Appendix C:

25x25 Community Water Meeting Responses

City of White Bear Lake

Surface Water Management Plan

White Bear Lake Area Community Water Meeting
September 21, 2017

Group A

Question 1 – what are your Top 3 water improvement goals?

1. Agricultural runoff, or non-point source pollution, should be controlled by permits.
2. We need to prioritize sustainable groundwater consumption.
3. Road salt should be better managed.

Question 2 – What barriers will your goals face?

1. Confusion about who is responsible among stakeholders
2. Minnesota legislature
3. Special interests, such as pesticide and fertilizer companies, and consumers
4. People don't want their taxes raised and they aren't always willing to pay for fixes.

Question 3 – What actions should be taken to address each goal and/or barrier?

1. The Met Council should be in charge of drinking water supply for the seven-county metro area. They should direct consumers to use more surface water, conserve water better, and they should provide incentives to reduce private wells.
2. The state should provide money for a road salt alternative (which will likely be more expensive). We need to focus on not using salt anymore.
3. The MPCA should issue permits for all agricultural operations. A related idea is that farmers should be required to have buffer zones. Absolutely required.

Group B

Question 1 – what are your Top 3 water improvement goals?

1. Hold residents responsible for keeping sewers clean, perhaps through city ordinance
2. Flushing drugs needs stop.
3. Incorporate area clean-up into development plans
4. More cooperation with buffers/buffer requirements

Question 2 – What barriers will your goals face?

1. Lack of funding, and lack of enough public awareness and political will to ensure support for funding.
2. Competing funding priorities: too much competition for limited funds.
3. Unanswered question of: how do we calculate the value (savings) of clean water and cleaning up water sources?

Question 3 – What actions should be taken to address each goal and/or barrier?

1. Local governments should bring pressure to those [*unknown word*] above to keep with funding and education.
2. Enforce laws that exist
3. PAH's need more attention.

Group C

Question 1 – what are your Top 3 water improvement goals?

1. Total number of boat drain plug violations is reduced annually.
2. Enact and maintain a stormwater drain stencil program.
3. Promote more native plantings and buffers.

Question 2 – What barriers will your goals face?

1. Not enough engagement, education, and program participation
2. Partisan politics is a barrier. Politics, not government, gets in the way.
3. Money is limited and it is difficult to get consensus on projects to spend money on.

Question 3 – What actions should be taken to address each goal and/or barrier?

1. We need to educate ourselves, personally.
2. We need to educate youth through curriculum.
3. We need to raise funding (or designate higher amounts toward water programs).

Group D

Question 1 – what are your Top 3 water improvement goals?

1. Reduce dependence on groundwater for drinking water.
2. We need to reduce nutrient contamination and reduce stormwater runoff through better shoreline vegetation and decreasing impervious surfaces.
3. Control the spread of invasive species.

Question 2 – What barriers will your goals face?

1. Funding and water clean-up costs.
2. The watershed is large and there is so much interconnectedness between shallow lakes and lakes with internal nutrient loading problems.
3. Cultural traditions, aesthetic preferences, and a lack of education about other plants and lawns.
4. There [seems to be] a lack of a technical approach.

Question 3 – What actions should be taken to address each goal and/or barrier?

1. To reduce our dependence on groundwater, we need: alternative landscaping to lawns (drought-resistant grasses); to increase the cost of water; more education [on water conservation]; to investigate/build infrastructure to use surface water, such as using gray water for sprinkling.
2. To reduce nutrient loading into bodies of water, we need: to promote Best Management Practices (BMPs) for shoreline vegetation; more pervious pavement; to examine and then mitigate nutrient runoff sources.
3. We need more education on invasive species.

Group E

Question 1 – what are your Top 3 water improvement goals?

1. More water awareness
2. More personal (and positive) actions taken

Question 2 – What barriers will your goals face?

1. People don't know the issues. There is a lack of uniform education around these issues.
2. People have expectations for how to use their private property that are not in sync with water improvement goals (e.g. people don't want buffers or think they can remove a buffer for land use or aesthetics).
3. Lack of analytics on who's using what water. Who exactly are the high water users? We need more data to identify and address "bad actors."

Question 3 – What actions should be taken to address each goal and/or barrier?

1. Collect more data, particularly on water usage and pollution sources from farms.
2. Offer more water use efficiency incentives.
3. Sustainable, "water smart" developments and planning.

Group F

Question 1 – what are your Top 3 water improvement goals?

1. Protect wetlands, especially through buffering
2. No net loss of healthy/unimpaired lakes
3. Limit agricultural runoff
4. Switch to surface water (from groundwater) as a drinking water and irrigation source.
5. Ensure that groundwater recharge exceeds withdrawal/consumption.
6. Reduce individual water overuse (from leaving the faucet on, overwatering lawns, etc.)

Question 2 – What barriers will your goals face?

1. It is difficult for the everyday person to become (and stay) engaged.
2. There is a lack of broad education around these issues.
3. Funding (lack of it).
4. There are multiple layers and units of government involved in these issues, making it complicated to engage with and making the communication of science and measurements difficult to access and communicate.
5. Folks assume that since our state has an abundant amount of water, that we are OK [and don't need to take further water protection actions].
6. There is a lack of authority/regulation to require improvement.

Question 3 – What actions should be taken to address each goal and/or barrier?

1. Give incentives to homeowners (possibly through "conservation rates").
2. Enforcement should be used.
3. There should be city involvement to give incentives to residents/homeowners for replacing a high water-use appliance with a higher-efficiency one. (e.g. a rebate program for large appliances).
4. We need to restore waters that have the greatest prospect of restoration (i.e. those barely below the threshold). Do not invest in heavily degraded waters. [Perhaps in

heavily degraded water areas, spend more time communicating and working with polluters, versus implementing water clean-up].

Group G

Question 1 – what are your Top 3 water improvement goals?

1. Infrastructure:
    a. when you must replace, take the time and investment to use BMP. Example, replace sewer pipes with 2 separate lines, one for graywater.
    b. start to make the change to convert to surface water
    c. rather than just replace or repair existing WW plants, make changes to design and build plants to reuse water, vs. just treat and release
2. Improve conservation education on all the ways to conserve water
    a. start young
    b. make material/information more readily available and consumable
3. Encourage behavior change
    a. through reward/recognition systems (too difficult to educate everyone)
    b. make people pay for their actual water usage. Water is valuable, make people pay for it.
4. Put pressure on elected officials to make policy changes AND don't go backwards, such as getting rid of the Clean Water Act.
5. Make design changes (such as building codes for low flow, impervious surfaces, etc.), so that behavior of people is changed based on new products/processes.

Question 2 – What barriers will your goals face?

1. Agriculture, use of all the pesticides
2. Not enough rewards or consequences for people to change their behavior
3. Media is not interested in covering the topic since it's long term and not a headline grabber
4. Politicians: no focus on the topic, the topic does not rank high when you ask people what they care about more, so politicians rarely campaign on environmental issues.
5. It is a challenge to get education material out to the broader public.
6. [lack of] funding
7. Community boundaries [and coordination]

Question 3 – What actions should be taken to address each goal and/or barrier?

1. Design solutions, policy solutions, rewards, consequences, tax
2. Use of Best Management Practices (make it policy for governing bodies to have to seek out BMPs)
3. Keep pressure on elected officials
4. Increase/improve education on water health and conservation