

# 25BY25



## Minnesota's Water Quality Improvement Goal

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# 25x25 Initiative

**Governor's goal: 25% improvement in Minnesota's water quality by the year 2025**





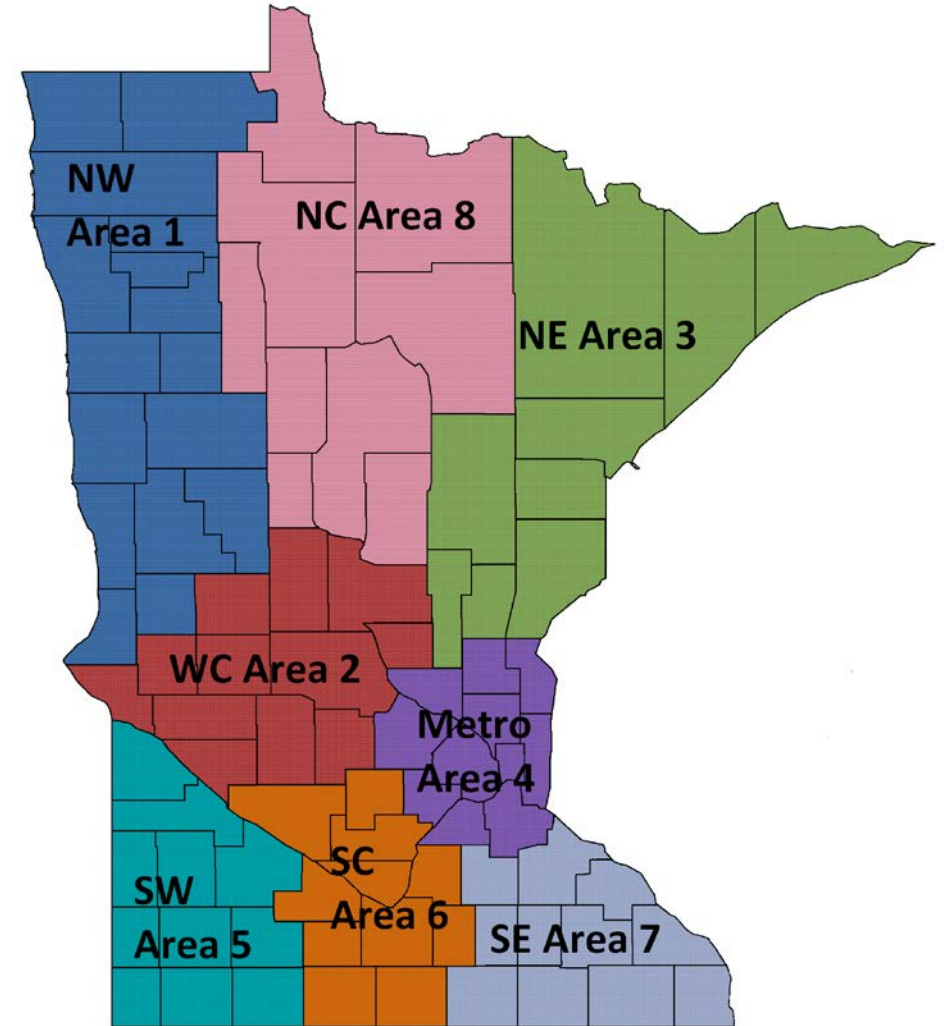
# What is the 25x25 initiative?

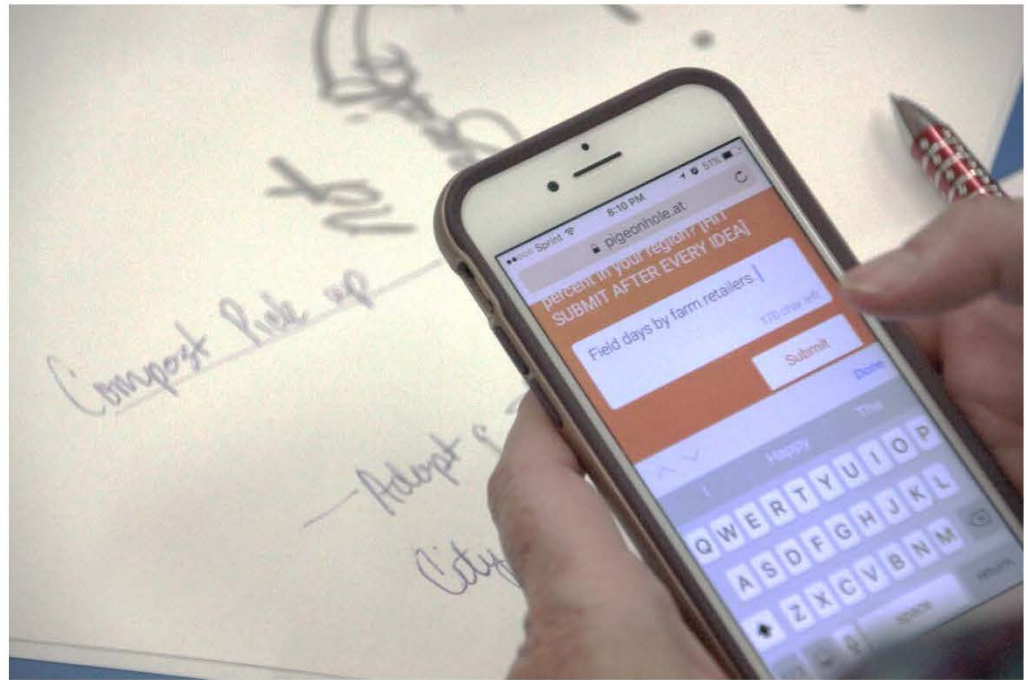
- A call to action to provide flexible goals for each of Minnesota's eight local watershed regions
- Individual regions (based on SWCD areas through the state) decide what pollutants to address and strategies to deploy
- No new regulations

# Public Engagement Process

## Ten Town Hall Meetings

<b>Rochester</b>	July 31
<b>Mankato</b>	August 16
<b>Marshall</b>	August 17
<b>Crookston</b>	September 5
<b>St. Cloud</b>	September 6
<b>Ely</b>	September 12
<b>Bemidji</b>	September 13
<b>Minneapolis</b>	September 27
<b>Burnsville</b>	October 4
<b>Stillwater</b>	October 5





# Regional Stakeholder Meetings

- 4 in the metro area
  - Blaine City Hall – September 29
  - Scott County Government Center – October 2
  - Capital Region Watershed District – October 6
  - Maple Grove Community Center – October 9
- With key allies, water professionals, interest groups
- Gather feedback on 25% goals and policy ideas



# Community Water Meetings

## Discussion Guide



### Community Water Meeting Discussion Guide

*"I ask all Minnesotans to join me in finding solutions that will ensure our children and grandchildren inherit clean water to drink, swim, and fish in. This is everyone's challenge, and everyone's responsibility." – Governor Mark Dayton*

#### Overview

Thank you for hosting a Community Water Meeting! The purpose of these meetings is to give Governor Mark Dayton feedback on Minnesota's 25% by 2025 Water Quality Improvement Goal. He wants to hear from people across the state about how we can reach this goal together, and what our priority actions should be.

We are gathering public input through October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from Community Water Meetings, [ten regional Town Halls](#), and comments submitted on line (please see [www.egb.state.mn.us/25by25](http://www.egb.state.mn.us/25by25) for more details). Your comments will be compiled along with other feedback we are gathering from people in your region. We will use this feedback to determine regional 25% goals and the top 10 proposed ideas for action steps or policy. We will present these results to the public in a report in the winter.

#### How to Host a Meeting

- Gather a group of friends, neighbors, or colleagues.
- A group size of 4-20 people is ideal. Anyone can participate—no specialized knowledge is

Improving water quality  
25% BY 2025



## Informational Packets



three out of four Minnesotans get their drinking water from groundwater sources, but the groundwater is threatened by overuse and contamination from pollutants.



#### GOOD TO KNOW: Southeast Minnesota

- ▶ All drinking water in the southeast region comes from groundwater.
- ▶ Southeast Minnesota is especially vulnerable to groundwater contamination. Karst topography means this region needs to take extra steps to protect drinking water supplies from nitrate, bacteria, pesticides, and fertilizers.



#### Major threats to groundwater



**Nitrate** — One of the most common water pollutants in Minnesota, affecting a large number of private wells and public water supplies. Elevated nitrate in drinking water can be harmful to human health, specifically to the health of infants. Septic tanks,



# By the Numbers

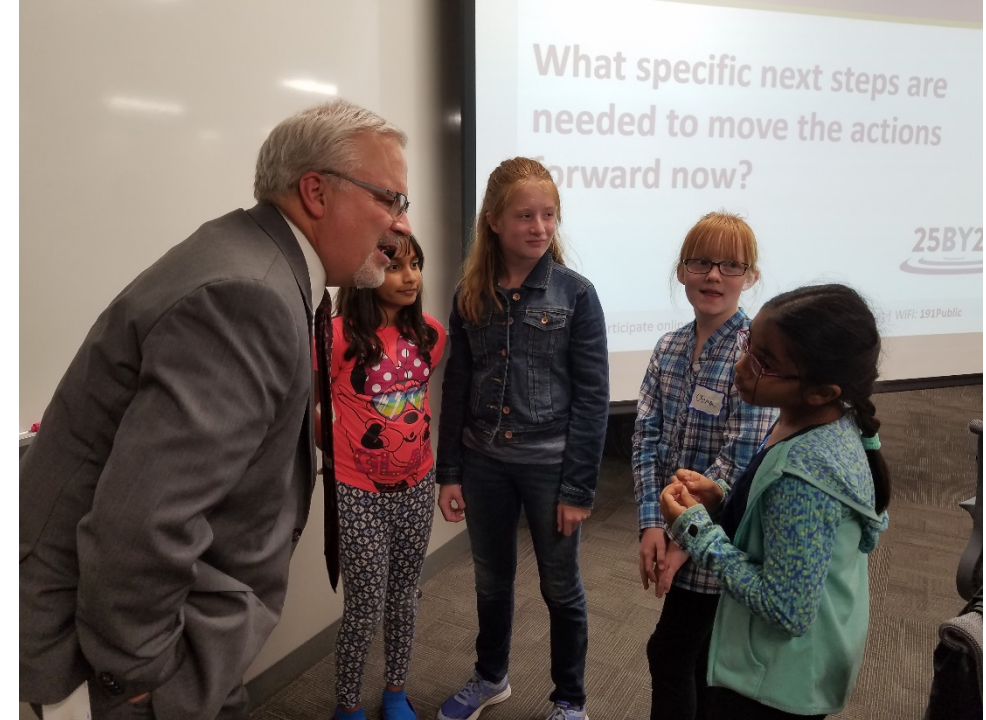
- More than 2,000 people attended a Town Hall
  - More than 500 participated online and via community water meetings
  - Hundreds of fourth graders interacted with 25 by 25 at the Metro Water Festival
- **Over 3,500 unique comments**





# Discussion Questions

- What goals could be established to improve water quality by 25 percent in your region?
- What actions are needed to get these goals for your region?
- What specific next steps are needed to move these actions forward now?





# What We Heard: Reflections

- Comments addressed a wide range of issues and were often quite general in nature
- Disconnect between the richness of the table conversations and the comments that were submitted
- Comments focused on actions and strategies rather than goals
  - → 25% goals at watershed, community, or organization level and incorporated into existing planning processes



# What We Heard: Top Themes

## Education, Communication, and Engagement

- Building statewide **water literacy** through K-12 education.
- **Knowledge sharing** among farmers and others working in agriculture to spread new approaches like cover crops, low till farming, and controlled drainage.
- Broad media campaigns to build a **water ethic** and promote **shared values**.



# What We Heard: Top Themes

## Reducing Runoff by Holding More Water on the Land

Top strategies in agricultural areas	Top strategies in urban areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Expanding cover crops</li><li>Reducing tillage</li><li>Increasing crop diversity</li><li>Increasing perennial crops</li><li>Improving drainage management for better water retention</li><li>Improvements to soil health</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Expanding rain gardens</li><li>Improving storm water management</li><li>Expanding green and permeable infrastructure</li><li>Increasing native landscaping</li></ul>



# What We Heard: Top Themes

- **Working Together**
- **Locally-Led Watershed Planning**
- **Pollutants & Drinking Water**
  - nitrogen, phosphorus, sediments, arsenic, contaminants of emerging concern
- **Reduce chlorides (Metro)**
- **Reduce number of failing/inadequate septic systems (Northeast)**
- **Funding**
- **Incentives and Regulation**



## Next Steps

- State agency leaders are looking at all the information gathered and working with the governor's office on putting together actions and next steps.
- Will have a better sense of what comes next in late January.



# Questions?

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