



BOUNDARY WATERS, MN | BY GEORGE PETERS

Governor's Water Summit Report 2016





State of Minnesota

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

November 10, 2016

I want to thank all Minnesotans who participated in the Governor's Water Summit in February 2016, online and in person. Participants brought their ideas, concerns, personal stories, and lessons learned about how we can best protect and restore our most treasured resource – Minnesota's clean waters. I was heartened by the conversations I heard and I am confident we collectively have the innovation, wisdom, and creativity to address our state's water challenges together.

In too many parts of our state, the trend is water that is less clean, less safe, and less affordable. This is the same water we rely on in our homes for drinking and bathing; outdoor enthusiasts rely on for fishing and other recreation; and businesses rely on to grow and thrive -- often without being aware of the effort it takes to keep it clean and safe. Water is a key ingredient in our lives; it is key to our quality of life, and it is getting worse in too many places.

It will take commitment and continued effort to address our water challenges. To do so, we must foster a shared ethic of water stewardship and advance an ethic of personal responsibility for how our actions, behaviors, and consumption patterns affect the lives of those around us. What we do on our lawns, businesses, farms, and roads impact our shared waters and the lives of others now and into the future.

Minnesota is also fortunate to have innovative companies such as Ecolab, General Mills, Cargill that are developing creative solutions to these challenging problems.

The Water Summit was just a first step to raise awareness about this critical issue and amplify the important work so many Minnesotans are already doing. I need you to continue to participate in this conversation. We need a sustained effort from consumers, land owners, locally-led soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, civic groups, corporations, and small-businesses to protect and conserve our waters. It is this commitment that will guarantee a legacy of clean water. Together we can work to guarantee a legacy for future Minnesotans to enjoy and rely on our precious lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater.

Sincerely,

Mark Dayton
Governor

State agency leader takeaways | November 10, 2016

Minn. Dept. of Agriculture
Commissioner
Dave Frederickson

Agency commissioners heard consensus on several actions that are needed going forward for measurable, important, and durable improvements for Minnesota's water resources.

Minn. Dept. of Health
Commissioner
Ed Ehlinger

Broaden and strengthen Minnesota's water ethic: As shown by their participation at the Summit, Minnesotans want to protect and restore our shared resources. Adopting a strong water ethic is essential to meeting our greatest water challenges.

Minn. Dept. of Natural
Resources Commissioner
Tom Landwehr

Strengthen Minnesota water governance: Our water governance structures at the state and local levels need enhancement to meet our long-term water challenges.

Minn. Pollution Control
Agency Commissioner
John Stine

Promote efficient water use: Water is a vital, and limited, resource. Cleaning wastewater and treating drinking water consumes considerable energy and wastes a lot of water in the process. Developing additional tools and approaches are needed in order to conserve energy, save money, and waste less water.

Met Council Chair
Adam Duinick

Reduce nitrate contamination in water resources and citizens' exposure to nitrate-contaminated water: Nitrate is a significant, and largely unregulated, source of impairment for Minnesota's streams, lakes, and aquifers. It is a threat to drinking water, water-based recreation, and ecological systems. Nitrate contamination of groundwater is, for all practical purposes, irreversible in the near-term.

Board of Water and Soil
Resources Executive
Director John Jaschke

Treat runoff as a resource, not a waste: We have substantially changed the way water flows naturally in Minnesota. These changes include developing areas with roads and other hard surfaces that drain instead of absorbing water; ditching and tiling agricultural land; eliminating wetlands; and converting streams to channels for drainage. The nature and scale of these alterations contribute to many of our most challenging water quality and quantity issues, including increased flood risk, water contamination, groundwater depletion, and habitat degradation.

Public Facilities Authority
Executive Director
Jeff Freeman

Ensure sustained and targeted investment to address critical water needs:

While Minnesota is in a better position than many states, we have not invested adequately in many of our critical water needs. As a result, problems become more expensive and difficult to resolve, whether for drinking water, wastewater, or aquatic invasive species.

We face many needs and opportunities to enhance our water management, both now and for the future. By making water a front-end consideration in all that we do, building upon the tremendous water legacy that we have inherited, and working with businesses, communities, landowners, interest groups, and citizens, we are confident that we can make important and durable changes that will serve Minnesotans and their environment well for decades into the future.

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Mississippi River near Lake Pepin



Summit by the numbers

800+	Attended in person
351	Participated online
9	Breakout sessions
203	Ideas posted online
434	Comments posted online about those ideas

Learn more about the **Summit and the Year of Water Action** at the Governor's Office web site: mn.gov/governor/

Introduction

Minnesota is a state with abundant water resources. Whether it's a favorite fishing or swimming lake, a river excellent for paddling, or a groundwater aquifer supplying drinking water, Minnesotans rely on our water resources for our economy, health, and way of life.

While the health of our water resources has improved in many ways in the last 50 years due to advanced wastewater treatment, better land practices and conservation efforts, many of our precious water resources are still facing serious threats. About 40% of our lakes and stream fail to fully support activities like fishing and swimming. Of the 60% that meet water quality standards, some of these are threatened by changes in land use. In parts of Minnesota, drinking water aquifers face threats from nitrate pollution or overuse. We need to understand and address these challenges in order to protect and improve water quality now and into the future.

What are the biggest challenges and opportunities for Minnesota in its quest for clean water? Where should investments be focused? What actions are needed to ensure adequate and clean water for future generations? These are some of the important questions Minnesotans are wrestling with in both rural and urban areas of the state.

On Feb. 27, 2016 Governor Mark Dayton convened a forum of water quality experts, farmers, legislators, regulators, business community members, citizens, local leaders, and a wide variety of other stakeholders to consider these important questions, and more. The goal of the forum was to focus public attention on the challenges facing Minnesota's water resources and encourage conversation about solutions to those problems.

More than 800 people from across Minnesota attended this historic event. Another 351 people participated via an online forum. The summit consisted of a welcome, 9 breakout sessions for learning and sharing, lunch, and a panel for questions and answers.

This report summarizes the key themes from the breakout sessions and the event overall. These ideas and perspectives Minnesotans shared about the water resources are informing Governor Dayton's Year of Water Action events, policy discussions, and legislative priorities.



Lake Pepin



Watermarks

Minnesota has tremendous water resources, but they are limited and require careful stewardship – that was the universal refrain throughout the Summit. And while the breakout sessions varied in specific topics and details, a number of common themes emerged from the focused discussions, which were reinforced by online feedback:

Funding: Participants repeatedly recognized the importance of long-term funding to meet Minnesota’s water quality challenges. but noted that funding alone is not enough. Policy change, collaboration, incentives, research, education, and individual action were all cited as additional components critical to success.

Developing a Clean Water Ethic: The fact that Minnesotans care about their water resources was a given throughout the day, and was evidenced by the robust participation in the Summit itself. However, participants at nearly every session discussed the need for more education and outreach to all Minnesotans to build a Clean Water Ethic. This ethic includes better awareness of water issues and a commitment to action by individuals, businesses, nonprofit groups, academia, and local and state governments.

Local government engagement and support: Participants noted the importance of local government – cities, townships, counties, soil and water conservation districts, and watershed districts – in identifying problems and facilitating solutions. They also noted that local implementers need inter-agency collaboration and stable local funding to succeed.

Harnessing economic and market forces: The power of economic forces as a catalyst for change came up in every session. In some, the discussion focused on developing more and better incentives, such as tax breaks or “water-friendly” labeling/certification. Others focused on the need to better account for the full cost of water impacts to provide an economic incentive to reduce those impacts.

Working “upstream”: Many participants emphasized that protection – while hard to measure – is less costly than restoration in the long run. The same strategy applies to addressing pollution closer to its source through prevention efforts and source control.

Use science and data to identify solutions: This theme emerged in many discussions, ranging from the importance of continued funding for research efforts to the need to ground management actions in a strong scientific understanding of the problem and data about the resource(s). The need to measure, track, and communicate progress also received multiple mentions.

Aim for water quality targets: Finally, participants urged Governor Dayton to set goals and targets for the state in terms of desired water quality outcomes as well as actions to achieve the clean water that many – if not all – Minnesotans desire and expect.

Facilitators worked with participants at the 2016 Governor’s Water Summit to discuss problems facing the state’s water resources and solutions to pursue.



Pesticide sampling in the Yellow Medicine River watershed



Legacy Amendment

In 2008, Minnesota's voters passed the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment (Legacy Amendment) to the Minnesota Constitution to: protect drinking water sources; to protect, enhance, and restore wetlands, prairies, forests, and fish, game, and wildlife habitat; to preserve arts and cultural heritage; to support parks and trails; and to protect, enhance, and restore lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater.

The Legacy Amendment increases the state sales tax by three-eighths of 1% from 2009 -2034. One-third of the revenue goes to the Clean Water Fund.

Breakout summaries

The following section summarizes the topics explored at each of the 9 breakout sessions. All of the ideas and perspectives shared by the participants were captured on flip charts, and then transcribed to notes, available in their entirety online (<http://watersummit.ideascale.com/a/ideas/recent/campaign-filter/byids/campaigns/51893/stage/stage-contribute794>). Following each session, the facilitators synthesized the flip chart notes into a few themes that are reported below.

Investing in Clean Water

With the Legacy Amendment funds set to expire in 2034, it's time to look close at how to maximize those funds to protect and restore Minnesota's water. We also need a smart, balanced approach for using public-private partnerships and other sources of funding to enhance the state's investment. This session explored ideas about how to leverage Minnesotans' investment in clean water, balancing public and private costs and funding.

Key questions

- Who is responsible for clean water?
- Where should resources for clean water come from?
- How do we leverage the Clean Water Fund?

One Watershed, One Plan

One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) is an important planning initiative, conceived by local governments, passed by the Minnesota Legislature, and being developed by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). BWSR's vision for One Watershed, One Plan is to align local water planning on major watershed boundaries with state strategies towards prioritized, targeted and measurable clean water implementation plans.

What Minnesotans said

"Tax property based on the contribution to non-point pollution. Row crops, golf courses, feedlots should pay higher taxes to offset the costs of water pollution cleanup. Start the assessment by defining impaired watersheds. Those having to pay more would be motivated to fix the problem and reduce their taxes."



Comment summaries

This breakout discussion covered a range of ideas, from the importance of clear communication with Minnesotans about the benefits and limitations of the Clean Water Fund to the need for better tools to convey the economics of water use and conservation. The main themes of this session were as follows.

Recognize and publicize limits of the Clean Water Fund and other conservation funding in solving the problem:

- The State of Minnesota could lead a shift in the federal Farm Bill conservation incentives
- Minnesota's general fund – from state and income taxes – needs to support clean water and conservation
- Help make agricultural conservation as profitable as agricultural production

Continue local involvement in developing a clean water ethic and plans and implementation:

- Monitoring, Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS), and One Watershed One Plan should drive priorities and targeting of funds
- Minnesota should now hold local water summits
- The State of Minnesota should push for local watershed authorities statewide that have levy authority, building on existing authorities such as soil and water conservation and watershed districts

People need to pay the real cost of water:

- It will drive water conservation
- It will generate funds for restoration and protection work

Need education, outreach and communication to increase understanding of water problems and solutions:

- Share success stories
- Minnesota leaders should do a weekly radio program

Mississippi River in
Minneapolis



Challenges facing Minnesota's iconic waters

Whether it's Lake Superior, the Mississippi River, or the Boundary Waters, Minnesotans take pride in our iconic waters. How can we protect these special places for future generations? Participants in this session identified their "iconic waters" and explored what they value about these waters, the challenges they are facing, and the actions needed to improve and protect these iconic waters into the future.

Key questions

- What challenges and threats are you most concerned about for Minnesota's iconic waters?
- What actions are needed by individuals, industry/business, and government to improve and protect Minnesota's iconic waters for the future?
- How should these actions be accomplished? For example, what approaches, partnerships, funding and other resources are needed? When do they need to be accomplished?

What Minnesotans said

“[We need to] work across sectors in collaboration. [There is a] sense of urgency because of debates around buffer legislation. This is a perfectly timed summit. It’s a moment. This is the time to craft a solution. People need to abandon the dueling approach. There needs to be a commitment – to come together rather than fight. Commit to cooperate.”



Comment summaries

This breakout conversation varied with the iconic water being discussed, and whether needing more protection or restoration action. Some common themes still emerged:

- **Protect good quality waters**, which includes enforcing existing rules; implementing initiatives; valuing ecosystem services; and in the cases of Lake Superior, Rainy River watershed, and Boundary Waters Canoe Area, preventing sulfide mining
- **Minnesota political leaders could lead a shift** in the federal Farm Bill conservation incentives
- **Use sound science and research** to identify water problems, develop informed solutions, and measure long-term progress for protection and restoration of Minnesota waters
- **Enhance local economic diversity** by supporting and expanding existing water-related businesses and industries, and by expanding high-speed internet in rural Minnesota
- **Collaborate** with local, state, federal, tribal, international, and private operations to encourage partnerships on water related activities, avoid redundancy, clarify regulatory requirements, and leverage funding opportunities
- **Promote civic engagement and education** so that all Minnesotans (including public and private sector, underserved populations, communities of color, tribes, etc.) are informed and involved on water issues that impact their lives, understand the impacts on others’ lives, and can participate in setting public policy

Boundary Waters





Flood damage on the Zumbro River

Ensure Minnesota is resilient to extreme weather

Heavy rainfall and floods are increasing in Minnesota as our climate changes, threatening our water quality, health, infrastructure, agricultural industry, and transportation resources. Warmer temperatures are also impacting water supplies. This session explored the impacts of these changes, and the actions that can make our state more resilient to these challenges.

Key questions

- What are the top 3 vulnerability areas for Minnesota water resources for flooding, drought, and extreme weather?
- What are the top practices that improve water quality while also increasing resilience?
- How should the state advance planning for extreme weather resilience on water resources?
- What are the top ways that extreme weather impacts on water are affecting our economy?

What Minnesotans said

“A lot of our solutions involve the mindset of dealing with the water where it falls – urban and rural environment – rather than moving it downstream. “



What Minnesotans said

“Be bold, it’s only going to get more costly and more difficult. There is always going to be resistance. The best time to act was yesterday. The second best time is today.”



Comment summaries

Participants in this session shared experiences and observations about extreme weather events, and ideas for enhancing resilience into the future.

Adequate funding for existing programs and accounting for the value they provide

Cost/benefit - need to demonstrate value via triple bottom line: fiscal, social, and environmental:

- Whole cost accounting instead of lowest bid
- Invest in high payoff strategies
- Place value on avoiding future losses and degradation of resources
- Focus on multiple benefits, such as green infrastructure that accomplishes multiple objectives

Collaboration among all players and levels, with governor serving as champion to help organize networking and partnering opportunities

- Genuine “One Watershed One Plan” so that all planning units work together

Education is low hanging fruit so get data out in front of people on regular basis, including schools and universities

State agencies model practices they hope to see incorporated statewide

Change building and plumbing codes to allow for gray water use and ensure more resilient buildings

Governor sets goals for cover crops and carbon emissions

What Minnesotans said

“The governor can call attention to the fact that climate change is a real issue that will affect the future of the state.”



From the presentation

Living cover includes perennial crops, cover crops, prairies and grasses, wetlands and forests.



Living cover

Living cover is important to our landscape by holding water, filtering contaminants, protecting drinking water, and allowing water to recharge aquifers. Participants in this session explored ways to improve and expand living cover through the use of cover crops, perennial plant cover, and other land practices.

Key questions

- What are ways to make cover crops an economically viable part of a crop rotation?
- Which strategies, including public and private, for perennials are most viable and why?
- What can the governor do to advance these solutions?

What Minnesotans said

“Provide tax discounts, rebates, or other subsidies for agricultural land with permanent, perennial vegetation planted and maintained.”



Comment summaries

Participants shared many ideas about how to move this best management practice from a “good idea” to a viable, repeatable practice on the ground. The most often-voiced suggestions were:

Have governor drive goals for living cover instead of seeking consensus on what goals should be. These goals should be communicated face to face. Also, farmers should be rewarded for reaching goals.

Need solutions that don’t force farmers into “high risk” decisions, such as buying equipment or incurring other costs. Solutions need to be profitable.

Develop markets for products that come from perennials and cover crops, such as cellulosic energy for bio fuels and wheat grass for bread.

Technical and financial incentives are key, especially at local government level.

Research funding that is long-term instead of politically funded short-term.



What Minnesotans said

“Do we price water appropriately? There is an unwillingness to pay full cost of water. Rates are too low, they don’t reflect the true cost of water for individuals and industrial – all water users. “



Sustaining our water supplies

Minnesotans can no longer take fresh water for granted. We must take immediate action to protect our water quantity and availability through efficiency and conservation practices. This session focused on understanding and sustaining our water supplies by discussing water quantity and availability, water use efficiency, planning efforts, and other actions that can help ensure the health of our groundwater, lakes, and streams.

Key questions

- Do we know where groundwater is scarce and where it is plentiful? How do we know if groundwater is being used beyond its recharge capacity?
- Water conservation is not short term. How can we use economic incentives and health concerns to leverage changes in behavior related to water conservation?
- What obstacles do you personally face when it comes to advancing water sustainability in your own work?

What Minnesotans said

“For businesses and agricultural producers that meet certain water saving and BMPs, allow them to put the ‘Clean Water Seal of Approval’ on their product labeling.”



Comment summaries

The discussions at this session focused on the importance of education, strong leadership and collaboration, and the need for economic incentives and other tools for promoting this best management practice. The themes that emerged were:

Water reuse:

- Increase understanding
- Reform/enhance regulation

Education:

- For consumers and citizens, develop apps such as for smart phones, tap into University of Minnesota Extension services, and use advertising, such as labels that list the number of gallons used to produce a product
- For youth – curriculum
- For water suppliers
- For contractors and companies
- Need for a common language
- Keep doing this summit!

What Minnesotans said

“It’s so much more expensive to remediate than to make a clean water decision in the beginning.”



Bold leadership from governor to shine light on priorities through statements and messaging, and by keeping the conversation going

Funding for protection and prevention, not just mitigation

Balance funding for conservation and infrastructure

Embed the true cost of water in the price and provide incentives for good use

Address this in systematic way – up and down stream together

Collaboration across sectors and across government agencies

More communication and easy access to data at all levels

What Minnesotans said

“We have waited too long. We are in crisis management. Water resources need to be a priority of state public policy.”



From the presentation

Drinking Water Revolving Fund Priority List: 271 projects totaling \$393 million

Clean Water Revolving Fund Priority List: 293 project totaling \$1.4 billion

Water and wastewater infrastructure

Minnesota’s drinking water and wastewater infrastructure needs an estimated \$11 billion in upgrades. Session participants discussed how the costs and responsibilities for current infrastructure needs and new regulations are balanced and affordable.

Key questions

- What are the 3 biggest challenges your local water and wastewater utilities face in the next 20 years? How are they going to address those challenges?
- What steps can you take to improve the public’s awareness of the need for replacement of infrastructure, especially buried infrastructure?
- What role should federal, state and local governments have related to aging infrastructure and facility upgrades necessary to meet new regulations?

Comment summaries

Participants discussed the need for the public to understand water systems, and the need to balance water quality and costs for these systems. Common themes from this discussion included:

Public education is needed about these invisible systems:

- Current condition of these aging systems
- Understanding and appreciating the true cost of water

Establish a baseline for water quality and then develop a diagnosis with a neutral expert determining current status and what’s needed

Develop a state water ethic, clarifying what Minnesota has and articulating what it should be

Integration and cooperation across all water stakeholders

What Minnesotans said

“Water and sewer systems are reaching their useful life. Lots of need, little resources. Cities need an infusion of money. Federal government should play a role in funding water and wastewater infrastructure.”



What Minnesotans said

“Make sure cities and counties are at the table when developing solutions and regulations.”



Water in the urban and built environment

When the rains come, it rinses our urban landscapes of pollutants like sediment. This session captured ideas to improve current water management practices in urban and built environments to better protect and improve lake, stream, and wet-land quality; groundwater quality and quantity; and better control levels and flows.

Key questions

- What land development or redevelopment practices actually work (or could work better) to protect or improve water quality and control quantity?
- What approaches must improve to reduce or eliminate in-use contaminants coming from our homes, communities, and businesses to protect water quality and quantity?
- How can water users, providers, dischargers, and regulators coordinate roles and expectations better to affordably protect long-term water quality and quantity?

Comment summaries

Many participants identified the importance of working across agencies and with local partners to address this important management challenge:

Adopt a watershed-based approach for water quality, supply and quantity:

- Modify Minnesota Statutes 103.B and D on water management and watershed districts

From the presentation

Challenges to managing storm-water:

- Political will
- Organizational capacity
- Research needs
- Climate change
- Contaminants of emerging concern
- Aquatic invasive species

What Minnesotans said

“Public education: There’s a lack of ethic about what people put down the drain and how we treat water.”



Charter local entities with water resource research

State agency coordination:

- Break down silos
- Change plumbing code to allow reuse, others

Increase education and awareness on water ethic through educational and school initiatives, along with training for government staff and policy makers, especially in public works

Control pollutants and contaminants at the source and integrate controls with legislation that bans pollutants



Invasive carp



Aquatic invasive species

The spread of aquatic invasive species through our lakes and rivers has a devastating impact on natural aquatic life. Stopping it will require behavioral changes and adequate penalties for offenders. Infested waters need ongoing research and the best available technology to clean them up. This session identified what is currently being done and asked participants for suggestions for moving beyond the status quo.

Key questions

- How can we better prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species?
- How can we fund the work better?
- How can we better manage the impacts?

Comment summaries

Participants noted the challenge of educating the many sectors that play a role in this issue, fostering compliance with existing requirements and researching new approaches to both reduce the spread of invasive species and control infestations when they do occur:

Education about aquatic invasive species is a real problem in the state:

- Needs to happen at multiple levels, including K-12, higher education, manufacturers, boat owners, and general public

What Minnesotans said

“So often we say pull your plug, do this, do that, but what is missing is why this is important.”



- Messaging from the top regarding importance and value with compliance
- Communication and awareness at local levels and among states
- Look at anti-smoking legislation and campaigns for education models

Greater levels of enforcement with teeth:

- Look at western state models such as Utah, consider impounding boats and imposing higher fines
- Better educate current enforcers, many who are volunteers, so they have credibility
- Give volunteers the authority to enforce
- Create a scheme where a contaminated boat does not go to another lake before being decontaminated

Long-term funding:

- To support counties that are currently partnering with DNR to enforce
- To build more containment centers
- For research to eradicate aquatic invasive species
- To create an inspection fund, such as check-off on income tax forms
- To build enforcement function across the state filled with more than 10,000 lakes

Infrastructure to support the cause:

- At the state level to run an effective program to eradicate aquatic invasive species
- With manufacturers to improve boat design that sheds aquatic invasive species and eliminates places for them to “hide” and be taken into another lake

What Minnesotans said

“State level research needs come down to money and sustainable funding sources over time. We have done a good job on the front end here over the past few years. Apathy can creep into these discussions regarding long-term maintenance. We can’t just do that for one year and be done. We need to maintain funding over time and the public’s willingness to engage.”



What Minnesotans said

“Recognize that one size does not fit all. Develop policies and technical recommendations that are site-specific to local differences in soil, land and water.”



Water in the rural environment

Water in Minnesota’s rural areas faces unique challenges as we balance economic development with the increased demand on our water, and as we manage potential pollutants. Participants in this session explored strategies to ensure water quality protection that allows businesses to grow and thrive.

What Minnesotans said

“Make sure everyone, including public, understands problems and solutions so there can be a focus on solutions and not blame.”



Key question

- What strategies help us achieve these goals in a way that allows businesses to grow and thrive, while ensuring protection of our water?

Comment summaries

The discussions at this well-attended session were lively and wide-ranging, and a number of themes emerged from the ideas and suggestions shared:

Balancing rural development:

- Support local communities in funding, maintaining, and planning infrastructure
- Coordination among federal, state, and local agencies to set water policies, ensure adequate funding, and align Farm Bill requirements
- One size does not fit all so allow for regional planning

Increase education so Minnesotans have a common understanding of what is fact vs. fiction, and use science-based research to inform policy:

- Two way communication: governor to local, local to governor
- Kids learn the value of understanding water quality issues and environmental awareness

Management of pollutants:

- Need communication and collaboration across government agencies at all levels of government
- Need communication that involves all parties across the state and across urban and rural areas
- Need to involve farmers in developing solutions
- Economics need to be considered in developing solutions
- Science and research need to drive solution and actions

Holding water on the land:

- Secure better funding for water projects
- Improve communication among farmers
- Provide incentives to farmers
- Regulation – enforce existing laws and new rules may be needed
- Provide education and foster civil conversations about real solutions
- Better coordination of programs for multiple purposes
- Consider profitability of potential solutions

What Minnesotans said

“There are many smaller parcels, where maybe the homestead and some marginal farm acres were sold off that are not eligible for any conservation programs, yet could play a larger role in the solutions ...”



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Summit by the numbers

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More info on the
Governor's Office website: mn.gov/governor/

2016 Water Summit participants online and in-person by zipcode

