

What municipal wastewater problems need solving?

Find solutions to fund aging wastewater infrastructure upgrades and control rising costs.

issues ranked highest at the October meeting

parked solutions raised at the October meeting

SHORT TERM OPTIONS (meet immediate needs)

compliance tools (tech assistance, variances, compliance schedules, fee waivers, optimization, with equity for businesses)

develop statewide prescription drug takeback program

other?

operation and maintenance (cost increases with technical complexity, I/I, flushable wipes)

provide I/I funding for public and private lines

facility optimization (LCCMR pilot project proposed)

fund research to improve operations

change flushable labels on personal care wipes

educate consumers (drug disposal, wipes disposal, softener operations/salt use)

identify opportunities for regional cooperation for administration and O & M

other?

skilled workforce (recruitment incentives, competitive salary, ongoing training, pooled staff)

develop operator workforce, researchers, and industry leaders

create pool of O & M expertise

create student loan forgiveness program

change licensing requirements to allow for contracted/shared private sector services

other?

funding (unsewered communities, towns under 1000, towns over 1000)

balanced PFA loan/grant funding

continue/increase PFA loan/grant funding (@ least \$121M/biennium)

build USTDA best value procurement recs into grant/loan processes

change funding criteria

support asset management and long-term/capital planning using life cycle costs

find a new funding source (such as the Chesapeake Bay model)

develop public-private partnerships

promote use of design-build options

eliminate the prevailing wage

other?

MID TERM OPTIONS (foundation already in place)

availability of trading processes/partners (PS and/or NPS)

allow for credit swaps

pilot a watershed-scale program (follow Oregon model?) and involve ag in the planning

other?

permitting (appropriateness of stds, C:B assessments, peer review, cumulative effects, individual vs watershed approach)

institutionalize guidance/commissioner memos into statute (peer review, variance fee waivers, etc.)

independent, quantified cost-benefits analysis & peer review of standards

develop better estimates of regulator costs

develop guidance on C:B ratios for PS vs NPS treatment shares

set thresholds for cost of upgrades

collective effect of permits on water quality at regional/watershed scale

create appropriate and predictable standards consistent with border states

streamline the regulatory process

identify opportunities for regionalization of facilities

other?

LONG TERM OPTIONS

integrated water management planning (avoid shifting the burden from wastewater to water supply); reuse

write a MN 5-15 year integrated water plan with overarching principles (e.g., collaboration, meet local values)

financial incentives for resource recovery (energy, nutrients, water)

create centers of excellence for integrated water management across the state

educate consumers (conservation, reuse)

other?

affordability/availability of technologies (existing, emerging, innovated, combined, hybrid, diverse)

base decisions on technical expertise

research to spawn innovative technologies (better, cheaper, address CECs...)

other?