

EMERGING AND LOCAL CONCERNS

April Advisory Committee Meeting

Emerging Concerns:

Emerging concerns are issues in the watershed that lack detailed information for addressing them and measuring progress but may affect the resources in the watershed in the future.

Example: A certain type of contaminant of recent/growing concern.

Lakes:



- ❖ MDH recently evaluated microcystin, a contaminant sometimes produced by algal blooms and a particular concern to communities using surface water for their drinking water source.

Rivers:



- ❖ Extreme rainfall events & erosion
- ❖ Micro plastics

Wetlands:



- ❖ Emerald Ash Borer recently found in area impacting ash swamps.

Farms:



- ❖ Winter rain more frequent- runoff when buffers are less effective
- ❖ Farming chemicals, herbicides, pesticides, land application of septic waste
- ❖ New types of pesticides

Forests:



- ❖ Loss of forests with climate change, plant more resilient species
- ❖ Emerald Ash Borer

Stormwater:



- ❖ Stormwater disposal maintenance of older stormwater ponds (capacity, filled with sediment, chemicals used in the past)

Groundwater:



- ❖ Contaminants of emerging concern in groundwater
- ❖ More frequent flooding / extended drought impacts on groundwater / aquifer levels
- ❖ PFAS in drinking water
- ❖ Exploratory borings with unknown status
- ❖ Carbon sequestration effects to groundwater contamination

Local Concerns:

Local concerns are issues or topics of interest specific to this watershed that are also outside the scope of the plan and local water managers but are important considerations to water and land management.

Example: Mining in the watershed

Lakes:



- ❖ Sale of state fund lakeshore, changes protection status of public to private
- ❖ Population density and growth
- ❖ Iron ore impacts from past mining, tailings basins

Rivers:



- ❖ Pesticides and chemicals
- ❖ Need more emphasis on quantity in addition to the focus on water quality.
- ❖ Management of Miss. River flows/water level on Big Sandy.
- ❖ Concern of flooding of Miss. River, especially downstream of this watershed.
- ❖ Economic impacts & recreational opportunities for rivers.
- ❖ Mining permitting is administered by established regulatory processes and agencies

Wetlands:



- ❖ Talon metals - Tamarack Mine potential impacts to wetlands
- ❖ Invasive Phragmites impacting wetland health
- ❖ Dewatering of Canistio pit impacting local wetlands
- ❖ Ditch management is regulated by wetland conservation act.

Farms:



- ❖ Smaller operation manure management, cattle, etc.
- ❖ Blandin fly ash applied to fields and lime

Forests:



- ❖ Forest Parcelization

Stormwater:



- ❖ None identified at advisory meeting

Groundwater:



- ❖ None identified at advisory meeting

IMPLEMENTATION TABLES

The who, what where, when, and how much of implementation

Continued development of implementation/action plans including what actions, how much can be accomplished in 10-years, who is the main groups responsible for each action, what is the timeline for each action, and estimated cost for this volunteer-based water plan.

DRAFT VISION STATEMENT

A vision statement is an inspirational statement of an idealistic emotional future of a company or group. Here's a draft of a possible vision statement, open for editing suggestions:

"From the Peatlands to the Iron Range, we work to protect our outstanding Northwoods lands and waters, while sustaining vibrant communities."

NEXT STEPS

May 8th Advisory Committee Meeting

- ❖ Continued discussions on implementation programs
- ❖ Plan Administration
- ❖ Introduce "Topic Sections" for review for draft plan

Timeline to Completion

