

Isanti County Water Planning Public Input Meeting Notes

Wednesday August 12, 2015 6:30pm
Isanti County Government Center

ATTENDEES

Darrell Vosika, Cambridge Twp
George Carlson, Maple Ridge Twp
Barb Kilpatrick, Athens Twp & SWCD
Richard Hansen, Bradford Twp
Judy Schaubach, Long Lk Imp Assoc
Jerry Schaubach, Long Lk Imp Dist
Al Koczur, SWCD
Jack Davis, Lake Francis

Dan Kokora, Lake Francis
Royce Yieatter, Lake Francis
Jim Shomenta, Spectacle Lake
Kriste Ericsson, Friends of Rum R
Dale Strike, Bradford Twp
Greg Anderson, Isanti Co Commissioner

STAFF

Holly Nelson, Isanti Co Water Planner
Trina Bergloff, Isanti Co Zoning
Jamie Schurbon, Isanti SWCD
Todd Kulaf, Isanti SWCD
Tom Anderson, Facilitator

Priority Topics, Subtopics and Comments Received:

Water Quality

- Keeping water on the land
 - All runoff should be considered, including buffers, urban runoff, shoreland restorations, etc. (Jim Shomenta)
 - Keeping water on the land with methods like reduced tillage in ag areas or rain gardens in developed areas. (Richard Hansen)
 - Today's infiltration seems slower, with standing water in fields. This may indicate we're better filtering water and protecting groundwater. (Dale Strike)
- Buffers
 - How will the new buffer law play into the plan? (Jerry and Judy Schaubach)
- Lake water quality
 - Water quality in lakes is a priority. (Jack Davis)
 - Lake Francis is an area of concern. (Dan Kokora)
- Septic systems
 - Septic systems should be a priority. (Jim Shomenta)
- Wetlands
 - Protect wetlands which help clean water. (Barb Kilpatrick)

Aquatic Invasive Species

- AIS control is important. (Jim Shomenta)
- There should be efforts to eradicate AIS. (Royce Yieatter)
- AIS prevention is important. (Royce Yieatter)

Water Monitoring

- We should be monitoring aquatic life as an indicator of ecosystem health.

Groundwater

- Groundwater quantity and quality are priorities, including aquifer recharge. (Al Koczur)
- We need to manage our groundwater supply well. We can't expect the metro to be active in this area if we don't do it ourselves in Isanti County. (Jim Shomenta)

Fish

- Somehow we need to include fish habitat and fisheries improvement in the plan. (Dan Kokora)

Citizen Awareness/Education

- Need to make the public and elected officials more aware of water issues. (Jim Shomenta)

Ditch Maintenance

- Maintenance of ditches is important. Many have not been maintained and the system is not performing. (Tom Anderson)

Land Use Planning

- The plan needs to be coordinated with zoning and land use regulations. (Jerry Schaubach, after the end meeting)

Funding

- Sustainable funding to implement the plan is needed. Currently much of the costs are borne by lakefront owners. Others in the community who benefit from the lakes should help share the costs. (Jack Davis)
- Funding should be available to lake associations. It shouldn't be necessary to form a lake improvement district (LID). (Dan Kokora)

Other

- Townships would like to see local control and a plan tailored to Isanti County. Townships want to have input. (Richard Hansen)
- Format the plan to position us for future grants. (Jim Shomenta)
- Policies in the plan should reflect local conditions, such as heavier soils in the northwest part of the county.
- Interacting with and collaborating with neighboring counties is needed. (Jim Shomenta)

At the conclusion of the meeting attendees voted for their highest priority topics as follows:

Water Quality (21 TOTAL)

Lake water – 7

Buffers – 5

Surface runoff – 4

Education – 2

Protection and sustainability of ponds and wetlands – 2

Water monitoring –1

AIS Prevention, Management (7 TOTAL)

Drainage Ditch Maintenance (6 TOTAL)

Groundwater (5 TOTAL)

Quality – 1

Quantity- 1

Septic systems – 2

Recharge- 1

Other

Farming and land uses – 2

Funding – 2

Wildlife – 1