# Strategic Plan & Priorities



Paul Gardner, Administrator & John Barten, Council member 651-757-2384

Paul.Gardner@state.mn.us

September 22, 2021 Subcommittee on MN Water Policy





- Created in 2006 to "advise on the administration and implementation of" the Clean Water Legacy Act, and "foster coordination and cooperation" among agencies and others.
- Every two years, recommends how to spend the Clean Water Fund



#### **Voting members (17)**

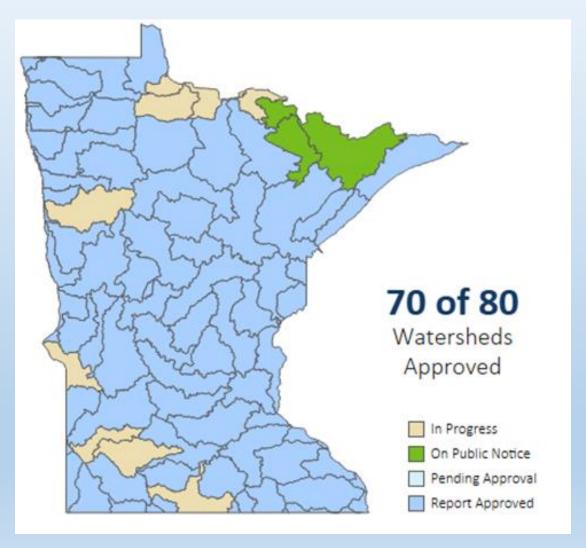
- Counties (2) (Metro, Greater MN)
- Townships (1)
- Municipalities (2)
- Farm organizations (2)
- Environmental organizations (2)
- Tribal government (1)
- Business (2)
- Fishing organizations (1)
- Hunting organizations (1)
- Lakes/Streams nonprofits (1)
- Watershed districts (1)
- Soil & Water Conservation Districts (1)

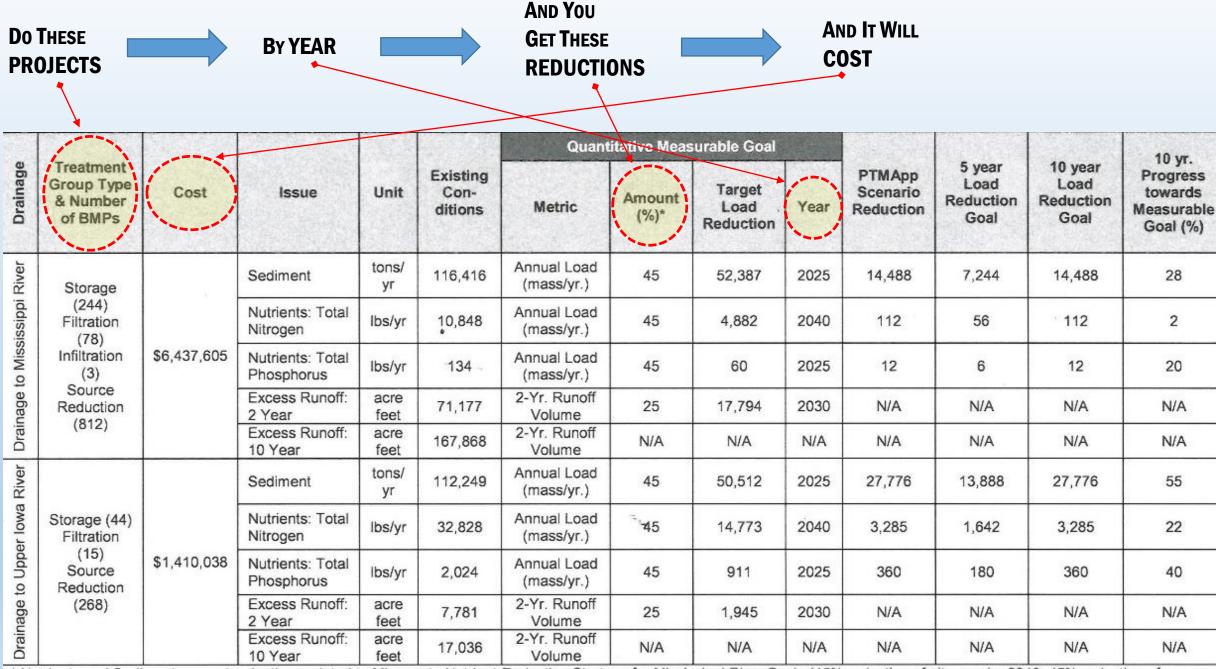
# Strategic Plan 2020

- Approved Strategic Plan April 2020
- Received input from dozens of organizations
- Identifies what can be accomplished by 2034
- Put many existing "deliverables" in one place

#### Top Surface Water Deliverables

- MPCA: Intensive monitoring of all watersheds every ten years
- MPCA: Blueprint for improvement: Watershed Restoration & Protection Strategies (WRAPS) by 2023
- BWSR: Locally driven comprehensive watershed management plans to prioritize projects; all initiated by 2025
- Money to fund the top priorities in the plans (implementation)
- MPCA: Evaluation of progress





Excerpt from Root River "One Watershed One Plan"

## Top Surface Water Deliverables

- 67% of waters "swimmable"
- 70% of waters "fishable"
- Protection & restoration of 200,000 priority acres in Upper Mississippi headwaters basin
- 5 million acres in cover crops or continuous living cover by 2034
- MDA: 6.5 million acres & 5,100 farms in Ag Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP)

- MPCA: 80% compliance rate for SSTS (90% stretch goal)
- MPCA: Support for new MS4 permit compliance
- MPCA: Chloride reduction
- BWSR: Competitive grants
- BWSR: Grants fufilling wtrshd plans
- BWSR: Easements

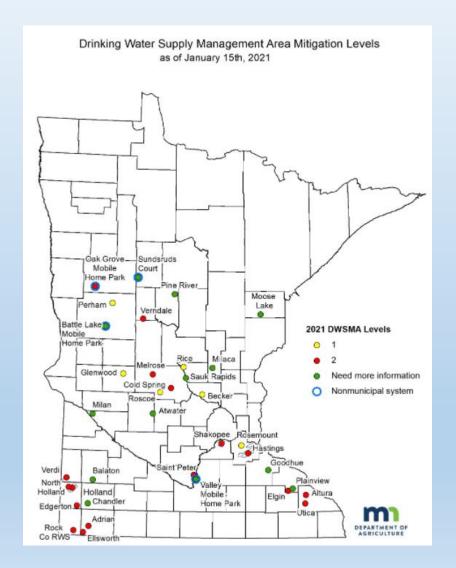
# Top Drinking Water/Groundwater Deliverables



- Surface water DW sources (23)
  - MDH: Source water assessments & intake protection plans
- Groundwater DW sources (920)
  - MDH: Source water protection planning for community public water systems
- Funding what's in the plans
  - MDH: CWF to support ½ of plans
  - Protect ~400,000 acres in drinking water wellhead areas statewide
  - BWSR: Drinking water protection grants, easements, cover crop demos

# Top Drinking Water/Groundwater Deliverables

- MDA: Achieve drinking water standard for nitrate (Groundwater Protection Rule)
- MDA: Support the Nitrogen
   Fertilizer Management Plan to protect vulnerable private wells.
- Met Council: Reduce groundwater use by 150 million gallons/year



# Selected Policy Priorities

- Chloride Reduction
  - Phase out timed water softeners
  - Allow MPCA to charge fee for high-demand SmartSalting training
- Risk to Water from Unmapped Underground Utilities
  - Request that all utilities contribute location data or allow limited confidential access to location data to Gopher State One Call

- Drinking Water Source
   Protection
  - Protecting 400,000 acres in Drinking Water Source Management Areas

# Thank you!

