

# 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 15<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am-1pm in Bemidji**