Welcome.
Thank you for joining us!

Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization
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Watershed Restoration and Protection (WRAP) Study

Janna Kieffer
Barr Engineering
November 15, 2012
Tonight’s Agenda

- Background
- Introductions
- Project description
- Summary of survey results
- Small group discussions
Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization

Includes portions of 7 cities:
- Inver Grove Heights
- Mendota Heights
- Sunfish Lake
- South St. Paul
- St. Paul
- West St. Paul
- Lilydale
Watershed Restoration and Protection (WRAP)

• Study includes five lakes:
  – Sunfish (City of Sunfish Lake)
  – Pickerel Lake (Lilydale/St. Paul)
  – Thompson (West St. Paul)
  – Rogers (Mendota Heights)
  – Augusta (Mendota Heights)

• Outcomes of study: Clean-up or Protection Strategies
Project Work Plan

1. Assess Water Quality
2. Determine Pollutant Sources
3. Evaluate Lake Response to Pollutants
4. Develop Protection and Improvement Strategies

Stakeholder Participation
Civic Engagement Process - Citizen Input Survey

• Survey sent to 2,400 watershed residents (excludes Lake Augusta watershed)

• Survey goals:
  – Assess residents’ *knowledge* and *attitudes* on stormwater and lake water quality
  – Assess residents’ *willingness to change practices*
## Survey Response

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lake</th>
<th># of Surveys Mailed</th>
<th>Total # of Responses</th>
<th>% Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thompson Lake</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunfish Lake</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickerel Lake</td>
<td>1942</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rogers Lake</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How do you/have you used your lake?

- Fishing
- Boating
- Swimming
- Aesthetic Viewing
- Other

% of Respondents

- Thompson
- Sunfish
- Pickerel
- Rogers
To what degree does the quality of your lake affect the overall quality of the community?

- **Highly Affects**: Thompson (40%), Sunfish (80%), Pickerel (60%), Rogers (20%)
- **Moderately Affects**: Thompson (60%), Pickerel (40%), Rogers (0%)
- **Does Not Affect**: Thompson (20%), Sunfish (0%), Pickerel (20%), Rogers (100%)
What criteria are most important in considering the overall quality of your lake?

- Stability of water levels
- Water clarity
- Abundance and/or diversity of aquatic plants
- Shoreline condition
- Health of fishery
- Other

Percentage of respondents by lake:
- Thompson
- Sunfish
- Pickerel
- Rogers
What yard and garden practices do residents currently use or are they willing to use to improve lake water quality?
Willingness to use the rain barrels (current or future) to improve lake water quality?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lake</th>
<th>Willing Respondents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thompson Lake</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunfish Lake</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickerel Lake</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rogers Lake</td>
<td>85%</td>
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Willingness to install a rainwater garden to improve lake water quality?

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<td>Pickerel Lake</td>
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<td>85%</td>
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</table>
Willingness to keep leaves and clippings off the sidewalk, driveway, and street

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thompson Lake</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunfish Lake</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickerel Lake</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rogers Lake</td>
<td>92%</td>
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</table>
Willingness to redirect downspouts onto your lawn instead of the sidewalk or driveway?

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<td>Pickerel Lake</td>
<td>88%</td>
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</table>
What role should citizens play in caring for water quality?

• Active Role

“Major role. We cause the problem and should help solve it”

“If citizens don't do it, who will?”

“Citizens should do everything they can to maintain the water clarity and health”

“Helping set policy”

“Volunteering for cleanup or improvement opportunity”
What role should citizens play in caring for water quality?

• Less Active Role

“None”

“Everyone should care, of course, but our leaders & officials need to take charge”

“Ensure elected officials do their job to protect natural habitat”

“Pay taxes, hire professionals who enlist volunteers, educate in schools & community to practice clean water habits”
What role should citizens play in caring for water quality?

- **Stewardship**
  
  “Be mindful of what goes into our stormwater sewer”

  “Responsible lawn care”

  “Keep drains clear, don't put chemicals & soaps in gutter, wash your car at car wash”

  “Manage their shoreline by using appropriate vegetation growth”
What role should citizens play in caring for water quality?

• Awareness

“Awareness of what enters lake by drains”

“Who knew that our government dumped runoff rain water into lake? Just knowing that effects what I may do in my yard or driveway in the future.”

“The general population is easily motivated, but soon becomes lazy and/or forgets. They need constant reminders of the easy basic things that can be done to improve the ecosystem”
We want to hear from you!

• We will have three 20-minute conversations to discuss three different questions

• You will convene in a different small group for each conversation

• A facilitator at your table will be the official note taker

• Feel free to take notes or even doodle on the large paper on the table
Conversation Topic #1

Share your favorite memory or your favorite aspect of the lake in your community.
Conversation Topic #2

What concerns you most about the quality of waterbodies in your community?
Conversation Topic #3

How is water quality connected to other important issues in your community?
Conversation Topics

Topic #1: Share your favorite memory or your favorite aspect of the lake in your community.

Topic #2: What concerns you most about the quality of waterbodies in your community?

Topic #3: How is water quality connected to other important issues in your community?
Thanks for sharing your time with us tonight!