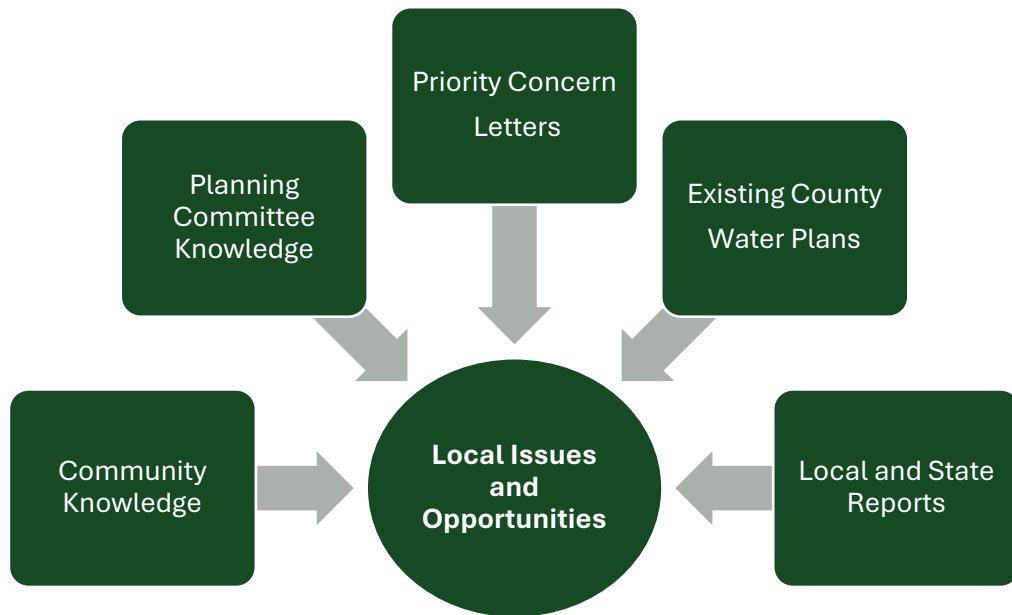


Figure 3-1. Process for inventorying draft list of local issues and opportunities

### Community Feedback

The *Community Conversations: Lands, Lakes & Rivers* meeting was held on July 30, 2025 in Royalton, Minnesota. Intended outcomes of the Community Conversations event included meeting statutory requirements of a One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) process, sharing information about the 1W1P process with community members, and receiving feedback on what issues and resources the community thinks should be the focus of plan implementation efforts.



#### Invitation to kickoff event

Approximately 30 people attended the meeting, of which 14 were agency staff, 2 were elected officials, and 16 were public stakeholders. Attendees were served a meal and were provided with an orientation to the Mississippi River Sartell Watershed and the 1W1P planning process. Then, attendees were separated into four groups for small group discussions at “resource stations” representing natural resource categories within the watershed (Surface Water Quality, Groundwater and Drinking Water, Surface Water Quantity and Hydrology, and Land and Natural Resources). At each station, attendees learned about and provided input on issues and resource conditions pertaining to each station. A summary of discussions from each station and feedback received is provided in Appendix X.



## For Policy Committee Consideration: Updated January 28, 2026

As well as identifying specific areas or resources of concern, attendees were asked to vote for the resources and issues most important to them. It should be noted that some public stakeholders did not vote for issues and resources. Voting also included some local and agency staff members, some of which are also residents of the watershed. Voting results for the most important resource concern were evenly distributed between the four resources. By one vote, the top resource concern was Surface Water Quantity and Hydrology. The top issue concern from each resource station was as follows: excess nutrients, extreme weather and precipitation, groundwater quality, and a tie between soil health and lake shoreline.

At this meeting, a common discussion point was an interest in reframing the conversation from issues to opportunities, as some community members did not agree with the concerns as framed. Plan partners appreciated this perspective and thus, this watershed plan is organized around management opportunities.

## Building on a History of Conservation Success Stories

Local partners in the watershed will use this plan to continue the conservation and engagement work that has already been occurring in the watershed for decades. Examples of this work include both urban and agricultural conservation practices that have already been implemented.

Estimating existing conservation on the ground is challenging, as much conservation activity occurs outside of local or state grant programs. The MPCA Healthier Watershed database is useful for summarizing some of this existing work, however, **it should be noted that this is a large underestimation of existing practices on the ground.** This database tracks best management practices (BMPs) funded across the state by NRCS, BWSR, MDA, and MPCA. A summary of a few of these activities from 2003 through 2023 is provided in Table 3-1, however it is important to re-emphasize that additional BMPs and conservation practices have been implemented by landowners and local groups beyond what is shown in the table.

**Table 3-1. BMPs implemented in the MRSW 2003-2023, as summarized by Healthier Watersheds (MPCA, 2025c).**

BMP	Amount
Cover Crops	16,300 acres
Irrigation Water Management	13,400 acres
Cropland Nutrient Management	44,500 acres
No Tillage	13,900 acres
Bioretention Basins	19 basins



BMP	Amount
Early Successional Habitat Development	160 acres
Septic System Improvement	80 systems
Well Decommissioning	65 wells
Forest Harvest Management	5,400 acres
Streambank and Shoreline Protection	17,500 linear feet
Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCOBs)	82 WASCOBs

Much conservation action is due to the work of urban and rural landowners collaborating with local partners (e.g. SWCDs, counties, cities, Tribes) in the Mississippi River Sartell Watershed that provide technical assistance, education, and funding related to voluntary conservation. Just a few of the events and services that these local partners provide include:

- Private well screening clinics
- Tree sales
- Technical assistance for agricultural practices
- Field demonstrations of soil health practices
- Shoreline erosion visits and assistance
- Water conservation best practices education
- Stormwater and smart salting education
- Invasive species education and prevention
- Youth engagement

**This is a voluntary plan, focused on voluntary conservation action. As such, trusted relationships and intentional communication and engagement with urban and rural communities are at the forefront for successfully implementing this voluntary plan.** A few local communication and engagement activities within the watershed are summarized on the following page. Planning partners are committed to building on the foundation of decades of conservation work to further protect, restore, and help manage the natural resources of the watershed over the next ten years. None of this is possible without the trust and partnership of landowners.



Irrigation management (photo: Benton SWCD)



### Forestry Field Days

SWCDs hold forestry field days to educate landowners and students on forest management.



### Soil Health Field Days

SWCDs hold field days to offer landowners a chance for hands on education on soil health practices.



### Water Festival

Students are invited to Water Festival each year where they learn about the water cycle, watersheds, and water quality. It is an opportunity to nurture youth interest in the environment, science, and conservation.



### We Are Water

The Minnesota Humanities Center created the We Are Water traveling exhibit, which was in the MRSW the summer of 2024. It provides education on water quality issues while exploring how water intersects with people's lives.





## Priority Opportunities

Ultimately, nine opportunities were inventoried and described as priorities for this plan (Table 3-2). These opportunities were organized into one of four resource categories. While many opportunities affect more than one resource, they are categorized by the resource they most directly impact. Resource categories are Surface Water Quality, Groundwater, Surface Water Quantity, and Lands and Natural Resources.

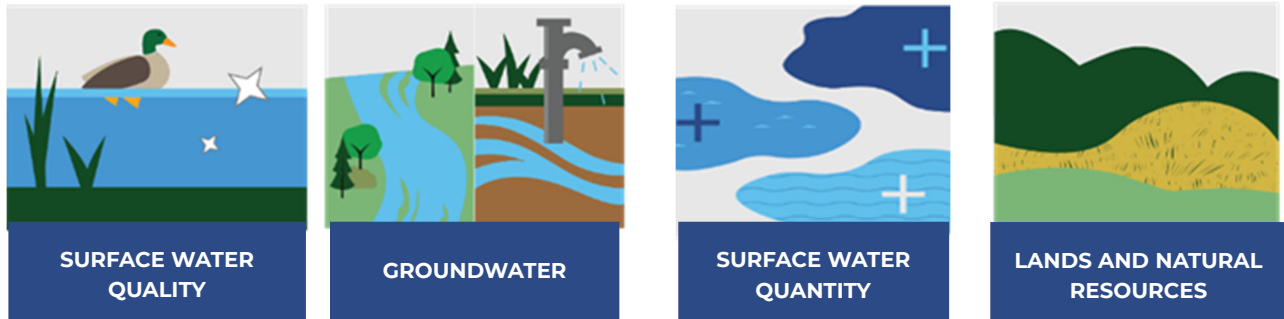
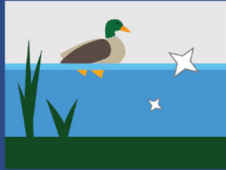





Table 3-2 below summarizes the final, priority opportunities that will be the focus this plan and of natural resource protection, restoration, or management efforts over the next ten years. In the plan sections that follow, these opportunities will be assigned goals and action items.

**Table 3-2. Mississippi River Sartell Watershed priority opportunities**

Resource	Opportunity	Opportunity Description
 SURFACE WATER QUALITY	<b>Nutrients</b>	By properly managing nutrient sources, we can create and maintain a healthy surface water ecosystem that benefits the local economy, community, and environment.
	<b>Erosion and Sedimentation</b>	Controlling erosion and sedimentation is vital for supporting healthy ecosystems, increasing agricultural productivity, and promoting clean water for recreation.
	<b>Chloride</b>	Effectively managing the use and distribution of chloride is essential for protecting water quality and maintaining aquatic ecosystem health, while ensuring public safety.
	<b>Bacteria</b>	Effective management of bacteria ( <i>E. coli</i> ) sources and pathways is necessary to keep lakes and streams safe for recreational use and drinking water consumption.



Resource	Opportunity	Opportunity Description
 <p><b>GROUNDWATER</b></p>	<b>Groundwater Quality</b>	Protecting and enhancing the quality of groundwater can improve outcomes for drinking water, natural features, and other community uses.
	<b>Groundwater Supplies</b>	Supporting the responsible stewardship of groundwater supplies promotes sufficient quantity for multiple beneficial uses, including consumption, agriculture, and supporting natural habitats.
 <p><b>SURFACE WATER QUANTITY</b></p>	<b>Surface Water Quantity</b>	Strategically integrating water storage solutions with the thoughtful management of flow barriers can collectively address the amount and timing of runoff delivery, reduce flood risk, protect water quality, and restore critical ecological functions.
 <p><b>LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES</b></p>	<b>Soil Health</b>	The stewardship of soil resources is important for maintaining and improving crop yields, increasing the soil's capacity to retain and infiltrate water, and ensuring clean water delivery downstream.
	<b>Land Use Management</b>	Site-specific land management strategies for natural resources, including forests, agricultural areas, wetlands, and waterways, are essential for maintaining and protecting the watershed's habitat, natural resources, and cultural heritage.

## Emerging Issue

“Emerging issues” are concerns that may affect the resources in the watershed in the future. A description of an emerging issue in the MRSW is provided below.

### Contaminants of Emerging Concern

Contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) are of growing attention worldwide. CECs include a broad class of chemicals, from those found in personal care, cleaning, industrial, and agricultural products to medications. Traces of these compounds are being found in the environment. Some CECs have been shown to have adverse effects on aquatic life or humans at certain concentrations, while many others have unknown impacts (Wang et al., 2024).

The public has been increasingly aware of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which are a class of chemicals developed for many applications including non-stick



cookware, firefighting foam, and stain-resistant fabric. They are called ‘forever chemicals’ because they persist in the environment without breaking down. They are found throughout the environment and linked to health issues.

Studies in Minnesota have reported the widespread presence of CECs such as insecticides, pharmaceuticals, detergents, and fire retardants in our lakes and streams. In particular, the pesticide DEET (commonly found in insect repellent), antibiotics, antidepressants, and bisphenol A (BPA) were commonly detected in Minnesota lakes (MPCA, 2021). There is concern over the potential effect these chemicals could have on wildlife and human health.

Planning partners will continue to stay informed about CECs during plan implementation and adjust priorities as needed to reflect new information.

## Planning Lens

Plan partners identified three topics to be of special consideration during planning: Mississippi River protection, extreme weather and precipitation, and invasive species. These expansive topics intersect with many opportunities and are therefore challenging to address separately. Their inclusion in the plan as a “planning lens” ensures plan goals and actions will directly and indirectly address them.

### Mississippi River Protection

The MRSW is within the headwaters region of the Mississippi River, the fourth longest river in the world. Within the watershed, the river provides abundant habitat for wildlife including muskrats, eagles, otters, and supports fishing for walleye, musky, pike, and bass. The river is also a local source of drinking water. St. Cloud uses the river as a drinking water source just outside the watershed. Further downstream, Minneapolis and St. Paul also utilize the river for drinking water. From there, the Mississippi continues to flow to the Gulf. Due to the size, ecological value, and use of this critical resource, careful management of the Mississippi River is important locally, regionally, and nationally.



**Mississippi River (photo: DNR)**



The Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB) is a local government organization that works to protect the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River in Minnesota. A joint powers board of Clearwater, Beltrami, Cass, Hubbard, Itasca, Aitkin, Crow Wing and Morrison Counties, the MHB is mandated by Minnesota Statutes



103F.361-377 to enhance and protect the natural, cultural, historic, scientific and recreational values of the headwaters region. MHB is a valuable partner in local resource management.

As the Mississippi River is directly impacted by multiple plan opportunities (e.g. land use management, nutrients, erosion and sedimentation), this resource will be targeted through multiple plan actions and goals.

## Extreme Weather and Precipitation

As discussed in the *Land and Water Resources Narrative*, temperature and precipitation have been increasing in the watershed according to measured weather data. In addition to an overall increase in annual precipitation, the watershed has been experiencing an increase in heavy rain events. This has implications for agriculture, stream flow, stormwater, and more.

The State of Minnesota has developed a Climate Action Framework to address and prepare for challenges associated with a changing climate. BWSR has also developed a climate resiliency toolbox to help local staff identify planning opportunities and resources that will build communities resilient to landscape stressors. The Climate Action Framework and the toolbox are available here, and may be used during plan implementation:

- <https://climate.state.mn.us/minnesotas-climate-action-framework>
- <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/bwsr-climate-resiliency-toolbox>.

## Invasive Species

Invasive species include both terrestrial and aquatic species. When species are introduced to a non-native range they can outcompete native species for habitat and resources. The spread of invasive species can cause significant economic, environmental, and recreational harm. If waters are verified as infested, they are added to the state infested water list maintained by the DNR.



**Zebra mussels attached to native mussel (Photo: DNR)**

MRSW infested waters are summarized in Table 3-3. Note that curlyleaf pondweed is not listed on the infested waters list because it has been in the state for decades, but lakes in MRSW do have it present. Examples of terrestrial invasive species found in the MRSW include emerald ash borer and buckthorn.



Table 3-3. Infested Waters (DNR, 2025j).

Lake	Species	Year listed
Little Rock Lake and Channel	Zebra mussels	2006
Mississippi River	Zebra mussels	2007
Middle Spunk	Eurasian watermilfoil	2014
Lower Spunk	Eurasian watermilfoil	2014
Watab Lake and Lower Watab	Zebra mussels	2014
Rossier Lake	Zebra mussels	2014
Mary Lake	Eurasian watermilfoil	2018
Big Watab	Zebra mussels	2020
Pine Lake	Zebra mussels	2023
Two Rivers Lake	Starry stonewort	2025

Invasive species prevention and management is done by counties, SWCDs, and / or cities in partnership with nonprofits, lake associations, and DNR. DNR works to prevent the spread of invasive species, manage infested waters, and enforce state regulations.

Planning partners considered invasive species during plan development and areas at risk from invasives are incorporated in some plan goals (*Section 4 – Measurable Goals*). *Section 5 - Implementation* addresses invasive species through actions that benefit water quality and manage land use.

## Additional Considerations

### Environmental Justice

The MPCA created a statewide map showing areas of concern for **environmental justice**. Environmental justice is the principle that all people have an equal right to healthy air, clean water, and recreational land access. MPCA areas of concern for environmental justice include tribal land, and high proportions of English as a second language, poverty, and people of color. In the MRSW, a small area of concern for poverty is along the northwestern watershed boundary near Little Falls and along the southeast boundary of the watershed in St. Joseph. MPCA considers tribal land to be an area of concern, and the Mille Lacs Reservation is just northeast of the watershed with a small sliver of tribal land overlapping the watershed boundary. This information may be considered by partners during implementation.

Environmental justice is a priority for state agency partners in the watershed, as well as in areas designated as environmental justice areas of concern. Please see the MPCA Environmental Justice website for a current map of environmental justice areas ([www.pca.state.mn.us/about-mpca/environmental-justice](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/about-mpca/environmental-justice)).