

April 11, 2019

The Minnesota Well Owners Organization (MnWOO) is advocating a specific scope preparing a Drinking Water Safety Plan (DWSP) as the principal focus for the proposed Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for Nitrates in the Karst Region of Minnesota.

A Drinking Water Safety Plan is a call to action based on informed decisions; it is not just a study of what is known about karst, farm chemicals, or what will happen if we continue to neglect our sensitive groundwater in the karst region.

A Drinking Water Safety Plan starts with considering safe water, a notion everyone understands, and is not just a compilation of the complicated models that describe the unseen nature and hydro stratigraphy of fractured and dissolved karst aquifers.

A Drinking Water Safety Plan accepts that everyone cares about sustaining safe drinking water and is not a regulatory approach that is unpopular or divisive in the Karst Region.

A Drinking Water Safety Plan is an action plan that coordinates and operationalizes private and public water management, governance and financial structures and does not just rely on academic geologic, land use and farm practices assessment or an academic alternatives analysis.

A Drinking Water Safety Plan connects risk with family health and does not assume that everyone can make the link between source water protection and drinking water safety.

A Drinking Water Safety Plan can engage everyone and will not neglect or ignore those who have no interest in karst geology, hydrology, farming, land use or risk management.

A Water Safety Plan works at any scale from the kitchen sink, to the feedlot or cornfield, to the aquifer and recharge area and is not likely to be misunderstood by well owners and water system managers.