

MINNESOTA WATERSHED TOUR REPORT

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Outline

Our Watershed Tour

History to Minnesota Water Quality Improvements

- Wastewater Treatment Plant lawsuit
- Constitutional referendum
- 3/8% tax

Minnesota Plan

- One Watershed One Plan
- WRAPS
- 10 year assessment
- Sampling/monitoring/modeling
- 80 HUC-8 watersheds

Similarities with Iowa

- Knowledge base
- Will
- Nutrient problems

Differences with Iowa

- Funding

Our Tour Route & Agenda



Day 1: Squaw Creek WMA
Drainage research & Wetland projects

Day 2: St. Paul State Building
Presentations from state agencies

- MN Board of water and Soil Resources
- MN Pollution Control Agency
- MN Department of Agriculture
- MN Representatives

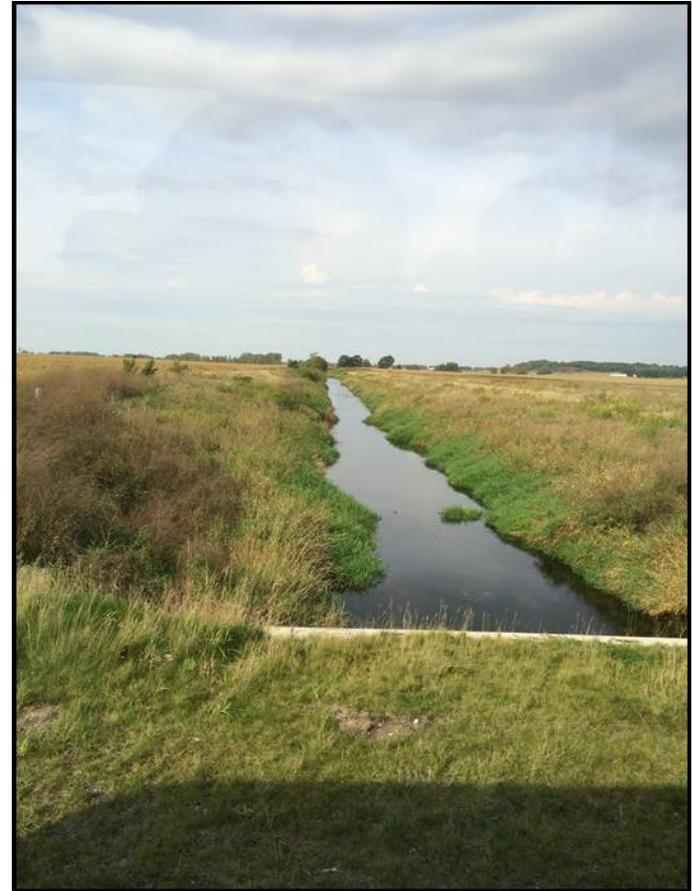
Day 2: Tour of MN Agencies

- Dakota SWCD
- Dodge County Enviro Services
- Cedar River Watershed District

Tour Stops



Erv Klass, Squaw Creek champion



50-foot Creek buffer, Dakota County MN

Legislative Meeting

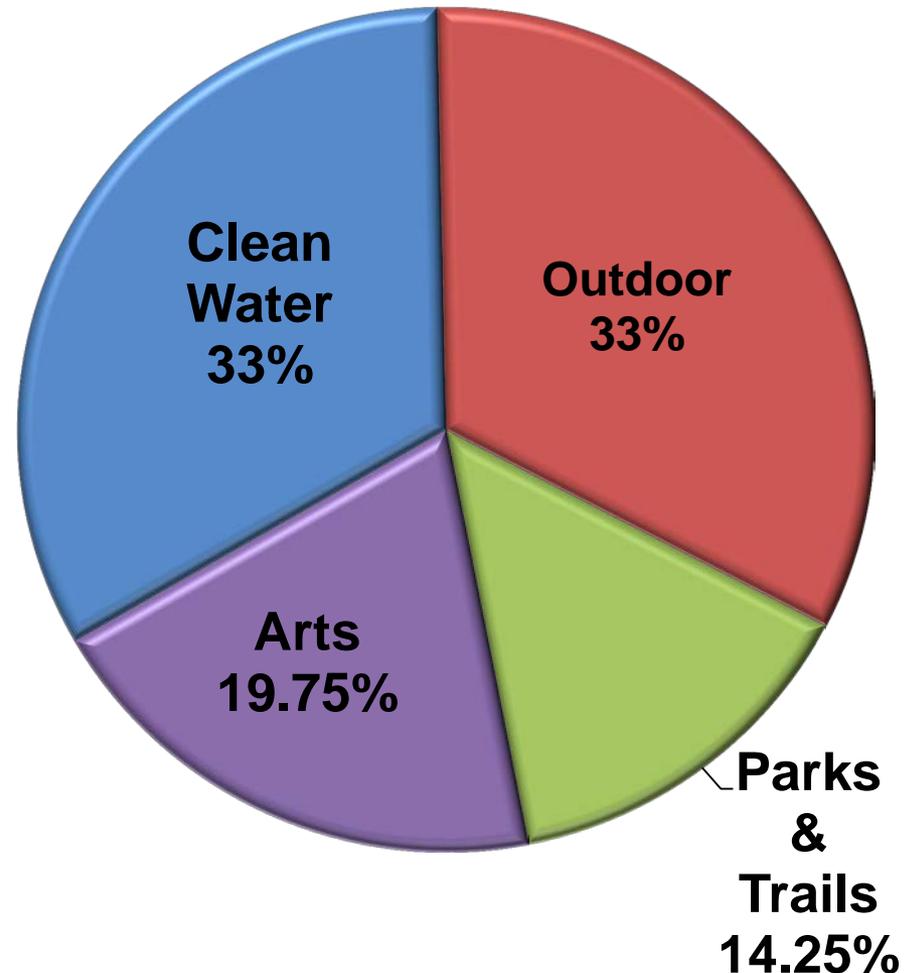


History of Legislative WQ Improvements

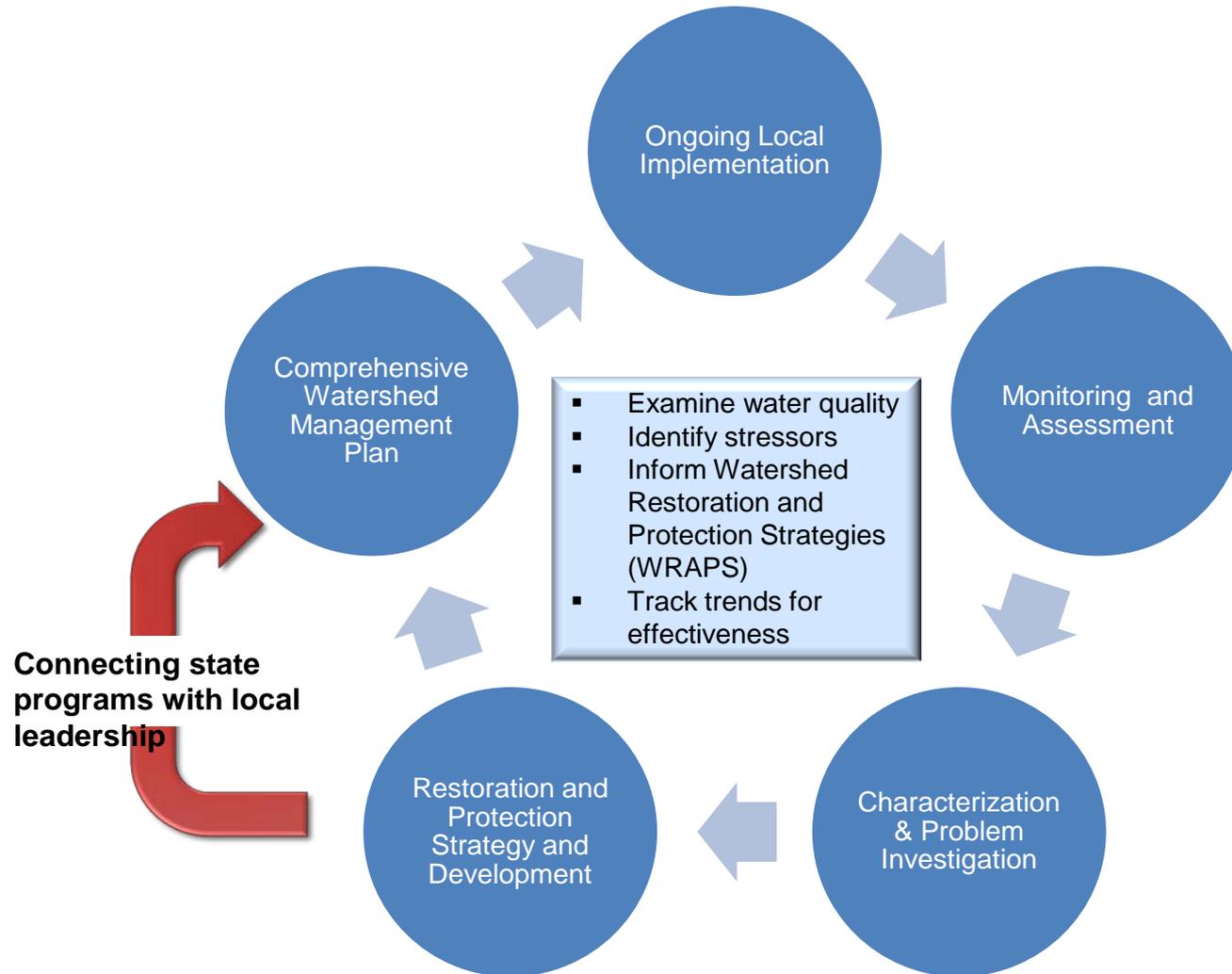
- **2002:** Legislative Audit found lack of progress identifying, evaluating and restoring impaired waters
- **2003:** Private and Public sectors (businesses, agriculture, environmental groups, local governments) began discussing pathway to cleaner water
- **2005:** MN Court of Appeals blocked the wastewater permit for the cities of Annandale-Maple Lake, citing impaired waters section CWA
- **2006:** Clean Water Legacy Act enacted
- **2008:** Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment

Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment

- ❑ Historic vote in 2008
- ❑ 3/8ths of 1 percent sales tax increase for 25 years
- ❑ Less than 4 cents on a \$10 purchase
- ❑ Amendment to MN constitution
- ❑ Yes: 56% No: 39%



The Watershed Framework



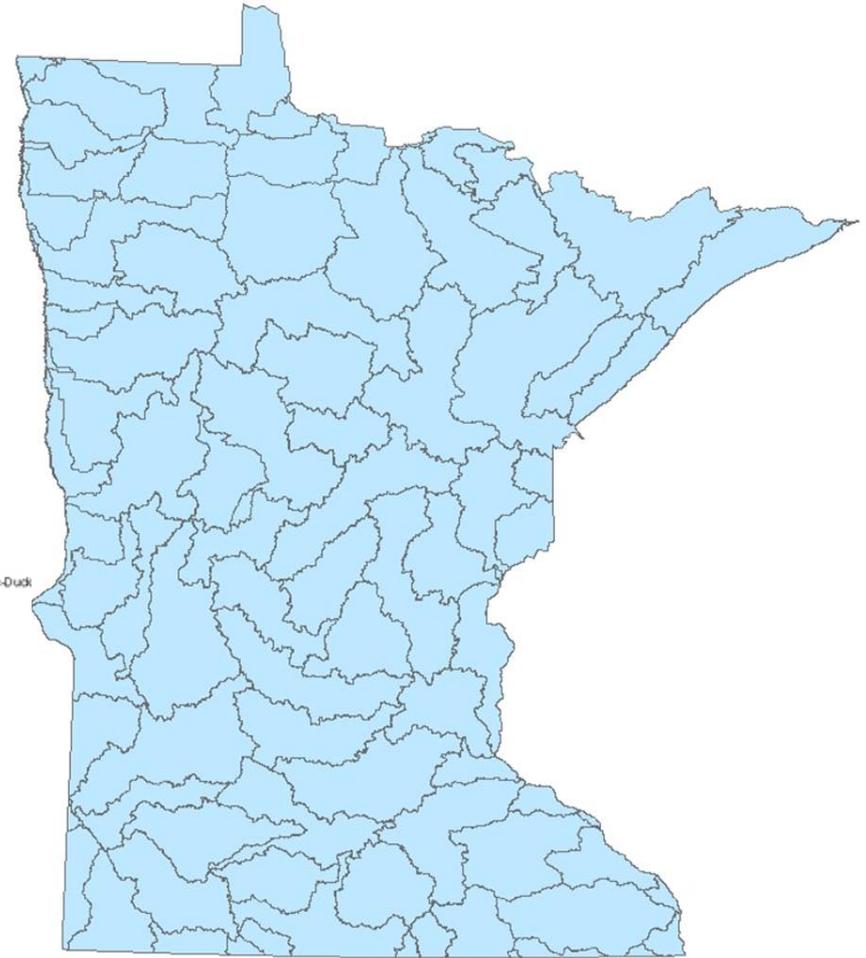
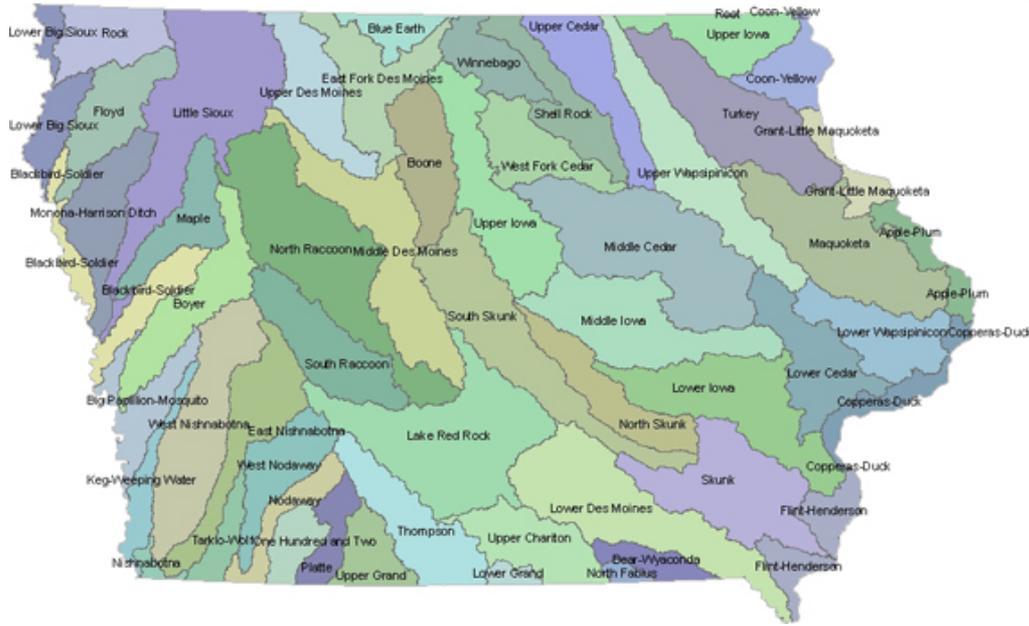
Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS)

Watershed Plan:

Summarizes Information, Diagnostics and
Identifies Strategies for action

- Summarize water quality condition
- Reports stressors to the fish and invertebrate communities
- Identifies and compares sources
- Identifies pollution reduction necessary to achieve beneficial uses (TMDLs)
- Identifies priority areas for targeting action
- Sets milestones

Similarities & Differences



Commonalities

Iowa & Minnesota Nutrient Strategies

State Nutrient Strategies	MN	IA
Science emphasized	●	●
Agriculture dominant (80-90% N, 50-60% P)	●	●
45% reduction goals for N & P	●	●
Built from existing policy framework	●	●
BMP scenarios show how goals achieved	●	●
Key BMPs – cover crops, wetlands, fertilizer management, perennials, reduced tillage	●	●
Tracking change is important	●	●