



Minnesota Drinking Water Action Plan

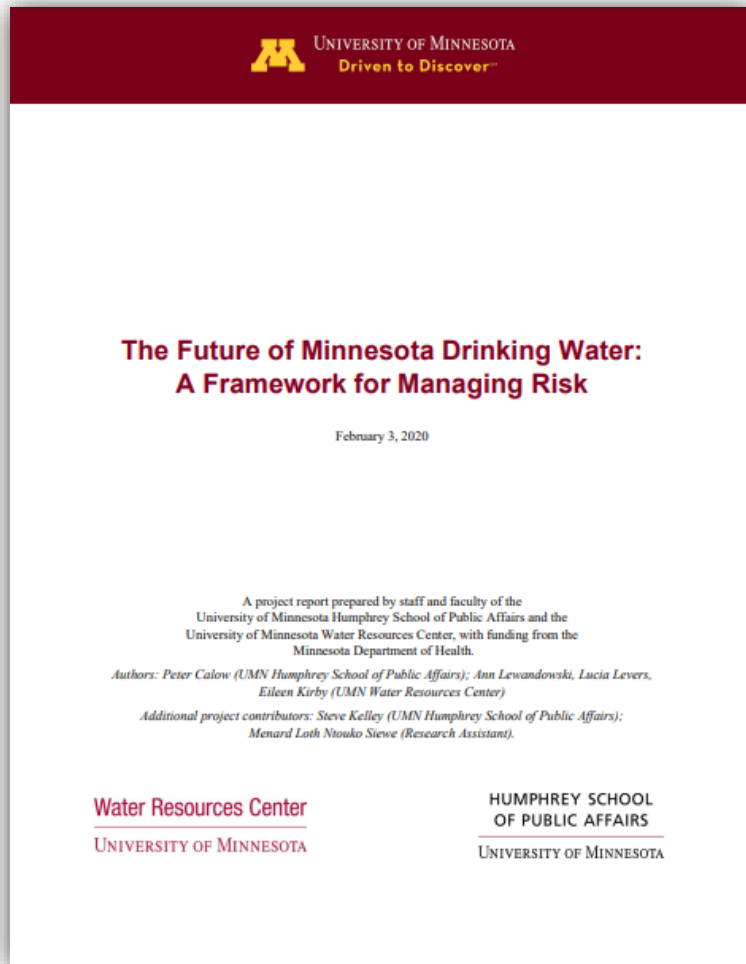
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“...develop public health policies and an action plan to address threats to safe drinking water, including development of a statewide plan for protecting drinking water based on recommendations from the *Future of Drinking Water* report”

2021 Minnesota Session Law Chapter 1, Article 1, Section 7 (d)



Future of Minnesota Drinking Water Report



- State drinking water plan
- Use the Governance Assessment Framework
- Integrated approach to managing drinking water across many agencies
- Consolidation of utilities in rural areas
- Accreditation as a way to drive professional development
- Engage a broader audience in decision-making and communication
- Consider water safety plans
- Comparative risk assessment
- ~~Testing of private wells at property transfer~~

Minnesota Drinking Water Action Plan

An actionable 10-year plan to ensure that everyone, everywhere in Minnesota has equitable access to safe and sufficient drinking water.

Serve every Minnesotan.

Be the State's commitment to protect against existing and emerging threats.

Incorporate expertise and robust feedback from diverse perspectives.



Public water system users

Health Equity



Private well users

Commitment to protect against threats



- Types of water systems
- How drinking water is managed
 - State players
 - Local and nonprofit partners
 - Regulations
 - Funding
- Strengths and challenges
- Issues to address
- Goals, strategies, actions, and measurable outcomes

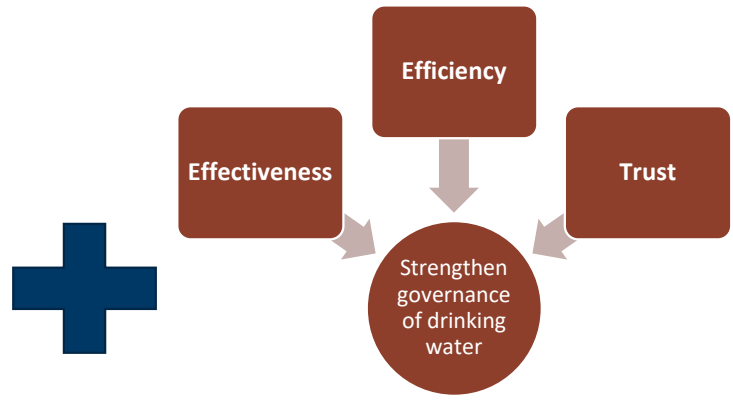
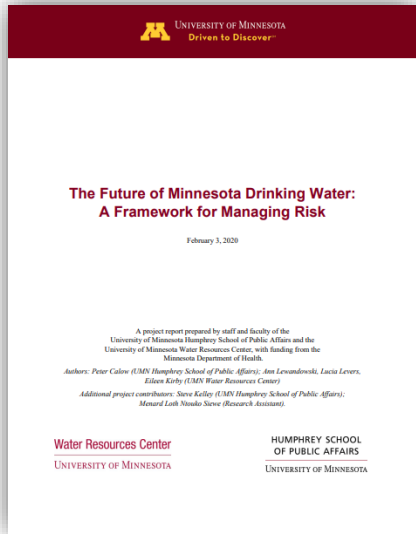


Plan development and key findings

Plans Informing the DWAP



Ingredients for developing the Plan



Independent Governance Assessment



Subject Matter Expertise



How we are getting feedback



7 Public meetings

- Fall/Winter 2024
- Learn about drinking water in Minnesota
- Provide feedback on version 1 of plan



Survey

- Winter 2024
- Provide feedback on version 1 of plan
- 55 responses



Online comment

- Spring
- Version 2 of plan



Final plan

Summer 2024



**Communication
and coordination**



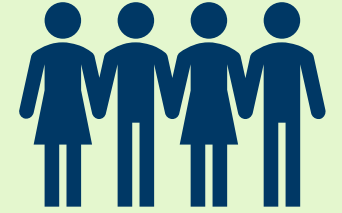
**Tools and
Resources**



**More innovative
and collaborative
thinking**



**Make data more
relevant and
actionable**



**More community
engagement**

Key Governance Assessment findings and recommendations



**Proactive
communication and
planning**



**More emphasis on
private drinking
water**



**Collaborate across
agencies**



**Read the full
report**

Issue: infrastructure



Physical

- Repair and upgrade aging infrastructure
- Upgrade to handle contaminants of emerging concern



Workforce

- Support current water operators and well contractors
- Inspire and engage the next generation



Data













- Update data systems
- Make data and interpretation more accessible



Small systems have smaller customer-base to absorb costs

Equity Concern

Issue: disparities in safeguards for private wells

Phase	Construction	Regular testing to ensure safe drinking water	Mitigation to address contaminants	Protecting source waters	Funding for construction, treatment, repair, sealing	Well Sealing
Public Water System						
Private Well		Initial test 			Disparate & limited funds 	

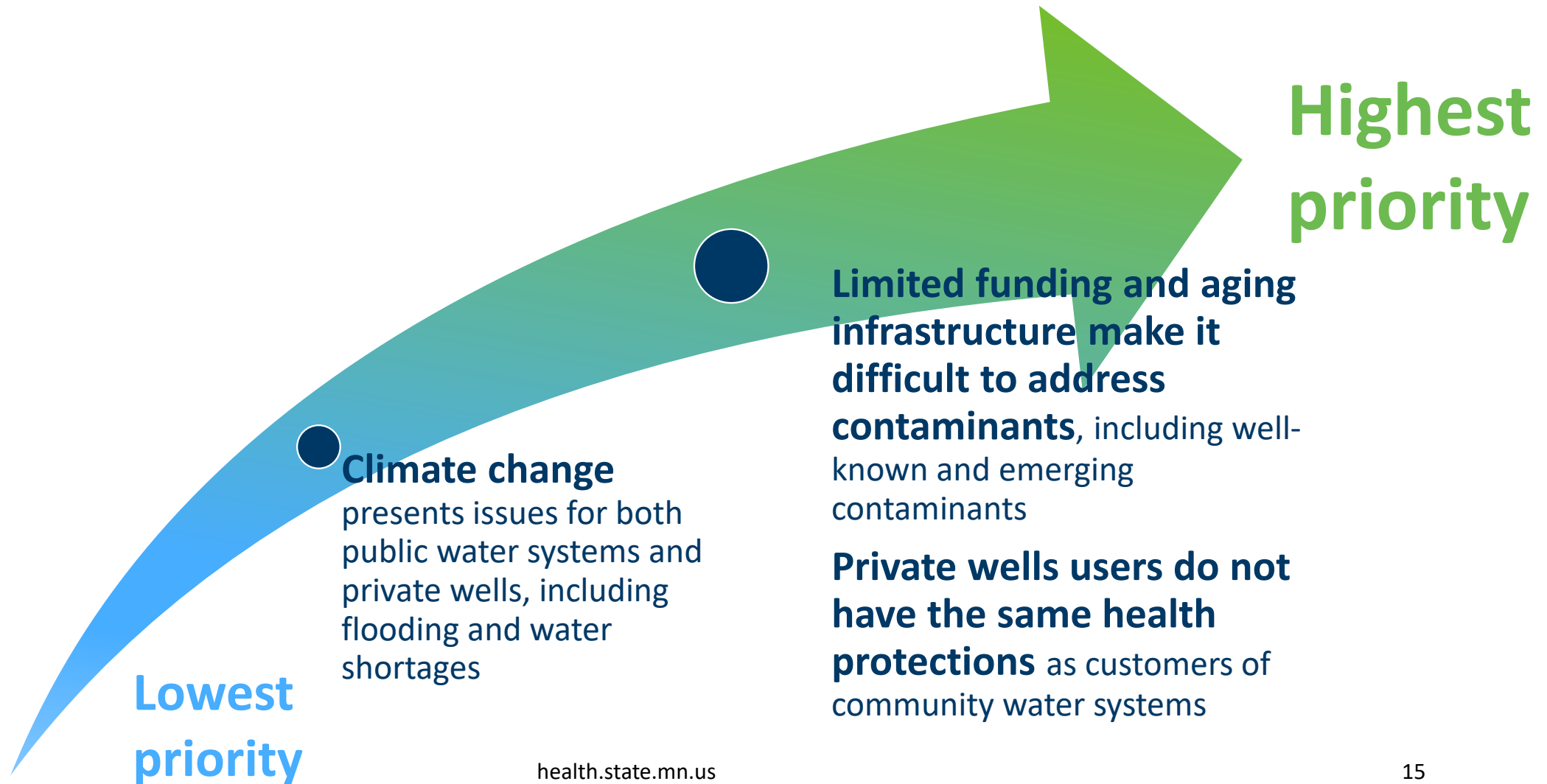
Key public meeting findings



■ Completed Meetings

- Most trust their tap water at home.
- Common concern: presence of chemicals or contaminants in drinking water.
- Prefer to receive communications and give feedback via text and email.
- 42% do not believe they are paying too much for water; 59% willing to pay more to ensure the safety of drinking water.

Key survey findings



DRAFT goals and strategies

Protect sources of drinking water

- Identify and manage potential threats around drinking water source for public water systems and private wells.
- Emphasize source water protection in watershed management.
- Educate about and enforce rules and ordinances that help protect sources of drinking water.

Establish resilient drinking water infrastructure

- Support communities with asset management and resiliency planning for drinking water infrastructure.
- Support and grow the public water system and well contractor workforces.
- Update and build resilient data systems.

Ensure safe tap water

- Strengthen implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act for public water systems.
- Support smaller public systems.
- Establish equitable access to private well testing and remediation.

Anticipate and manage emerging risks

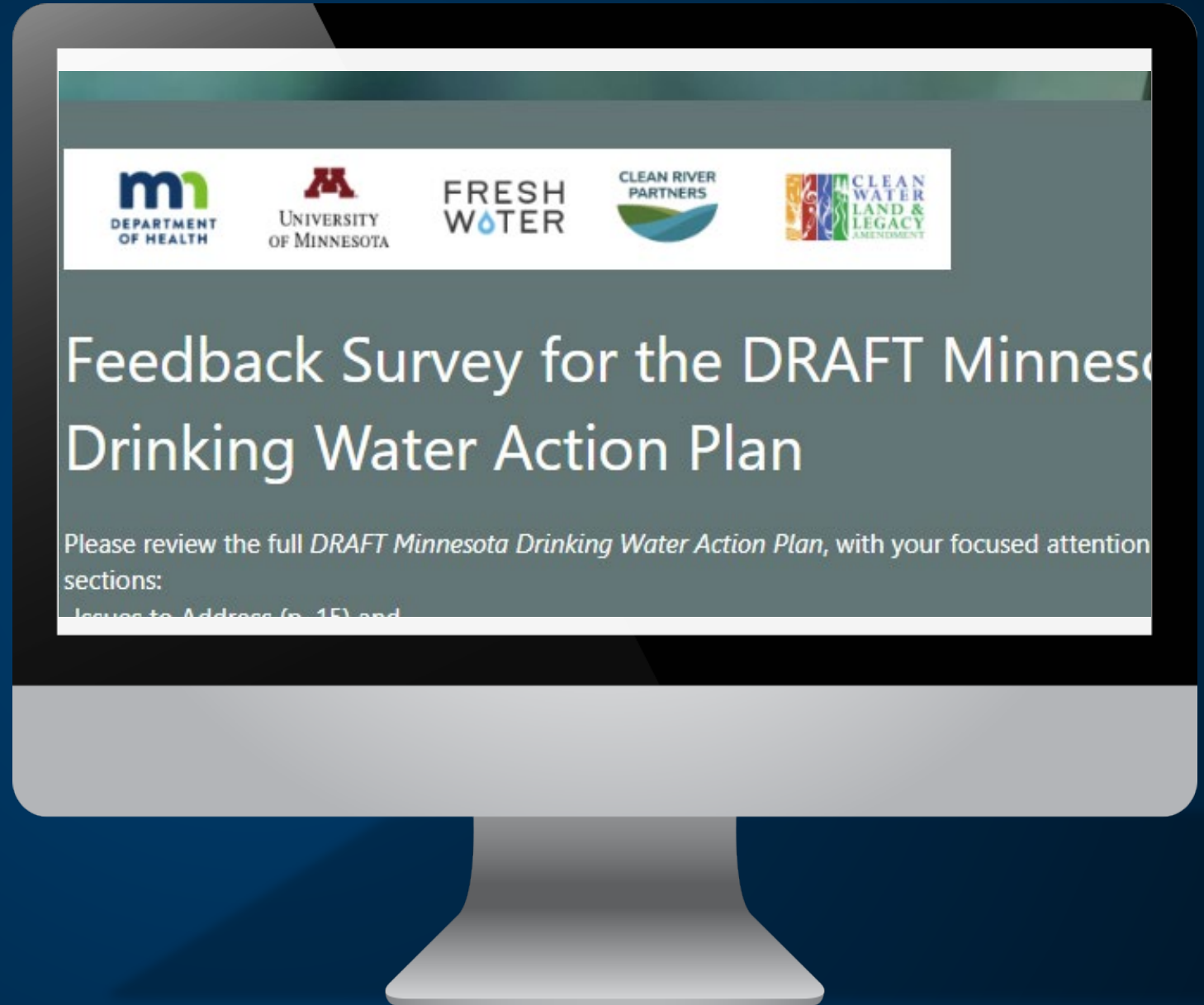
- Monitor drinking water sources for emerging risks to drinking water.
- Provide human health risk context for unregulated and emerging risks.
- Use public health approaches to identify and prioritize emerging risks.
- Advance laboratory capacity and methods to deal with emerging risks.
- Coordinate efforts to manage emerging risks to drinking water.
- Advance policies to deal with emerging risks.

Engage partners

- Communicate with and support regulated communities.
- Provide partners and residents with data on risks and challenges to safe drinking water.
- Facilitate outreach and education to communities affected by drinking water contamination.
- Leverage advisory councils to understand and prioritize challenges to safe drinking water.

Consider providing feedback on version 2

- Spring 2024





DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH

Everyone,
everywhere in
Minnesota has
equitable access
to safe and
sufficient
drinking water.

Proposed Goals

Protect sources
of drinking water

Establish
resilient drinking
water
infrastructure

Ensure safe tap
water

Anticipate and
manage
emerging risks

Engage partners

Are there opportunities
for the state plan to
support local and
regional priorities?

What do you want to
make sure is included?

What do you think?

Which goals or
strategies resonate?

What surprises you?

Thank You

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