

Mississippi Headwaters One Watershed, One Plan

May 2019



VISIONING ACTIVITY DISCUSSION

During April's meeting, the Advisory Committee worked on a visioning activity for the watershed. The committee worked in small groups to identify the "good, bad, and ugly" within the watershed, as well as what value exists and what vision they see for the watershed plan.

Main highlights that came out of this activity were presented during the May meeting:

- Committee members want to see more action and programs in the community

- Committee members want to build community, educate, work with schools, utilize public input, and engage citizens

This visioning activity helped formulate a draft vision statement for the plan (right). This statement will be edited by the Advisory Committee in future meetings to determine the true purpose and vision for the watershed plan. June's meeting will have some dedicated time for brainstorming and forming the vision statement.

DRAFT VISION STATEMENT

A draft vision statement was presented to the Advisory Committee for review and brainstorming. This statement will be edited during future meetings based on the input and ideas from the Advisory Committee members.

The Mississippi Headwaters Watershed Comprehensive Plan is the source for local professionals and the public to focus efforts toward protecting and improving our natural resources through conservation action, learning, and adaptation.

Core Values:

- Inspire action through strong community and individual relationships
- Preserve action through enduring partnerships
- Amplify action through stakeholder insights and feedback

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Advisory Committee completed a visioning activity in April to identify the "good, bad, and ugly" of the watershed, and reviewed the results in May.
- Reviewed and briefly discussed a draft vision statement for the One Watershed One Plan.
- Brainstormed issues and resources that exist in the watershed.



ISSUES AND RESOURCES BRAINSTORMING

The Advisory Committee was given a list of the seven issues that must be addressed for the One Watershed One Plan, as determined by Minnesota Statutes, Section 103B.801, subdivision 4.

The Mississippi Headwaters Watershed contains many important resources, including approximately 685 total river miles and around 1000 lakes. The watershed encompasses approximately 1/10 of Minnesota's total lakes. The Advisory Committee reviewed a list of seven issue categories required for the watershed plan, as follows:

1. Surface water and groundwater quality protection, restoration, and improvement, including prevention of erosion and soil transport into surface water systems
2. Restoration, protection, and preservation of natural surface water and groundwater storage and retention systems
3. Promotion of groundwater recharge
4. Minimization of public capital expenditures needed to correct flooding and water quality problems

5. Wetland enhancement, restoration, and establishment
6. Identification of priority areas for riparian zone management and buffers
7. Protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat and water recreational facilities.

These issue statements started a larger discussion of issues and important resources for the watershed. The Advisory Committee was given a list of issues and resources from the current watershed plans within each county. The committee was tasked with organizing these issues into categories, whether it be one of the seven required areas as listed previously, or a new category as determined by the group.



What's Next

NEXT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING:
June 26th, 9am-12pm

Topics to discuss:

- In-depth brainstorm activity to develop the vision statement
- Public kickoff meeting discussion
- Continue review of issues and resources
- Continue review of land and water resources narrative