Results of Input From 11th Minnesota River Congress

11-8-18

All Responses (prioritized by groups)

**Question #1**

Tell us good things going on in in your watershed or District *that you think should be replicated* across the Minnesota River Basin

Cover Crops

Water storage and retention projects of any type, size and shape

Wetland creations and enhancements

Wetland banking can be lucrative for land owners

Shallow lake management & water quality improvement projects

Partnerships with organizations and diverse stakeholders

Landowner relationships with conservation implementers

Education and awareness efforts

One watershed one plan

CREP

Rain Gardens

Land trust with easement agreement

Farmer led efforts

County ditch #57 in Blue Earth County

Recreational Public Landings

Buffer law

**Top Question #1 Priority Reported: Water Storage and Retention**

Question #2

Tell us of some project you would like to implement, but cannot accomplish, due to lack of funding, staff resources, or other reasons. Do you have any ideas for, or knowledge of, a practice or policy that could possibly be applied to the entire basin which would improve water quality and/or quantity issues?  Please share

Cost share programs that will manage flows

A toilet tax or something similar raising significant money for projects and initiatives

Flip existing CREP enrolled lands with highly sensitive lands not currently protected

Do more forums or workshops on land and project types

Map of non-contributing lake basins and ditches

Maps of non-public and public tile lines

Water Gates controlled drainage

Funding 1 watershed 1 plan and other existing plans from other entities

A better mechanism for getting farmers to try and commit to cover crops

Individual monitoring of tile outlets

Mill levy for SWCD

More money to pay above market value to acquire key pieces of land

Flip bluff lands from forest to prairie grasses where possible

Target young farmers to implement BMP’s

Lease agreement that is easily acceptable by SWCD’s to show landowners how to create a basin wide practice

More publicity and better exposure to all projects

More K-12 educational programming consistently in classroom

More water storage (any practice that retains water and recharges ground water)

Dry Dams

Pump water from ditches to upland CREP or other non-cropped areas

More social media exposure

A Conservation Consultant in every county in the Minnesota Basin (part public, part private for trust ability)

Since we pay 3/8th cent tax already which applies to all, we then should eliminate the 25% match on projects and then fund projects on their effect to the water resource.

**Top Question #2 Priority Reported:**

**Funding for Anything Relating to Managing Flows**

Question #3

If there were a basin wide pot of money or some other basin wide resource dedicated to projects, what one project or initiative idea from your table would you most like to implement?

Water holding ponds

Cover crops, input cost or other direct incentives to implement

Wetland reclamation

Water retention projects

Lake outlet control structures on shallow lakes

Dry dams

Multipurpose drainage

Incentives and flexibility

Soil Health BMP’s

Managed Drainage tile system changes

**Top Question #3 Priority Reported:**

**Any project or Initiative Related to the Control of Rate of Flow**

Question #4

If a basin wide resource; money, a technical assistance capacity, something else, was developed, what would be most valuable to you moving ahead?

Money for projects

Basin wide agreed upon goals with technical assistance available

Anything that helps encourage more water storage on the land

A way to incentivize land owners to adopt more ways to hold water on the land

Something like a Conservation Consultant for the whole watershed

Basin wide technical assistance and cost share programs

Something to help a shift in mentality of who implements conservation and awareness of outcomes

Something to help the passing on of my issue of water to downstream mentality

Some method to encourage land owners to make changes

Money to incentivize land owners and pay for promotion and technical assistance

**Top Question #4 Priority Reported:**

**Incentive Money to encourage Land Owner Participation and Additional Technical Assistance as well as additional Human Resources**