What are the issues?

1. What are the major contributions of the watersheds to the improvement of the Minnesota River in the past decade?

2. What does the watershed sector believe to be the critical issues to be faced while moving forward?
What are the major contributions of the watersheds to the improvement of the Minnesota River in the past decade?

- Education / Outreach
- Action
- Partnerships
- Watershed Monitoring
- Mindset Change
- Wastewater Treatment
Communication

Watershed education / outreach

Children’s Water Festival

Education / Outreach

Provide viable option/solution to public

Communication

Watershed education / outreach
Results! $ / tons saved
Generated willingness to participate
Conservation farming
Leveraging conservation money
Reduction of sediment delivery

CREP 100,000 plus acres
Implementation - but perhaps not yet at a “systems” level
Increased water storage

Conservation drainage
Watershed resident participation
Incentive to improve conditions
More recreation and appreciation of it

Rise of water based interest groups- sports, hunting, wildlife, etc.

Partnerships

Coordination of Regional Conversation Partners around watersheds

Farm Bill assistance
Identify additional water quality needs

Monitoring & understanding (because of it) more & more systematic or coordinated

Watershed prioritization

Contiguous monitoring

Data info for decision making

Water quality monitoring and research

Monitoring water quality

Watershed Monitoring
Increased awareness of issues

MN River mindset (more positive, accepting)

Developed desire to do things to improve water quality

Create awareness of issues

Build local connections, trust

Promotion of watershed awareness

Increased awareness of issues - education

Local government participation (buy in)

Mind set change
Wastewater Treatment

Municipal Wastewater upgrades

Increased understanding & appreciation of ISTS & un-sewered community issues

Septic upgrades
What does the watershed sector believe to be the critical issues to be faced while moving forward?

- Adequate Stable Funding
- Ag Non-point
- Water Management
- Federal Farm Bill
- Program Delivery & Accountability
Unstable funding

Sustainable legislative support CLWA

Funding

Money for ISTS

Adequate technical assistance

Failing septic systems

Realizing the magnitude of the problem

Adequate Stable Funding
Ag Non-point

Agricultural non-point source pollution

The catch 22 of farm profitability

Cropland, urban & ravine interface

“Systems” thinking

Absentee landowners

Tying implementation to effective targeting

Lack of buffers/filters in targeted locations
Storm water issues
Water storage
Sediment delivery
Watershed storage
Increasing peak flows
Water Quality issues
Steam bank erosion
Adequate storm water treatment
Storm water issues
Construction sites
Drainage maintenance
Drainage -smart drainage -production vs. storm water
Federal Farm Bill

Farm Bill?? Federal practice promotion??

Federal Farm Bill

Yield-based subsidies

Federal Farm Bill

Federal Farm Policy disconnect

Cost/benefits (easy, cheap, volunteer projects are done)
Accountability: money - progress see various Leg. Audit reports

Conservation delivery changes

Public buy in increase involvement & participation

Letting go of ineffective conservation models/systems

Inability to compromise. The problem of the “perfect” Solution.

Quantify (value) the environmental cost

Watershed system based delivery of conservation

Develop ownership of problem/solutions “responsibility”

Realize the magnitude of the problem

MPCA’s process format to achieve the CWA and to establish TMDL impairments and TMDLs

Program Delivery & Accountability