

Mississippi Headwaters One Watershed, One Plan

November 2019



PRIORITY ISSUE UPDATES

- Zach met with Joint Planning Board and city of Bemidji to discuss urban priorities.

- JPB and city of Bemidji are supportive of what the iWiP group wants to achieve, but brought up concerns about rental properties and stormwater management best practices.

- Focus areas for urban lands will be Bemidji, Deer River, Cass Lake, and Greater Grand Rapids area (including Cohasset and other areas that fall under Grand Rapids jurisdiction).

-The Advisory Committee discussed the concept of land stewardship and what lands are managed versus unmanaged. The group agreed that this was a good way to determine the current conditions. The iWiP will review prioritization, then assess stewardship, and finally focus on the actions.

HIGHLIGHTS

Re-evaluation of priority resources

- **Forestry:** focus on protecting high quality forestry resources first.
- **Lakeshed:** first priority will be lakes that are impaired, almost impaired, or have declining water quality. Second priority will be based on phosphorous load.
- **Agricultural Lands:** added pasture lands to be considered. An idea brought up was to model after Clearwater County's incentive programs for soil health best practices.
- **Urban Lands:** focus on Bemidji, Deer River, Cass Lake, and Greater Grand Rapids area. It will be important to also include some chloride reduction education.

Mississippi Headwaters communities answering the call to protect and improve: Our waters, forests, economy, future.

PLAN DEVELOPMENT

- The Advisory Committee expressed concerns about grouping the Wetlands and Wastewater Management focus areas. After discussion, it was decided to keep both categories separate.
- There was open discussion about directing funds to counties for SSTS inspections.
- The Advisory Committee was given a draft Land and Water Resources Narrative draft to review and provide comments on by mid-December.
- **Next Advisory Committee Meeting: January 15th, 9:30am-1pm in Bemidji**