Clean Water Council Meeting Agenda
Monday, March 17, 2025
9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.

IN PERSON at MPCA offices in St. Paul with Webex Available (Hybrid Meeting)

9:00 Regular Clean Water Council Business

- **(INFORMATION ITEM)** Introductions
- **(ACTION ITEM)** Agenda - comments/additions and approve agenda
- **(ACTION ITEM)** Meeting Minutes - comments/additions and approve meeting minutes
- **(INFORMATION ITEM**) Chair, Committee, and Council Staff update
    - Policy Committee Update
    - Budget and Outcomes Committee Update
    - Staff update
        - Field Tour choice for September
- **(ACTION ITEM)** Update per diem policy with 60-day taxation window
- **(ACTION ITEM)** Please complete new conflict of interest form for 2025

9:45 (INFORMATION ITEM) Budget Forecast & Adjustments to CWF Recommendations

10:30 Public Comments on Revised Recommendations

10:45 Break

11:00 (ACTION ITEM) Vote on Revised Clean Water Recommendations

11:15 (ACTION ITEM) Proposed Adoption of a Public Engagement Strategy & Conference Abstract

- Council members Jessica Wilson and Marcie Weinandt

12:00 Lunch

12:30 (DISCUSSION ITEM) Outcomes Discussion

- Kim Laing, Surface Water Monitoring Manager
- Glenn Skuta, CWC Member and Watershed Division Director

1:45 Public Comment

2:00 Adjourn

Steering Committee Meets Directly After Adjournment

Clean Water Council
February 24, 2025, Meeting Summary

Members present: John Barten (Chair), Steve Besser, Rich Biske (Vice Chair), Dick Brainerd, Gail Cederberg, Steve Christenson, Tannie Eshenaur, Warren Formo, Brad Gausman, Kelly Gribauval-Hite, Rep. Steve Jacobs, Justin Hanson, Holly Hatlewick, Annie Knight, Chris Meyer, Fran Miron, Jason Moeckel, Ole Olmanson, Peter Schwagerl, Glenn Skuta, Marcie Weinandt, and Jessica Wilson.
Members absent: Sen. Nicole Mitchell, Rep. Kristi Pursell, Peter Kjeseth, Jeff Peterson, and Sen. Nathan Wesenberg.
Others present: Margaret Wagner (MDA), Paul Gardner (CWC), Brianna Frisch (MPCA), John Bilotta (UMN), Frieda VanQualen (MDH), Beau Kennedy (Goodhue County SWCD), Chris O'Brien (Freshwater), Michelle Stockness (Freshwater), Jim Stark (SWMP), Udai Singh (BWSR), Carie Jennings (Freshwater), Lila Westrich (DNR), Jen Kader (Met Council), Annie Felix (BWSR), Trevor Russell (Friends of the Mississippi River), Ed McNamara (Goodhue County farmer), Molly Jansen (Red River Watershed Management Board), Miranda Nichols (MPCA), Sophia Walsh (MDH), Marcey Westrick (BWSR), Judy Sventek (Met Council), Tim Kelly (Coon Creek Watershed District), Brian Ryberg (Renville County farmer), Kari Olson (Clay County farmer), Julie Westerlund (BWSR), Jared House (BWSR)

To watch the Webex video recording of this meeting, please go to https://www.pca.state.mn.us/clean-water-council/meetings, or contact Brianna Frisch.

Regular Clean Water Council Business
- Introductions
- Motion to approve the February 24th meeting agenda by Steve Christenson, seconded by Steve Besser. Motion carries unanimously.
- Motion to approve the January 27th meeting minutes by Steve Besser, seconded by Brad Gausman. Motion carries unanimously.
- Chair, Committee, and Council Staff update
  - Policy Committee Update
    - At the next meeting they will continue the stakeholder engagement process. Freshwater will talk more about the data centers and water use.
  - Budget and Outcomes Committee Update
    - They are working on formal way to get ideas to the Interagency Coordination Team (ICT), working on a potential rubric for ranking projects and programs, as well as updates for the Council's Strategic Plan. They are also working on a dashboard to show outcomes.
  - Ad Hoc Outreach Group Update
    - They will be connecting with the Policy Committee to go over a draft public engagement process, looking for more input on it.
  - Committee Assignments
    - No members swapped committees. New members have signed up, and they are now all full.
  - Staff update
    - Legislative update
    - There is a new expense reimbursement form for 2025.
    - The Council's recommendations are in the bill form in the meeting packet.

Impact of Data Centers on Groundwater, by Michelle Stockness, Executive Director, Freshwater, and Carrie Jennings, Research and Policy Director, Freshwater *(Webex 00:03:00)*
- They are looking to balance economic development with future water availability for communities and ecosystems. This is not just a focus on data centers, but large water users in general. The typical development process looks like:
  - Economic development teams usually do not involve water managers or regional planners.
  - Municipalities are approached to evaluate land use and power use, often with NDAs, and not water.
  - Agreements are sought in a hurry. There is usually a municipal water supply connection.
- Issues they see:

    - The speed of these projects is faster than water planners can react.
    - The cities have the tools to evaluate regional long-term water supply sustainability. Often cities see these as tax incentives (as income). These short-term incentives are easier to consider than water sustainability and priority of use. There is typically no community engagement.
    - Some of the engineering firms helping design these data centers are using available groundwater models. However, not all areas can handle additional large capacity users.
- It would be good to use existing regional planning tools that require transparency in water use. Allow input from communities and agencies. Incentivize water conservation and non-groundwater sources. Guide businesses to areas with sustainable water sources proactively.
- We need to act quickly. Groundwater is the default supply. Agencies and communities must be involved.
- Note, the Policy Committee will have a "deeper dive" on this topic on February 28th.

Questions/Comments:

- John Barten: Have you looked at the economic difference between the geothermal system versus buying water a million plus gallons of water every day? *Answer:* We have not done that. However, when the Mayo Clinic in Rochester was removing heat for their most recent addition, they went with a closed loop system. Mayo took the step to be more responsible with groundwater. Disruption in water supply is a huge risk, so monetizing opportunities would be helpful.
- Steve Besser: What is the statute on water use? *Answer:* Minn. Stat. § 103B.
- Steve Besser: Is the only pollution to this thermal? Is there storm sewer and sanitary sewer? *Answer:* I think it is only minerals and heat being discharged. Some businesses would love to recharge to an aquifer.
- Glenn Skuta, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA): As a business, are they not looking at sustainability? *Answer:* It depends on the business. Some try to be water positive and recharge every drop used back to the ground. Others do not if the city guarantees the water.
- Tannie Eshenaur, Minnesota Department of Health (MDH): There is the potential for water chemistry changes. Private well users may not have a voice compared to big water users in small towns. They might find their water levels change. Additionally, increases in water pumping can release manganese, and potentially arsenic, impacting those private well owners. We cannot predict these impacts.
- Jason Moeckel, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR): We need to look at where we are building data centers, and how far out in the future are we anticipate the unintended consequences of decisions made now. There is a lot of uncertainty.
- Paul Gardner: The Policy Committee will continue to discuss this topic at a deeper level. Are you thinking we should create a public document that integrates all this information? Could it be a message to the Governor? Is that the direction you are thinking? *Answer:* It is up to you. We would like to see a more proactive approach on this soon. It would be good to point out the areas of the state that could handle the data centers. It would be helpful to those folks looking to develop the data centers, along with a process on permit avenues to make those decision on their own. We want economic development people and water people to talk way earlier.

Reduced Tillage *(Webex 01:28:45)*

- Justin Hanson, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)
- Holly Hatlewick, Renville Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)
- Brian Ryberg, Renville County
- Kari Olson, Clay County
- Ed McNamara, Goodhue County

We have farmers (Kari Olson, Brian Ryberg, and Ed McNamara) here to share their background and experiences as producers using reduced tillage.

- Brian Ryberg, Renville County:
    - They farm in Buffalo Lake, MN in four counties on 6500 acres. They raise corn, beans, and sugar beets. They transitioned to strip till and cover crops in 2014. They did no-till beans in 2021.
    - They attended a few conferences to figure out some cost savings (cost of labor and diesel for tillage) and decided on the no till process. They purchased a strip till machine (ETS Soil Warrior).

- Change came easy to them on the farm, because their family was more open than most. There was some anxiety the first fall. In the spring they don't do any tillage, just start the seeds. They can just go in the spring. It has streamlined the work they do.
- They got into cover crops (cereal rye). It grows in the spring, helps take moisture out of the soils.
- It took about two years to see a change in the water infiltration and soil structure on the farms. If they have an inch or two of rain, they deal with it better. There is less compaction.
- Their website: https://rybergfarms.com/

- Kari Olson, Clay County:
  - Their farm is about twenty miles east of Moorhead, MN. She is still farming with her dad. They farm corn, soybeans, and spring wheat on about 2300 acres. A small amount of it is CRP and pollinator managed.
  - Her father made changes on the farm so the changes are normal to her, but maybe not for others. The first season became a no-brainer. They have been fully no till for about nine years, with a few strip till items. They got rid of the hogs and went full no till.
  - They implemented cover crops to hold onto nutrients. They still had manure coming in.
  - Last year, she started buying cattle, and have it done the way her great-grandparents had done it. Out on the ground all year round. That is her change at the farm.
- Ed McNamara, Goodhue County:
  - Third generation to operate the family farm. We are recovering dairy men since 1997. The south side of their house drains into the Zumbro River, another side into the nearby smaller stream.
    - The reasons for producers *not* to adopt no-tillage: No economic benefits; fear of yield reduction; perceived added cost; complicate management systems adopted; increased risk of weather, insects, diseases, along with mother nature.
    - The reasons for adopting no-tillage: reduced cost (fuel, labor, and equipment); increased yields; improved weed control (through suppression); planting green; time to do more of the important things in life
  - Planting green is not rocket science. It doesn't necessarily require extra equipment. The planter was adapted so they can plant their cover crops, etc.
  - They started growing cover crops when they still had their dairy cows. The cover crops were used with the oats and alfalfa. Farmers can plant early and still harvest the crop with ease.
  - Two videos reveal the water event on their farmland. It was a four-inch rain in two and a half hours. You can see the huge difference with the neighbor's land compared to their farmland.
  - Often, farmers will say "we've always done it this way…" Farmers don't want to change the way they manage their land (or landlord won't let them). Additionally, they wonder what their buddies will think. So, what is the problem? Planting equipment is no-longer the limiting factor in making the change. Nutrient equipment and placement have become the biggest challenge (right source, right rate, right time, and the right placement). the landowner needs to be more engaged with the nutrient application.

Questions/Comments/Discussion:

- Dick Brainerd: What did the equipment cost? *Answer:* It depends. Today you can find used equipment, share equipment with neighbors, and find smaller pieces of equipment. SWCDs have programs. You don't have to have new stuff to make this work, but you do need to have passion.
- Dick Brainerd: You talk about teaching a lot and trying new things. How do you capture that info for communication and education of your cover crops? *Answer:* We don't mind hosting field days. I enjoy the interactions. When I got to run the farm, I was able to change things. You figure out what you'd like to do, if you have the budget for it, and if the practices are practical and able, and you just learn from it. I like to share it, because I can learn from others to about it. You can never stop learning. Trying things has made farming fun again. We have utilized some programs, so we do not take as much of a hit if things don't work out.
- Peter Schwagerl: We have come a long way with the technology, the equipment is available, and I appreciate the Council's support for both the soil health equipment grants and the AgBMP loans to make sure this is accessible and affordable. Could you speak about how the nutrient management plan and how it is a barrier for some farmers, and any equipment used to overcome it?
  - *Answer from Kari Olson:* Our game changer was a low interest loan to get a no-till drill which allowed us to get fertilizer in at the same time. (It had an extra rank on it with discs.). It also puts cover crops in as well. It was a big investment upfront but got us to where we need to be.

- *Answer from Brian Ryberg:* From the fertilizer side, when we are putting in the strip, we are trying to put everything in at the root zone. For our farm, we cut our fertilizer rates by twenty-five percent, and now on some of our areas we are cutting it down to fifty percent. We are watching soil test levels to make sure we are not dropping our levels. It is so much more efficient because the fertilizer is placed right where you need it. We don't do fall application. We have taken away some risks that way and reveal more of a steady yield. It is going to be more palatable to my banker. We were able to get a no-till drill two years ago through the AgBMP loan program. I think you need to really highlight it so more people know about it. It might accelerate the adoption. Some folks have it in their head, but don't know how to finance it.
- *Answer from Ed McNamara:* The demand is high for the AgBMP loan program. We had over three million in requests with only one million available. We have people waiting two years to get low interest loan money. So, it slows down that change as well. Other programs are available, but it can be hard getting into those as well due to the demand. It is tough to get everything lined up. I am trying to get things setup for the next generation behind me.

Background information on the Council and the Clean Water Fund *(Webex 02:56:00)*
Statutes on Clean Water Legacy Act, Clean Water Council, and Clean Water Fund

- There was a 2002 Legislative Auditor Report on MPCA Water Funding. This revealed that there is no dedicated source of funding for nonpoint source water pollution. They said the MPCA should report to the 2003 Legislature on plans for implementing and financing the total daily maximum daily load (TMDL) requirements. In response, the MPCA provided a report "Minnesota's Impaired Waters" to the Legislature. They estimated resources for assessing water quality of $8.2 million annually. For the TMDL studies, it was $5.8 million.
- The Impaired Waters Stakeholders Process and the G16 (2003-2004):
  - This group of water folks came together to discuss actions. This is where the Council first came about. They recommended that an impaired water coordinating council should be created to advise on program administration and implementation, and to foster coordination and cooperation among various stakeholders' groups. Additionally, that the impaired waters program should balance the allocation of resources across geographies, program stages and the spectrum of impairment severity. They also recommended that a decision-making matrix should be developed and utilized to weight various prioritization criteria, to provide guidance to the impaired waters program.
  - A court case helped moved things along: Maple Lake-Annandale Court Case (2003-2007).
    - Maple Lake and Annadale wanted to build a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) for both cities. The MPCA approved the permit. The Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy challenged the permit and won in the appeals court in 2005. The rationale was because the Clean Water Act (CWA) prohibits new discharge that add to pollution in already impaired waters unless a TMDL is in place to reduce the pollutant. The Minnesota Supreme Court reversed the decision in favor of the cities in 2007, due to offset by another WWTP in the area. This raised a need for more funding monitoring, assessment, and TMDL development.
  - The Clean Water Council was created in 2006 (Minn. Stat. §114D.30). The Council was created to advise on the administration and implementation of the Clean Water Legacy Act, and foster coordination and cooperation. The Council is to submit funding recommendations to the Legislature by January 15 of odd-numbered year. There are 17 voting members appointed by the Governor, with 11 non-voting members from state agencies, the University of Minnesota, and the Legislature. The Minnesota Department of Health was not included at first, but later added, landing on twenty-eight members in total.
- Guest on origins of Clean Water Fund, by John Linc Stine, former MPCA Commissioner *(Webex 03:06:00)*
  - The Maple Lake and Annandale WWTP issue really highlighted these issues in the state. It woke everyone up, and folks were trying to figure out what could be done. There was never enough support to get only the clean water interest developed, instead there was a conversation that we would need something else. There was a need to increase the popularity of it, either improve people's awareness of the problem, or figure something else out. The other partners were the something else.
  - It was the coalition building from all the different groups that supported the bill, helped get it approved. There were three groups that were pushing for the bill, including the hunting and fishing organizations, the clean water organizations, and the arts organizations. The hunting and fishing organizations initiated

the work, but they also wanted a stakeholder group to be added as an amendment. That stakeholder council did not happen, but the Clean Water Council remained.
    - Regarding constitutional language (2008), the Clean Water Funds (CWF) may be spent only to protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams, to protect groundwater from degradation, and to protect drinking water sources. Additionally, at least five percent of the CWF must be spent only to protect drinking water sources.
    - Minn. Stat. §114D.50: The Permitted Purposes (2009)
        - Testing waters, identifying impaired waters, establishing a TMDL, implementing restoration plans, and evaluation
        - Prevent surface water form being impaired
        - Wastewater and stormwater grants and loans
        - Support for agencies to do the above, including enhanced compliance and enforcement
        - CWF must *supplement* not *supplant* existing funding.
    - A Legislative Auditor report was completed in 2017.
        - It revealed it was too early to show many outcomes.
        - The Council used transparent processes to develop its CWF spending recommendations.
        - They were unable to conclude definitively that CWF dollars have been used to substitute.
        - All CWF appropriations for the 2016-2017 biennium appear to have supported the constitutional requirements to spend money only to protect, enhance, and restore water quality.
- Summary of Water-Related Reports since 2008
    - Clean Water Trajectory Report (2019) by Jen Kader, former Freshwater staff member *(Webex 03:26:00)*
        - They asked the original advocates of the CWF (the G16 folks) about how things were going and provide new strategies. Of thirty-one recommendations provided, twenty-seven had been finished or were in progress. It reveals the impact of the board coalition folks working together to focus on water resource issues.
        - Update the vision to produce (and document) durable successes
        - Narrow the focus for state investments
        - Adjust staffing and budgeting process. After the report dropped, Paul Gardner's position was created.
        - These conversations led to a Clean Water Council Strategic Plan.

Questions/Comments/Discussion:

- Jessica Wilson: The line of sight between the goals and what is happening on the ground can be addressed more, so we can bring things together better for people. There must be a line of sight, and the connection to the strategic goals.
- Margaret Wagner: I come back to communication. There is a logo, and a statement on the logo, and thinking about how we can promote that more. If there is some way to do some consistent branding, looking at a statewide approach. Perhaps stories from a local point included. If there is a way to do that more, we should. We do a lot of field days, perhaps capture some of it in the moment. We know those connection from the folks speaking about their farms this morning, there are programs they mentioned that involve CWFs.
    - *Paul Gardner:* It is often hard to show the CWF fingerprints on something. Drawing those conclusions is important. Yet, we need to take credit, even if it is a little bit.
    - *Jenn Kader:* That is where the "but, for" the CWFs conversation comes into play. Perhaps, you make impacts there.
- Jessica Wilson: Thinking about the Water Resource Conference, it might be a good exercise to see if CWFs were involved. It could be as people are submitting abstracts, to see how many used the funds. Even people who are deep in the water industry do not always understand where the funding is coming from. We can start with folks closer to the inner circle of water and fill out from there.
    - John Bilotta, UMN: The abstracts are done for this year, but we could data mine to see if CWFs were mentioned. We could pull some stuff together.
- It is hard to set priorities, but we need to identify a few and keep track over time. Are we putting measurements in place tacking that system change? But I don't think we have that in place.
    - Jenn Kader: In the Trajectory Report, we use the term "trajectory" intentionally, to have the conversation asking if we are on track. Staring that conversation around goals and if we are on track. One of the things

that was a recommendation in the report was to identify milestones: 2025 was the first one, 2030, and 2034. The 2025 milestones conversation did not happen, but revisiting the Council's Strategic Plan, success can look easier from five years versus nine. You can start to add up the outputs, when identifying outcomes. Areas you are aiming towards and items you would like to do.

- Glenn Skuta, MPCA: People are going to care most about outcomes. We have good data. Yet, there are different audiences, that we should make sure are addressed. We need those personal stories that connect people to their water. Taking the numbers, and telling bigger stories, can help capture that interest.
- Steve Besser: We need the big picture, but also the individual story too. We need a blend of both. Perhaps, we could we require people to submit a story with their applications for funding.

Adjournment *(Webex 04:14:17)*

To: Clean Water Council Members

From: Paul Gardner, Council Administrator

Date: March 12, 2025

Re: Recommendations for Adjusting Clean Water Fund Recommendations to February Forecast

The February 2025 forecast released on March 6th showed a shortfall of $6.826 million compared to your January recommendations of more than $310,752,000.

There were additions and subtractions from the previous forecast.

Additions

The difference breaks down this way:

• Sales taxes are estimated to increase in the Clean Water Fund by	$1,684,000
• Reserve carryover is estimated to be	$36,000
• Interest earnings are estimated at	$2,030,000
These additions total	**$3,750,000**

These numbers are broken down by fiscal year on the next document in the packet.

Subtractions

• An additional set aside for the required five percent reserve	($101,000)
• Correction for lottery in lieu taxes clawed back to general fund	($10,475,000)
Subtractions total	**($10,374,000)**
The result is a lower figure of	$303,926,000
The resulting reduction in the CWF is therefore	($6,826,000)

Lottery Taxes Correction

The Minnesota Department of Revenue (DOR) recently discovered an error in the distribution of lottery gross receipts tax revenue from FY 2010 through FY 2024. This error resulted in Minnesota's four legacy funds receiving $31.7 million in sales tax revenue that should have been distributed to the general fund over this 15-year period.

Minnesota has a sales tax rate of 6.875%, with 6.5% attributable to the general fund and 0.375% attributable to the legacy funds. Lottery tickets are subject to a 6.5% gross receipts tax in lieu of these sales taxes. However, the Department of Revenue incorrectly interpreted the lottery revenues as sales tax revenues, rather than gross receipts tax revenues, resulting in the agency distributing the funds as if the additional 0.375% applied. As a result, $31.7 million was erroneously deposited into the four legacy funds over the past fifteen years.

This means that MMB needs to deduct roughly one-third of $31.7 million from the Clean Water Fund, or $10,475,000.

Recommendation

The Budget & Outcomes Committee (BOC) made some initial recommendations for meeting this lower figure and then asked the Interagency Coordination Team (ICT) for its expert opinion on how to meet the gap. The result is the attached spreadsheet for your consideration.

Shifts from FY26 to FY27

The Council makes recommendations for the entire biennium. The ICT works with Minnesota Management and Budget to split those recommendations among the two years of the biennium. MMB informed us that instead of an even 50/50 split between years that some of these requests would have to be shifted to FY27 for cash flow purposes. This is the “shift” in the attached spreadsheet.

Clean Water Fund Availability - February 2025 Forecast

Minnesota Management and Budget

3.6.25

($ thousands)

	February 2025		
	FY26	**FY27**	
Unobligated Carry Forward from Prior Year	(2,199)	7,603	
Sales Tax Receipt Forecast	152,058	157,781	
Investment Income & Other Revenue	2,367	1,804	
Other Revenue	2	2	
Total Resources	*152,228*	*167,190*	
Budgetary Balance	*152,228*	167,190	
Required 5% Reserve	(7,603)	(7,889)	**Biennium**
Amount Available to Appropriate	**144,625**	**159,301**	**303,926**

November 2024 to February 2025 Forecast Changes

February Forecast FY26/27 Available	303,926
November Forecast FY26/27 Available	310,752
Change	**(6,826)**

	November Forecast			February Forecast			*Change*		
	FY25	**FY26**	**FY27**	**FY25**	**FY26**	**FY27**	***FY25***	***FY26***	***FY27***
Reserve Carryforward			7,567			7,603	-	-	*36*
Prior Period Adjustment	-	-	-	(10,475)	-	-	*(10,475)*	-	-
Sales Use Taxes	146,148	151,348	156,483	145,824	152,058	157,781	*(324)*	*710*	*1,298*
Interest Earnings	6,274	2,018	1,288	7,439	2,367	1,804	*1,165*	*349*	*516*
All Other Revenue	2	2	2	2	2	2	-	-	-
5% Reserve		(7,567)	(7,824)		(7,603)	(7,889)	-	*(36)*	*(65)*
Total Change Per Fiscal Year							***(9,634)***	***1,024***	***1,785***
Total Availability Change									***(6,826)***

	Agency	Activity	Nov CWC recs FY2026-27	Proposed cuts	March 2025 CWC/ICT recs	$ to shift from FY26-->FY27
			(000s)		(000s)	
1	**BWSR**	**Water Management Transition (One Watershed One Plan):** Accelerate implementation of the State's Watershed Approach through the statewide development of watershed-based local water planning that is synchronized with Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) and Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategies (GRAPS) by providing technical assistance, program oversight, and grants to local governments consistent with MInnesota Statutes 103B.801. Amend existing watershed plans and create new watershed plans with targeted activities to protect and/or retore water quality.	$1,000		**$1,000**	
2	**BWSR**	**Implementation Funding for Watersheds with Approved Comprehensive Watershed Plans (Watershed-based Implementation Funding):** A non-competitive, performance based program to implement projects on a watershed scale that protect, enhance, and restore surface water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams, protect groundwater from degradation, and protect drinking water sources. Projects must be identified in a water or comprehensive watershed plan developed by local governments and approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources. This may include those under the One Watershed, One Plan Program or under the seven-county metropolitan groundwater or surface water management frameworks as provided for in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 103B, 103C, 103D, and 114D.	**$90,000**	**-$1,900**	**$88,100**	$3,138
3	**BWSR**	**Accelerated Implementation:** Enhance the capacity of local governments to accelerate implementation of projects and activities that supplement or exceed current state standards for protection, enhancement, and restoration of water quality in lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater. Activities include: 1) increase technical assistance through regional technical service areas (TSAs), 2) technical training and certification, 3) leveraging federal program dollars, and 4) using analytical targeting and measurement tools that fill an identified gap.	$8,700		**$8,700**	
4	**BWSR**	**Conservation Drainage Management and Assistance:** Implementation of a conservation drainage/multipurpose drainage water management program in consultation with the Drainage Work Group to improve surface water management by providing supplemental funding under the provisions of 103E.015.	$2,000		**$2,000**	

5	**BWSR**	**Critical Shoreland Protection-Permanent Conservation Easements:** To purchase permanent conservation easements to protect lands adjacent to public waters with good water quality but threatened with degradation. Focus is on the headwaters of the Mississippi Basin for protection of tributaries and the Mississippi River, to provide source water protection for numerous Twin Cities and rural communities along the Mississippi River.	$1,000		**$1,000**	
6	**BWSR**	**Wetland restoration easements:** Funds will acquire permanent conservation easements and restore wetlands in priority areas statewide. Will hold water in upper watershed areas for de-nitrification, rate, and volume control.	$5,000		**$5,000**	
7	**BWSR**	**Measures, Results and Accountability:** To provide state oversight and accountability, evaluate and communicate results, support program and outcomes development, provide reporting tools, and measure conservation program implementation of local governments, develop and distribute technical guidance, develop and submit associated legislative reports.	$2,500		**$2,500**	
8	**BWSR**	**Buffer Law Implementation - Monitoring:** Provides program oversight and grants to support local governments in their ongoing monitoring of the statewide buffer law, and to ensure continued compliance.	$4,000		**$4,000**	
9	**BWSR**	**Working Land and Floodplain Easements:** Easements to set aside sensitive land in riparian corridors to address water quality, including rate and volume concerns. Based on a conservation plan, participating landowners will have options to establish flood hardy understory, establish trees, haying/grazing, silviculture, silvopasture, agroforestry with payment structure based on the proposed use.	$2,000		**$2,000**	
10	**BWSR**	**Surface and Drinking Water Protection/Restoration Grants:** (Projects and Practices) Competitive grant program and incentive funding to protect, enhance and restore water quality in lakes, rivers and streams and to protect groundwater and drinking water by implementing priority actions in local water management plans. Up to 20% of funds dedicated to drinking water protection activities.	$6,000		**$6,000**	$3,000
11	**BWSR**	**Watershed Partners Legacy (WPL) Grants:** Program is for water quality improvement projects to protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and protect groundwater from degradation. This program provides matching grants to local, state, and national nonprofit organizations, tribal governments, and other government partners. Projects will be evaluated and prioritized based on alignment with state-approved and locally-adopted comprehensive watershed management plans or related scientific information.	$1,000		**$1,000**	

12	**BWSR**	**Enhancing Landower Adoption of Soil Health Practices for Drinking Water & Groundwater Protection:** The program provides both applied research by the Minnesota Office for Soil Health and implementation of cover crop practices and conservation tillage to achieve water quality benefits as prioritized in comprehensive watershed management plans.	**$11,852**	**-$2,366**	**$9,486**	
13	**BWSR**	**Lake Superior leveraging of GLRI/federal funds**	$1,000		**$1,000**	
14	**BWSR**	**MN & IA Conservation Corps.** Funding to contract with Conservation Corps to conduct restoration and maintenance on projects, and to train their staff.	$1,500		**$1,500**	
15	**BWSR**	**Targeted Wellhead/Drinking Water Protection:** For conservation easements on wellhead protection areas under Minnesota Statutes, section 103F.515, subdivision 2, paragraph (d), or for grants to local units of government for ensuring long-term protection of groundwater supply sources in wellhead protection areas. Priority to be placed on land that is located where the vulnerability of the drinking water supply is designated as high or very high by the commissioner of health, where the drinking water supply is identified as Mitigation Level 1 or 2 by the Minnesota Groundwater Rule, where monitoring has shown elevated nitrate levels, where drinking water protection plans have identified specific activities that will achieve long-term protection, and/or on lands with expiring Conservation Reserve Program contracts.	$5,000		**$5,000**	
16	**BWSR**	**Tillage and Erosion Survey:** Program to systematically collect data and produce statically valid estimates of the rate of soil erosion state-wide and tracking the adoption of high residue cropping systems in the 67 counties with greater than 30% of land in agricultural row crop production.	$850		**$850**	
17	**BWSR**	**Technical Evaluation:** For a technical evaluation panel to conduct restoration evaluations under Minnesota Statues, section 114D.50, subdivision 6.	$200		**$200**	
18	**DNR**	**Aquifer Monitoring for Water Supply Planning:** Collect and analyze critical aquifer level data and groundwater flow dynamics, develop groundwater models and work with stakeholders to address sustainability management and planning through groundwater management areas and other forums.	$4,700		**$4,700**	
19	**DNR**	**Fish Contamination Assessment:** Sample mercury, PFAS and other contaminants in fish to determine fish consumption advisories, impairment status, and trend markers for those sites.	$1,100		**$1,100**	
20	**DNR**	**Lake IBI assessment:** Support MPCA's lake water quality assessments by providing data and interpretation about fish and plant populations.	$3,050		**$3,050**	
21	**DNR**	**Stream flow monitoring:** Collect stream flow data, which is used to calculate pollutant loads for MPCA's water quality assessments. Sample bedload at select stations to analyze sediment transport in streams.	$5,650		**$5,650**	

22	**DNR**	**Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies:** Work with state and local partners to provide expertise, data, analysis, and support for major watershed studies and the development of watershed restoration and protection strategies.	**$5,000**	**-$250**	**$4,750**	
23	**DNR**	**Nonpoint source restoration and protection activities:** Support local planning and implementation efforts, including: One Watershed, One Plan, systematic conservation planning, technical assistance for implementation projects, and targeted forest stewardship for water quality.	**$4,500**	**-$150**	**$4,350**	
24	**DNR**	**Mussel Restoration:** Restoring natures water filters' through increased freshwater mussel production and stocking.	$700		**$700**	
25	**DNR**	**Culvert replacement Incentive Program:** Financial and technical assistance for Counties and other local governments to help replace culverts using modern design for floodplain connectivity, biological connectivity and channel stability. Funds would be authorized and available until spent (this is important because it takes time to line this work up).	**$3,000**	**-$100**	**$2,900**	
26	**DNR**	**Tool development and evaluation**: Maintain and update LiDAR-derived elevation data and tools; assess relationships among disturbance patterns, BMP applications, and water quality in forested watersheds.	$1,400		**$1,400**	
27	**DNR**	**County geologic atlases:** Work with the Minnesota Geological Survey to accelerate completion or updates to County Geologic Atlases that provide critical groundwater and geology information to local governments.	$200		**$200**	
28	**LCC**	**Legislative Coordinating Commission**	$7		**$7**	
29	**MC**	**Water demand reduction/efficiency grant program:** Provides grants to assist municipalities in metro area with implementation of water demand reduction and efficiency measures to ensure the reliability and protection of drinking water supplies. Part of the funding will be dedicated to demand reductions and efficiency measures where equity is a focus of the awards.	**$1,500**	**-$100**	**$1,400**	
30	**MC**	**Metropolitan Area Water Sustainability Support:** Metropolitan Council will continue implementing projects that address integrated water planning, emerging drinking water supply threats, provide cost-effective regional solutions, leverage inter-jurisdictional coordination, support local implementation of water supply reliability projects, and prevent degradation of groundwater and surface water resources. New to this program this cycle, is the addition of funds to support stormwater reuse.	$2,750		**$2,750**	

31	**MDA**	**Monitoring for Pesticides in Surface Water and Groundwater:** Ongoing monitoring using clean water funded laboratory instruments which provides increased capability and greater capacity for pesticide monitoring. Clean Water funding has allowed the MDA to increase the number of detectable pesticides, increase the sensitivity of detection of certain pesticides, and increase the overall number of samples that can be analyzed on an annual basis.	$740		**$740**	
32	**MDA**	**Pesticide Testing of Private Wells:** Provide free pesticide testing of private wells in areas where groundwater may be at risk for elevated pesticide concentrations. Testing focuses on the herbicide cyanazine which is no longer used in Minnesota but its degradates are being detected at concentrations above the drinking water standard in some areas.	$1,000		**$1,000**	
33	**MDA**	**AgBMP Loan Program:** This program provides revolving low interest loans for eligible activities that reduce or eliminate water pollution. The program is administered by local governments, has very low transaction costs, and repayments fund additional projects.	$4,000		**$4,000**	
34	**MDA**	**MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program:** The MAWQCP is a first of its kind partnership between federal and state government and private industry. This innovative and nationally recognized voluntary program targets water quality protection on a field by field, whole farm basis. It comprehensively identifies and mitigates agricultural risks to water quality and protects and restores water resources, improves and expands soil health, and builds and quantifies climate resiliency in Minnesota agriculture.	$7,000		**$7,000**	
35	**MDA**	**Technical Assistance:** Technical assistance helps ensure accurate scientific information is available and used to address water quality concerns from agricultural practices. Funding is used to evaluate the effectiveness of conservation practices, support on-farm demonstrations and enhance outreach and education to the agricultural community and local government partners. Includes activities such as Discovery Farms MN, Root River Field to Stream Partnership, and support for agricultural retailers working with the 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification program.	$3,200		**$3,200**	
36	**MDA**	**Conservation Equipment Assistance:** Funding will provide assistance to both SWCDs and farmers to purchase equipment or items to retrofit existing equipment that has climate and water quality benefits including conservation tillage equipment and cover crop seeding equipment. This proposal would compliment soil health cost-share programs by providing the equipment needed to implement practices.	$3,500		**$3,500**	

37	**MDA**	**Expand Ag Weather Station Network:** Expand the existing state weather station and soil temperature network to provide accurate and timely weather data to optimize the timing of irrigation, fertilizer, pesticide and manure applications and support land management decisions. This will result in improved surface water and groundwater quality and support efforts to improve soil health.	**$2,500**	**-$200**	**$2,300**	
38	**MDA**	**Nitrate in Groundwater:** Funding to implement Minnesota's Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan and Groundwater Protection Rule for preventing and responding to nitrate contamination of groundwater from nitrogen fertilizer use. Includes support for: well testing, BMP promotion, demonstration, and adoption; Extension staffing; local advisory teams to work with farmers and crop advisors in areas with elevated nitrate in groundwater, conducting computer modeling to evaluate specific agricultural practices and; technical support and on-farm demonstrations such as Rosholt Farm.	$6,200		**$6,200**	
39	**MDA**	**Research Inventory Database:** The Minnesota Water Research Digital Library (MNWRL) is a user-friendly, searchable inventory of water research relevant to Minnesota. It provides "one-stop" access to all types of water research, including both peer-reviewed articles and white papers and reports.	$100		**$100**	
40	**MDA / U of MN**	**Irrigation Water Quality Protection:** Nitrogen contributions to groundwater under irrigated agriculture can be significant in some parts of Minnesota. Funding is for an irrigation water quality specialist via a contract with U of M Extension. This position develops and provides education on irrigation and nitrogen best management practices (BMPs) and supports the development of irrigation scheduling guidance for Minnesota irrigators.	$310		**$310**	
41	**MDA / U of MN**	**Forever Green Agricultural Initiative (U of MN):** Develops new perennial and winter annual crops and associated cropping systems that preserve and enhance water quality, and supports the development of new supply chains that provide profitable markets for these crops. Funding will support the Forever Green Initiative in areas related to research, implementation, and partnership development.	**$6,000**	**-$1,000**	**$5,000**	

42	**MDH**	**Drinking Water Contaminants of Emerging Concern Program:** Continue to protect human health by developing guidance and providing expert technical assistance on emerging contaminants so that timely and targeted health information is available for decision-making by state programs and the public. Increase outreach and education through grants or contracts that focus on education, prevention, and behavioral action to reduce contamination. Work will include developing partnerships and capacity on laboratory methods, researching and conducting rapid assessments, full chemical reviews, and participating in studies that measure the occurrence of emerging contaminants and provide public health context to the resulting data.	$11,850		**$11,850**	
43	**MDH**	**Private Well Initiative:** Ensure 1.1 million private well users have safe drinking water by: better understanding and explaining the occurrence and distribution of contaminants in private wells in Minnesota; expanding education and outreach to private well users about well testing, treatment, and wellhead protection; and building partners' capacity to support private well users.	$6,000		**$6,000**	$700
44	**MDH**	**Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategies:** Scale up the Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategy development to begin matching local needs regarding data/information delivery, staff capacity, training/education, and strategy development. Continue to coordinate with other state agency efforts and complete projects coordinated with 1W1P efforts. Includes a new effort to make groundwater data reliably accessible to state agencies, local governments, and partners.	$3,500		**$3,500**	
45	**MDH**	**Source Water Protection:** Support source water protection planning and implementation in communities served by groundwater and surface water. Establish Drinking Water Ambient Monitoring Program to monitor and address emerging threats in source waters. Continue coordinating and integrating source water protection activities with comprehensive watershed planning efforts.	**$7,790**	**-$100**	**$7,690**	
46	**MDH**	**Future of Drinking Water: I**mplement the MInnesota Drinking Water Action Plan that addresses current and emerging threats to safe drinking water in Minnesota. Research and evaluate the need for state regulatory values for contaminants in public water systems.	$500		**$500**	
47	**MDH**	**Recreational Water Quality Online Portal:** Maintain the statewide portal for beach monitoring results, closures, and public health notifications. Evaluate monitoring results to determine best practices for beach monitoring at Minnesota lakes, ensuring decisions are science-driven, protect the public's health, and help make sure that Minnesota's waters continue to be swimmable for all to enjoy.	$600		**$600**	

48	**MPCA**	**River and Lake Monitoring & Assessment**: Intensive watershed monitoring includes biological, chemical, and habitat monitoring in watersheds to assess the water conditions, pollutant load monitoring to track trends, and large river sampling every 5 years. Foundational to assessing water quality for impairment or potential delisting, developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS), Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategies (GRAPS), and informing One Watershed One Plans (1W1P).	$18,900		**$18,900**	
49	**MPCA**	**Groundwater assessment:** Monitor and enhance ambient groundwater well network to collect critical water quality data needed for drinking water protection and surface water impact analysis, including modeling to support TMDL stressor identification and contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) in a subset of monitoring wells.	$2,000		**$2,000**	
50	**MPCA**	**Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (includes TMDL development):** In 2008, the MPCA launched a watershed approach to systematically and comprehensively conduct the state's water-quality monitoring, and restoration and protection planning needs on a 10-year cycle. Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS), including TMDLs, are developed with local partners to set strategies for impaired waters and unimpaired waters by setting reduction and protection goals, milestones and measures to guide state and local government implementation efforts. Funding also supports updating watershed models as new monitoring data become available.	$14,500		**$14,500**	$500
51	**MPCA**	**Chloride reduction efforts:** This program provides critical support to communities by providing grants to offset costs to reduce their chloride discharges via water softeners, a critical step in meeting statewide chloride reduction goals. The FY24-25 request adds additional grant funding because there are more communities now that must implement their chloride reduction plan. These implementation funds result in a direct reduction of chloride to our state waters.	$1,300		**$1,300**	
52	**MPCA**	**Wastewater/stormwater TMDL implementation**: Proper management of stormwater and wastewater is crucial to achieving the goals of TMDLs. Funding for these program areas supports point source implementation and represents the minimum amount of funding needed to provide technical assistance tools to local units of government and to support staffing to accelerate work in stormwater and wastewater permitting programs that protect lakes and streams. Additional funding is requested for FY24-25 to restore cuts from the past couple of biennia to stormwater project funding that allows continued development of the Stormwater Manual which is used by both unregulated and regulated cities, and to support creating connections between point and nonpoint source implementation programs.	$3,200		**$3,200**	

53	**MPCA**	**Enhanced County inspections/SSTS corrective actions:** Support technical assistance and County implementation of SSTS program requirements (M.S. 115.55) including issuing permits, conducting inspections, identifying and resolving non-compliant SSTS, and revising and maintaining SSTS ordinances. The FY24/25 request would increase available grant funds to counties to assist families with low income make septic system upgrades	**$7,081**	**-$200**	**$6,881**	
54	**MPCA**	**Clean Water Council budget**	$922		**$922**	
55	**MPCA (funds passed thru)**	**National Park Water Quality Protection Program:** Grant program for sanitary sewer projects that are included in the draft or any updated **Voyageurs National Park** Clean Water Project Comprehensive Plan to restore the water quality of waters in Voyageurs National Park.	$1,500		**$1,500**	
56	**PFA**	**Point Source Implementation Grant (PSIG) Program:** Provides grants to help cities upgrade water infrastructure treatment facilities to comply with TMDL wasteload requirements and more stringent water quality-based effluent limits for phosphorus, chlorides, and other pollutants. The PFA administers the program in partnership with the MPCA.	**$16,500**	**-$60**	**$16,440**	
57	**PFA**	**Small Community Wastewater Treatment Program:** Provides grants and loans to assist small unsewered communities with technical assistance and construction funding to replace non-complying septic systems with community subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTS). The PFA administers the program in partnership with the MPCA.	$100		**$100**	
58	**U of MN**	**Stormwater BMP Performance Evaluation & Technology Transfer:** Enhanced data and information management of stormwater BMPs; evaluate BMP performance and effectiveness to support meeting TMDLs; develop standards and incorporate into state of the art guidance using MIDS as the model; implement a knowledge and technology transfer system across local government, industry and regulatory sectors. Pass through dollars to UMN.	**$2,000**	**-$400**	**$1,600**	
59	**U of MN**	**Geologic Atlas with Dept. of Natural Resources:** Provides planning scale comprehensive geologic mapping and associated databases useful for managing water and mineral resources.	$800		**$800**	
		Budget total	**$310,752**	**-$6,826**	**$303,926**	**$7,338**
		Target			**$303,926**	**$7,338**
		Balance			**$0**	**$0**

2025 Water Resources Conference
October 14-15, 2025
St Paul RiverCentre

Abstract deadline: April 4, 2025

Abstract Formats: 20-minute oral presentations (15 minutes of presentation time and 5 minutes for Q&A and transition)

https://ccaps.umn.edu/minnesota-water-resources-conference/abstracts

Title:
Enhancing Public Engagement in Clean Water Fund Decisions: The Clean Water Council's Public Participation Plan and Draft Budget Priorities

Abstract:
The Clean Water Council plays a critical role in guiding Minnesota's investments in water quality through the Clean Water Fund. In recognition of the public's direct financial support of this fund through the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment, the Council has developed a Public Participation Plan to ensure meaningful and transparent engagement in its budget and policy recommendations. This presentation will outline the Council's strategic approach to public participation, grounded in the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) framework, to involve diverse stakeholders in decision-making.

The Public Participation Plan enhances the Council's ability to solicit, aggregate, and apply public input at key decision points, improving the alignment of budget priorities with community values. The plan also establishes a structured engagement cycle, distinguishing between strategy years, which focus on broad input and priority setting, and budget years, when funding recommendations are developed and refined. This session will also explore how public feedback has influenced the Council's draft budget priorities for the upcoming fiscal cycle, highlighting key themes and areas of investment.

By fostering a more inclusive and transparent process, the Clean Water Council aims to ensure that Clean Water Fund allocations reflect the values, concerns, and priorities of Minnesota communities. This session will also provide practical guidance on how individuals and organizations can participate in shaping future budget and policy recommendations, reinforcing the Council's commitment to accountability and meaningful public engagement.

Alternatively, we could consider a special session. Perhaps with a 90-minute block we could provide a little more background/context on the Clean Water Council, a more thorough review of the public participation plan and draft budget priorities, and time to solicit input.

> Special sessions are deep dives into specific, timely topics or presentations that provide a multidisciplinary approach. Choose from one, two, or three 90-minute time blocks.

Requirements
Session organizers will be asked to provide the following details when submitting a proposal:

- organizer name, email, phone number, job title, and company name
- session title (75 character limit)
- brief description (2000 character/300 word limit)
- time requirements (1–3 90-minute blocks of time)
- speaker(s)
    - speaker names and contact details, if you know them, or
    - an explanation of the type of experience they have or the specific company they will be from
- other details the planning committee will need to know about the session for consideration

Deadline
Please submit your proposal by **the last Friday in March (Mach 28)** for consideration in the current calendar year. Note that all special session presenters are required to register for the conference.
Organizers will be notified of acceptance following the April planning committee meeting.
August: All final updates to session details due.

March 7, 2025, draft

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The Clean Water Council is committed to seeking the input not just from interested stakeholders but from the public at large. The ratification of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment in 2008 led to the creation of the Clean Water Fund. Because voters provided their direct financial support to clean water, the Council believes that the Clean Water Fund deserves special attention from the public.

This public participation plan is intended to guide the Clean Water Council in seeking input on its budget and policy recommendations and strategic plan. It is based on the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) framework.

The purpose of this plan is to;

- Help the Council be more intentional about why, how, when, and who it is engaging including identifying the voices that may be missing.
- Be more strategic in identifying the public participation efforts that are needed as well as capturing those already underway so that they can inform the Council's decisions. Public participation can be diffuse; and we know it's happening at multiple levels, to varying degrees, across many groups, in formal and informal ways. This plan can help to aggregate input and apply it at strategic points in time so that it can be used as a more formal element in the Council's decision-making process.
- Make the entire process more transparent and accessible for people. Defining the Council's scope of work and role allows the Council to better sort and respond to the input received including informing people when their input is outside of the scope of the Clean Water Council.
- Hold the Council accountable to implement the plan and continually review and adapt its approach to meet the Council's engagement goals. To that end, the Council intends to review the plan annually in January and adapt as needed. [Engagement goals of the Council have yet to be defined]

DECISION TO BE MADE

- Clean Water Council budget and policy recommendation to the legislature.
- Clean Water Council will make a recommendation, Minnesota legislature will decide.

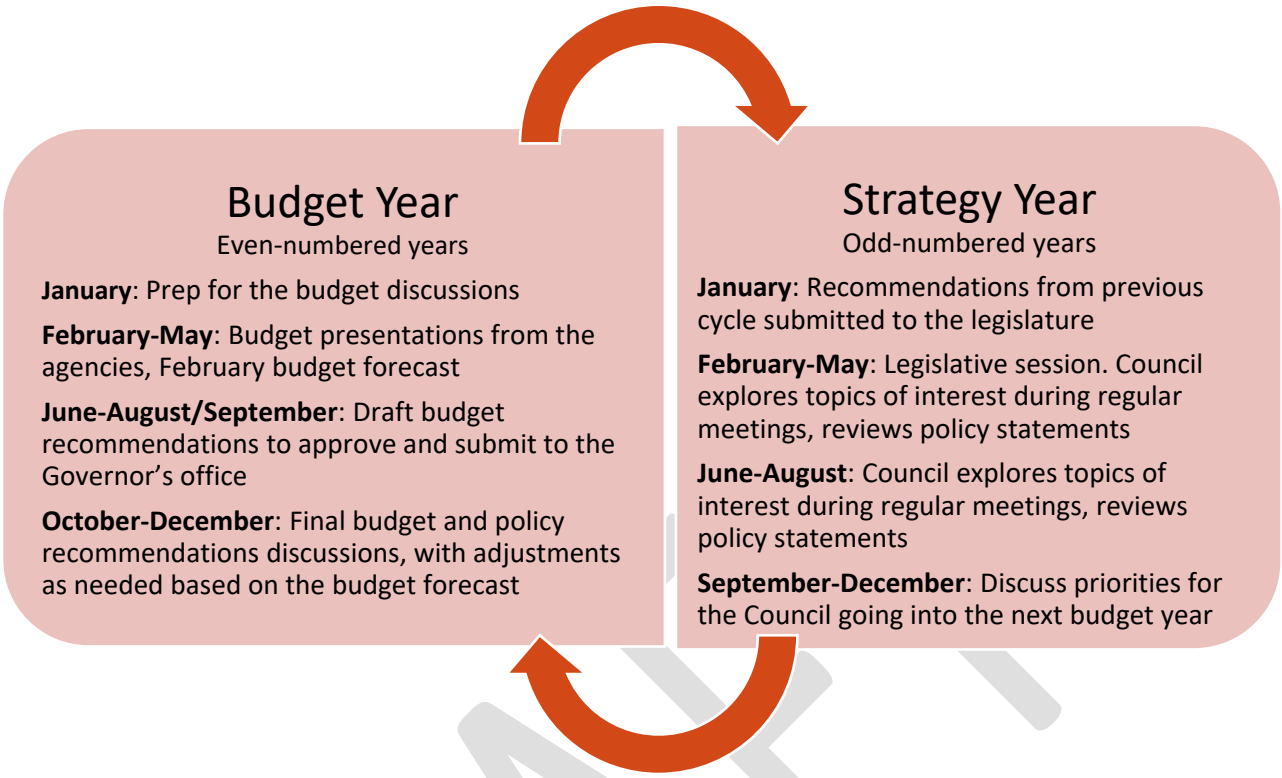


Figure 1. Clean Water Council workflow diagram.

DECISION CRITERIA

IN SCOPE

- Funding allocation for individual programs, projects, and initiatives
- Policy statements
- Clean Water Council Strategic Plan

OUT OF SCOPE

- Individual agency and Interagency Coordination Team (ICT) budget process
- Implementation of Clean Water Funded programs, projects, and initiatives
- Grant award processes and decisions

DECISIONS ALREADY MADE

- Budget deadlines
- Past budget recommendations
- Existing appropriations with and without tails
- Interagency Coordination Team (ICT) structure and process
- Clean Water Council Bylaws and charter
- Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment and statutory language, Statute 114D

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Clean Water Council Strategic Plan
- Agency budgets and ICT

- Research on values, attitudes, beliefs around water
- Outcomes of engagement initiatives such as the We Are Water program
- Clean Water Fund Performance Report
- Clean Water Road Map
- Most recent Clean Water Fund budget and policy recommendations report

STAKEHOLDERS

- Minnesota Residents and Taxpayers
- Rights-holders
- Environmental organizations
- Nonprofit organizations
- Business organizations
- Statewide hunting organizations
- Statewide farm organizations
- Statewide fishing organizations
- Tribal governments
- County government (rural counties and seven-county metropolitan area)
- City governments
- Township officers
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Watershed Districts
- Metropolitan Council
- University of Minnesota
- Board of Water and Soil Resources
- Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Minnesota Department of Health
- Local public health officials
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Interagency Coordination Team
- Minnesota House of Representatives
- Minnesota Senate
- Governor's Office

ROLES

STAKEHOLDERS, PRACTITIONERS, RIGHTS-HOLDERS, AND RESIDENTS

Expertise in sense of place, community interests and values, public attitudes, and desired amenities.

- Provides their expertise on values
- Communicates questions, concerns, and ideas
- Reviews and provides input on Council budget recommendations and policy statements

Individuals and groups may provide input directly to the Council or their representative on the Council. Insights may also come indirectly from local engagement initiatives (for example, the We Are Water program) or from research on local perspectives on water.

CLEAN WATER COUNCIL

The state varies widely in terms of demography, geography, industry, land use, and local capacity. Members of the Council represent the interests of various groups in strategic planning, setting priorities, providing feedback to agencies on programs, making funding recommendations, and forming policy statements.

- Acts as the aggregator of public sentiment
- Coordinates budget and policy recommendations with the Interagency Coordination Team

INTERAGENCY COORDINATION TEAM (ICT)

The Clean Water Fund Interagency Coordination Team (ICT) was formed to coordinate the use of Clean Water Fund dollars for achieving the aims of Clean Water Land and Legacy Act. The ICT includes the seven state agencies involved in protecting water quality: Metropolitan Council, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Public Facilities Authority.

- Represents the agencies that implement various programs funded by the Clean Water Fund
- Informs the Council of agency programs and their associated budgets, needs, and outcomes
- Considers feedback from the Council in their budget proposal to the Governor's office

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

- Receives Clean Water Fund budget recommendation from the Clean Water Council
- Receives Clean Water Fund budget recommendation from the ICT (with input from the Clean Water Council)
- Submits its budget proposal to the Legislature

LEGISLATURE

- Receives Clean Water Fund budget recommendation from the Clean Water Council
- Receives Clean Water Fund budget recommendation from the Governor's Office (which is informed by the ICT and Clean Water Council)
- Finalizes and approves the Clean Water Fund budget and makes appropriations to agencies

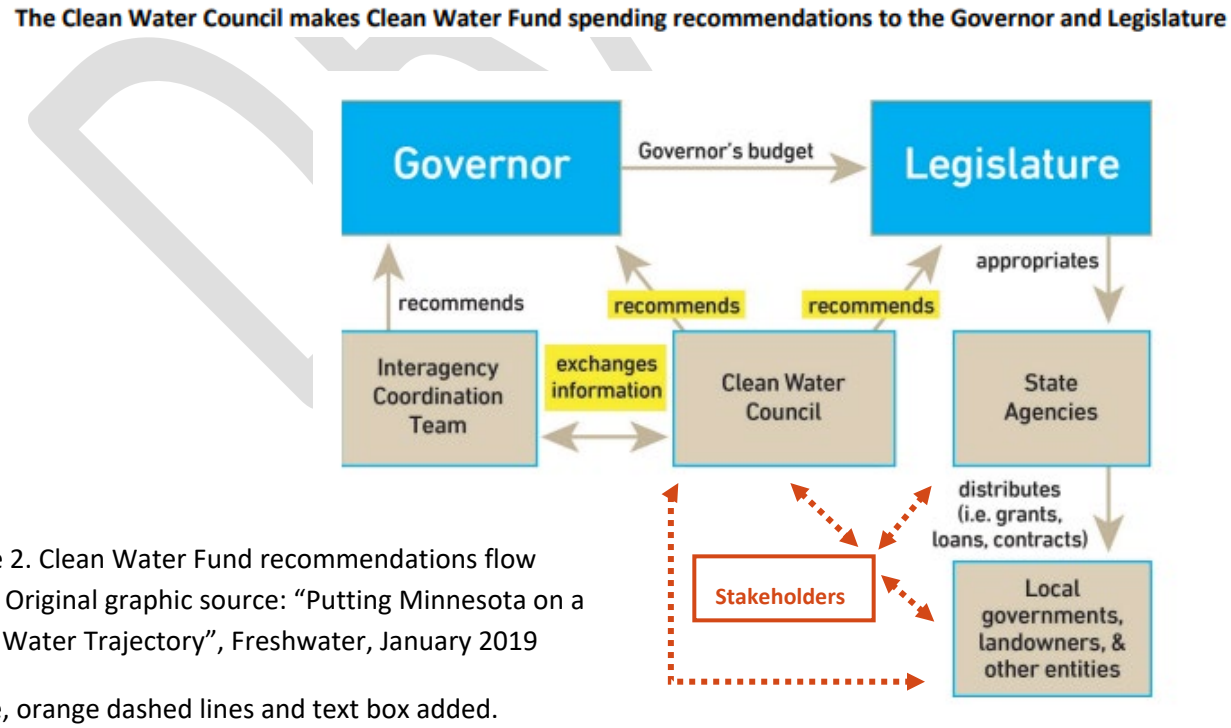


Figure 2. Clean Water Fund recommendations flow chart. Original graphic source: "Putting Minnesota on a Clean Water Trajectory", Freshwater, January 2019

*Note, orange dashed lines and text box added.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATON LEVEL

IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation

IAP2's Spectrum of Public Participation was designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines the public's role in any public participation process. The Spectrum is used internationally, and it is found in public participation plans around the world.

INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

Figure 3. IAP2 spectrum of public participation. *Orange box outline emphasis added.

- The level of public participation oscillates depending on the phase of work the Council is in and whether it's a 'budget year' or 'strategy year'.
- During the strategy year, the Council operates at the Involve level as members meet with the stakeholder group they represent and seek broad stakeholder input.
- As budget recommendations and policy statements form up or are open for discussion, the Council may Consult people on the Council's priorities or drafts.
- As decisions are made, the Council communicates with stakeholders at the Inform level.

TECHNIQUES

Inform level: Website, social media, newsletters, interactive storymap, performance reports.

Consult level: Community comment at Council meetings, written comments, We Are Water program summaries, research that captures local perspectives on water, agency presentations, workshops/presentations from the Council at industry and stakeholder conferences and meetings.

Involve level: Council members meet with the individuals and groups they represent - information and ideas flow in both directions. Members attend industry and stakeholder conferences, meetings, and field days, seeking to understand concerns and aspirations.

DECISION PROCESS

In designing the process for soliciting input, members of the Council should consider what they want to know, when, and how they will get that information. The Council ought to consider all input equally at all phases of engagement and in whatever form individuals and groups choose to provide it.

The Council ought to program its engagement actions to sync with when the information would be most impactful to the process. Figure 4 shows the budget year coordination with ICT flowchart including outcomes and key dates.

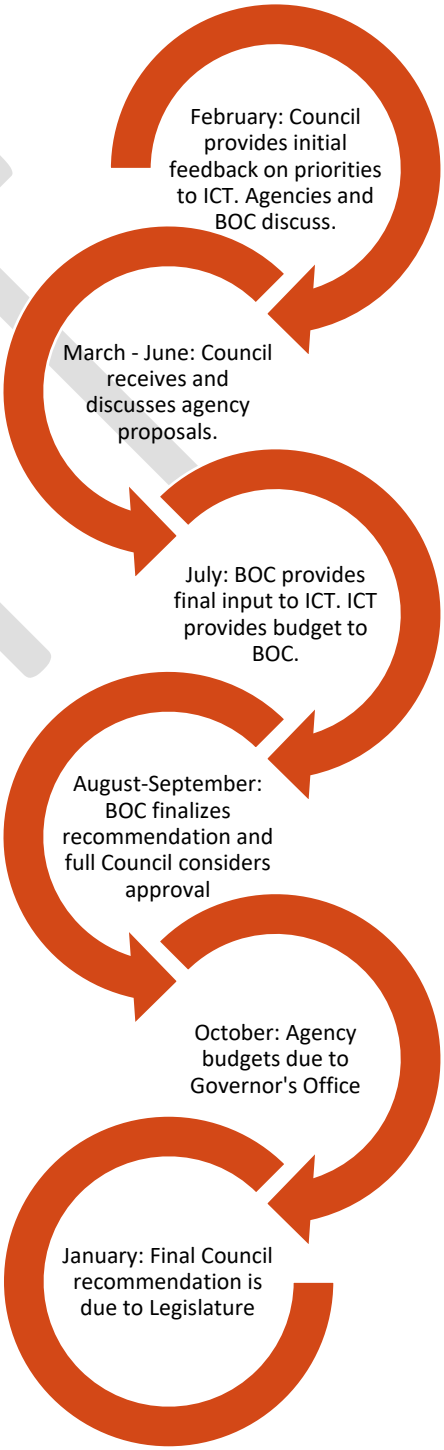
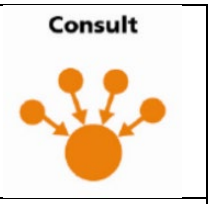


Figure 4. Budget year (even-year) coordination flowchart with ICT.

Table 1. Process outline.

Strategy Year (odd-numbered years)	
Description	**Engagement level**
Quarter 1 • Clean Water Council submits budget proposal in January. • Clean Water Council closes the loop with stakeholders who provided input in the budget recommendation process. • Clean Water Council communicates the decision to stakeholders (the Budget and Policy Recommendations Report). • Clean Water Council testifies at committee meetings. • Clean Water Council annually reviews the Public Participation Plan.	
Quarter 2 • Clean Water Council members kick-off engagement with their stakeholder groups broadly, informing them of process, how to participate, and asking for input. All Minnesotans are invited to provide input at this early stage and the Council utilizes various channels to solicit input – newsletter, press release, social media, etc. People are invited to respond to questions such as. o What is your vision for 10 years from now? o What is your hope for water resources in Minnesota? o What do we need more of? o What do we need less of? o What are your concerns related to water resources in Minnesota? o What do you want the Clean Water Council to know? • The Clean Water Council identifies conferences and meetings where it can share the public participation plan and preview its priorities going into the next budget year. • Conference abstracts are submitted.	
Quarters 3 and 4 • Members bring input from individuals and groups they represent to the regular Council meetings. A facilitated discussion helps to outline Council priorities based on what each member brings as well as what we hear from other stakeholders, and the themes from this exercise are referenced in subsequent meetings as we march toward the next budget and policy recommendation. • The Clean Water Council also seeks input from We Are Water program coordinators and researchers and other indirect sources to seek to better understand local perspectives. The Council continues to invite people to react to prompts and encourage people to provide verbal or written testimony. • The Council presents its public participation plan and a preview of its priorities at industry and stakeholder conferences and meetings where it seems input. Presenters share an after-action review with the Council.	

Late Quarter 4 • The Council crystallizes themes and priorities in preparation for the budget year. These themes are shared with stakeholders for them to react.	
Budget Year (even-numbered years)	
Description	**Engagement level**
Quarter 1 • Clean Water Council provides initial feedback on priorities to ICT, informed by engagement process. • Clean Water Council annually reviews the Public Participation Plan.	
Quarter 2 • Clean Water Council receives proposal presentations from agencies. The Council and ICT consider input as they form up their proposals. • Clean Water Council members are consulting with individuals and groups they represent. • The Council considers all feedback and synthesizing work from the past year, taking care to weigh all input equally regardless of when or how it was received.	
Quarter 3 • The BOC and ICT exchange budget proposals. The committee and Council describe how input received to-date was used or not used. • The Council consults stakeholders on the budget and policy recommendations, then makes a decision.	
Quarter 4 • Clean Water Council makes adjustments to its recommendation based on updated budget forecast information, makes a decision, and shares the final version with stakeholders. When the final budget decision is made, it's accompanied by a report that evaluates the engagement process and closes the loop with stakeholders. The report describes the fate of input received and how it influenced the decision as well as where input landed – it could be acknowledged, answered, or referred to agencies/policy committee/BOC, as appropriate. The report describes how input was used or not used.	

*Cycle repeats with strategy year. All input and wisdom are carried forward into subsequent cycles.

Water Quality Outcomes

MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

Kim Laing | Surface Water Monitoring Manager
Glenn Skuta | Watershed Division Director

March 17, 2025

Agenda

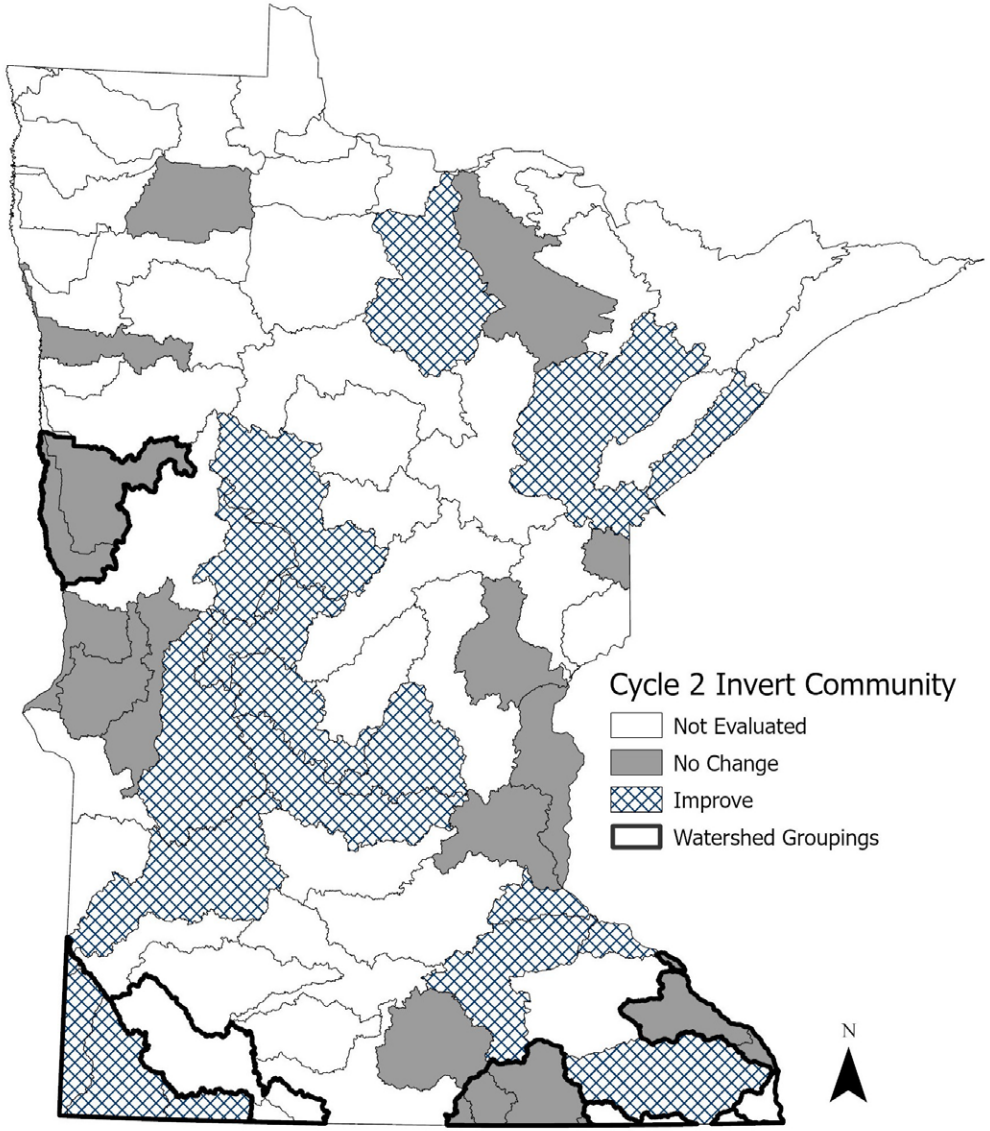
1. Preview of Questions
2. Flyover of outcomes
3. Questions
4. Details
5. Additional indicators
6. Coming soon

Preview of Questions

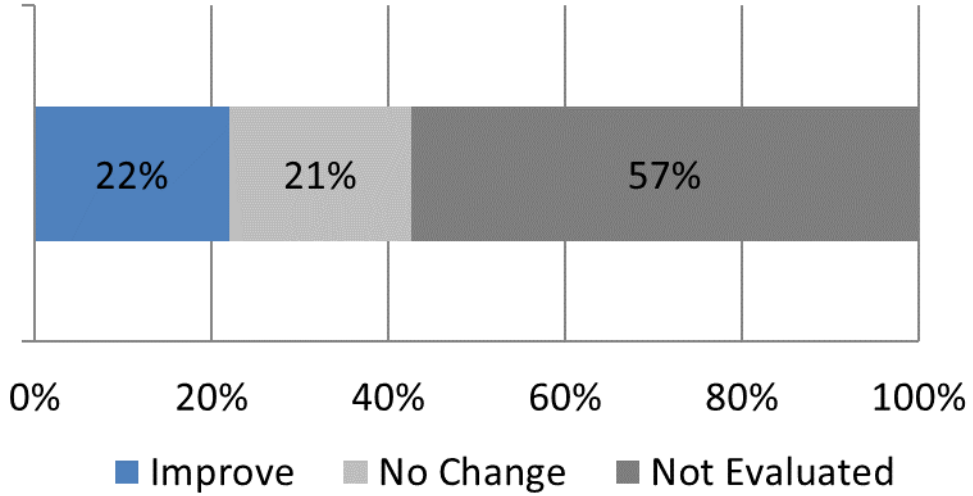
- What was your first reaction?
- What left an impression?
- What questions do these raise for you?
- What are your thoughts? What do you take away from these?
- What do you want to know more about?
- What would you like to see differently?
- What would make it easier to view?

Flyover

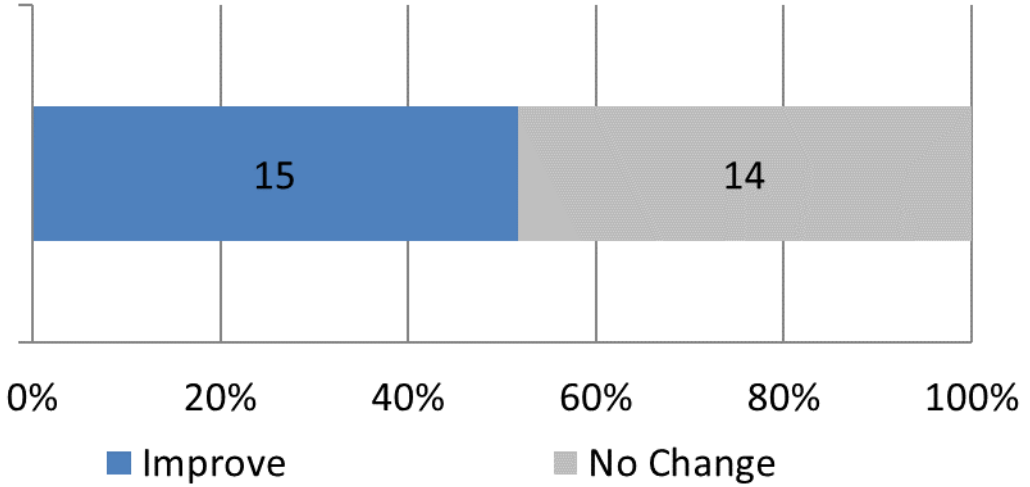
- Stream & River – macroinvertebrate
- Stream & River – fish
- Rivers – Nitrate
- Rivers - Total Phosphorus
- Lakes – clarity
    - Zebra mussel impact on lake clarity
- Rivers - Total Suspended Solids
- Streams & Rivers - clarity
- Delisted waters



Statewide Macroinvertebrate Changes

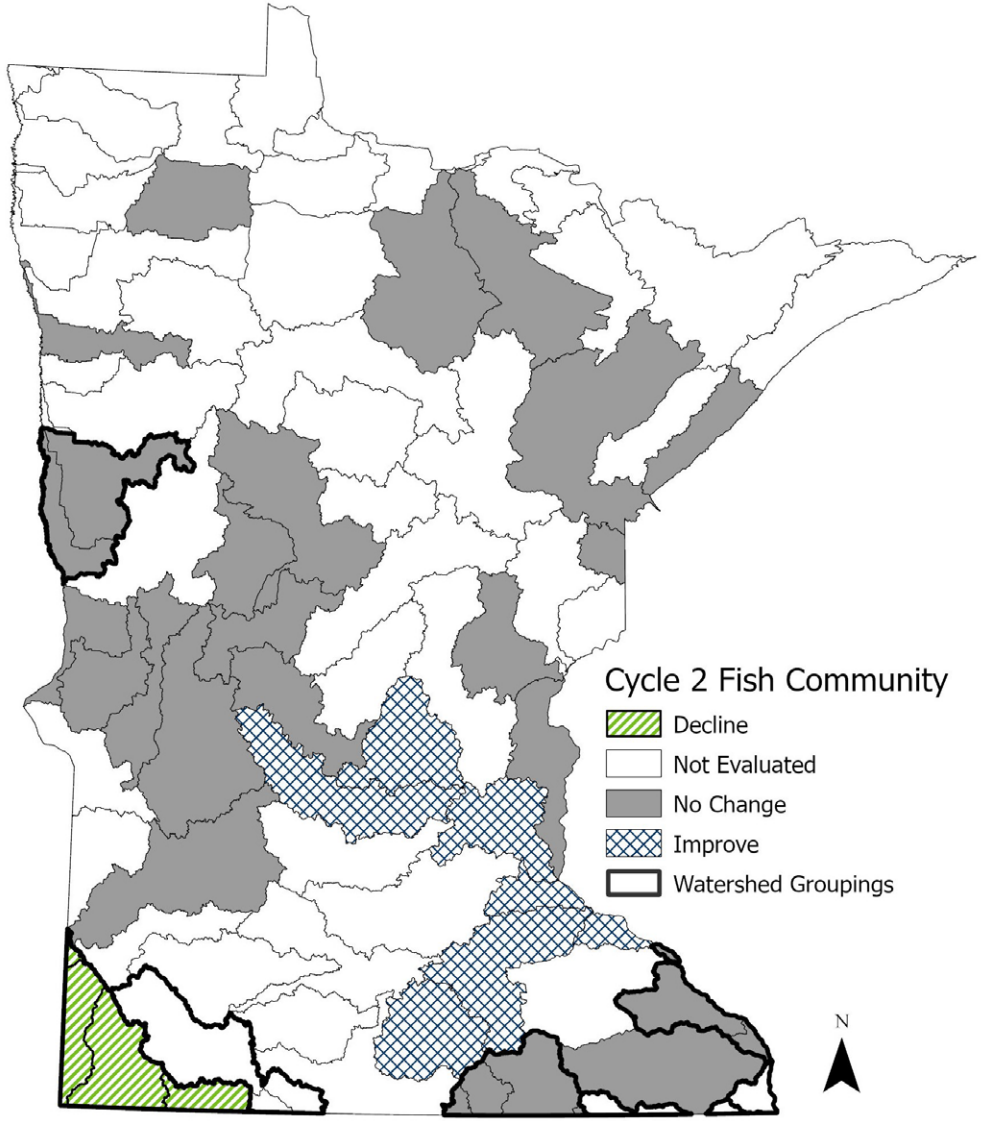


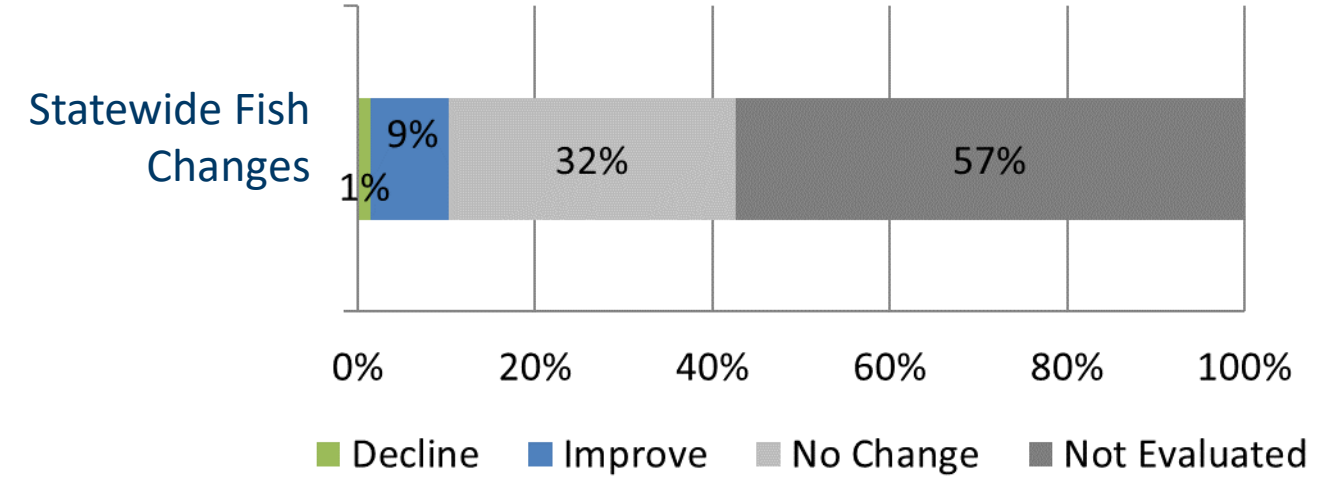
Evaluated Macroinvertebrate Changes

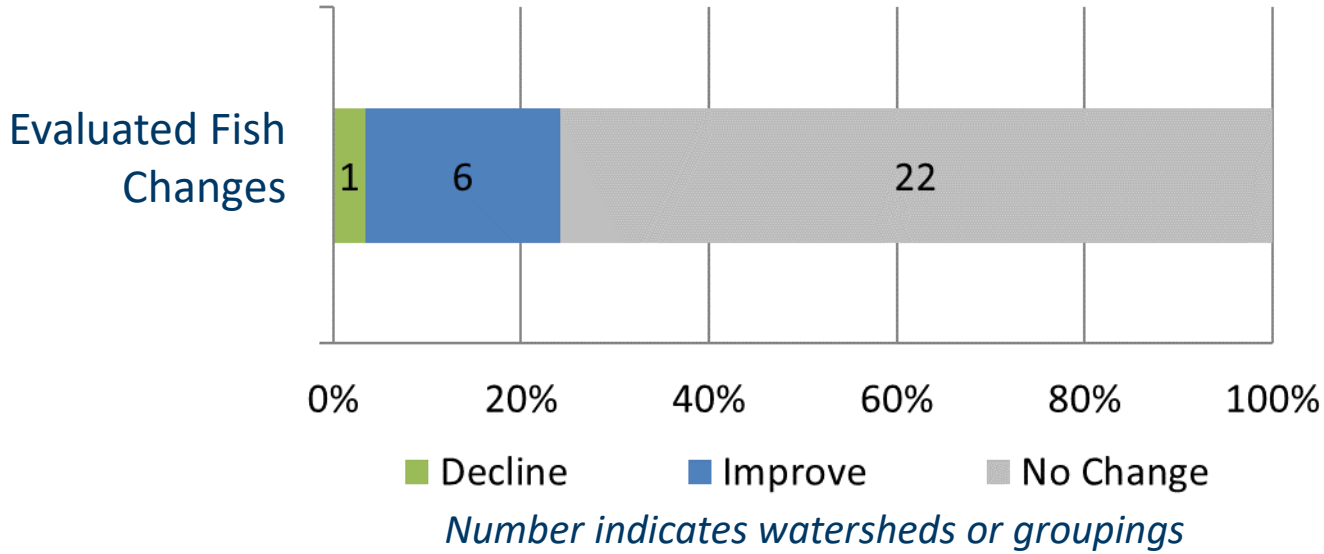


Number indicates watersheds or groupings

Stream & River - **macroinvertebrate** community condition change between IWM Cycle 1 and Cycle 2







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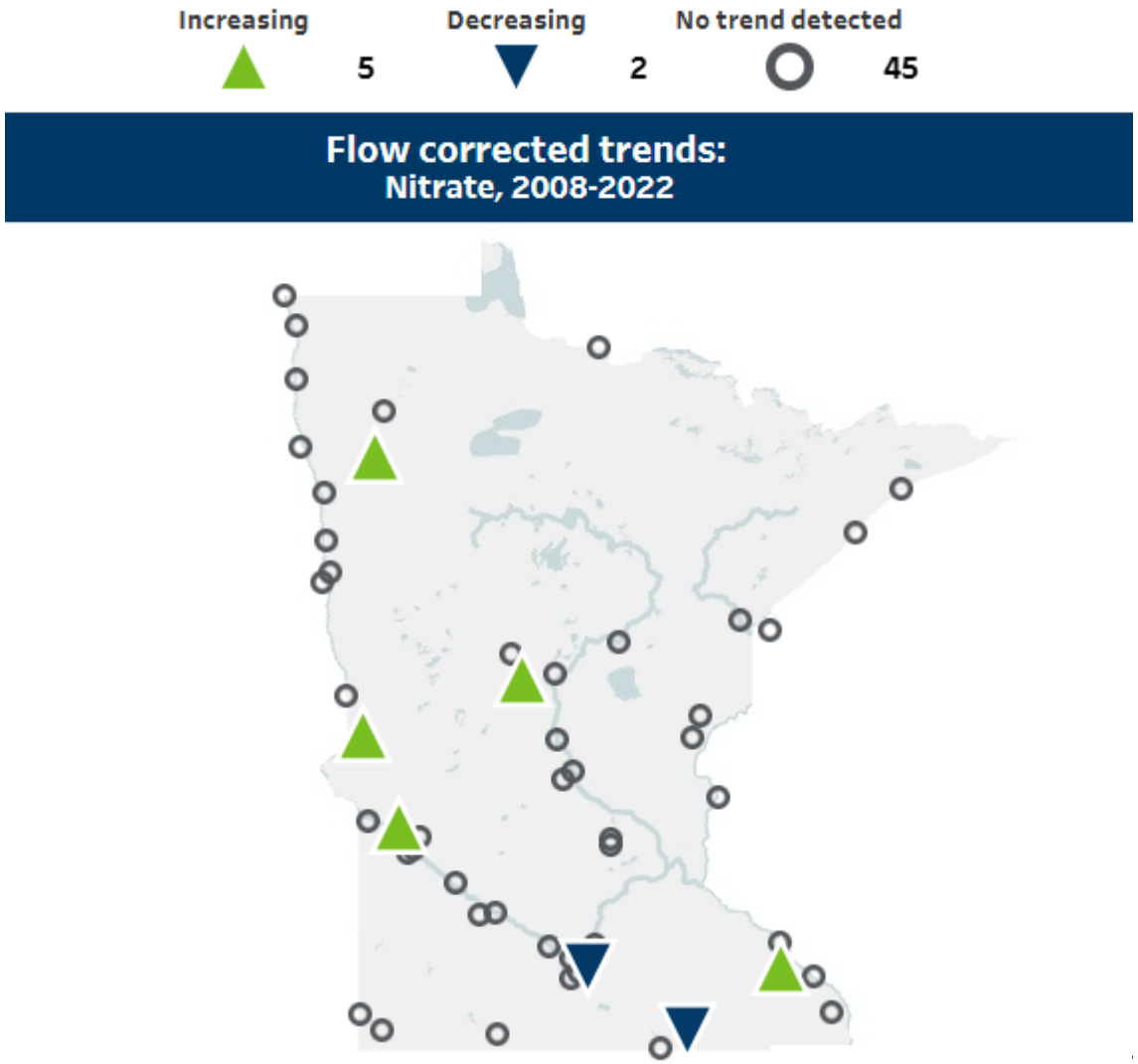
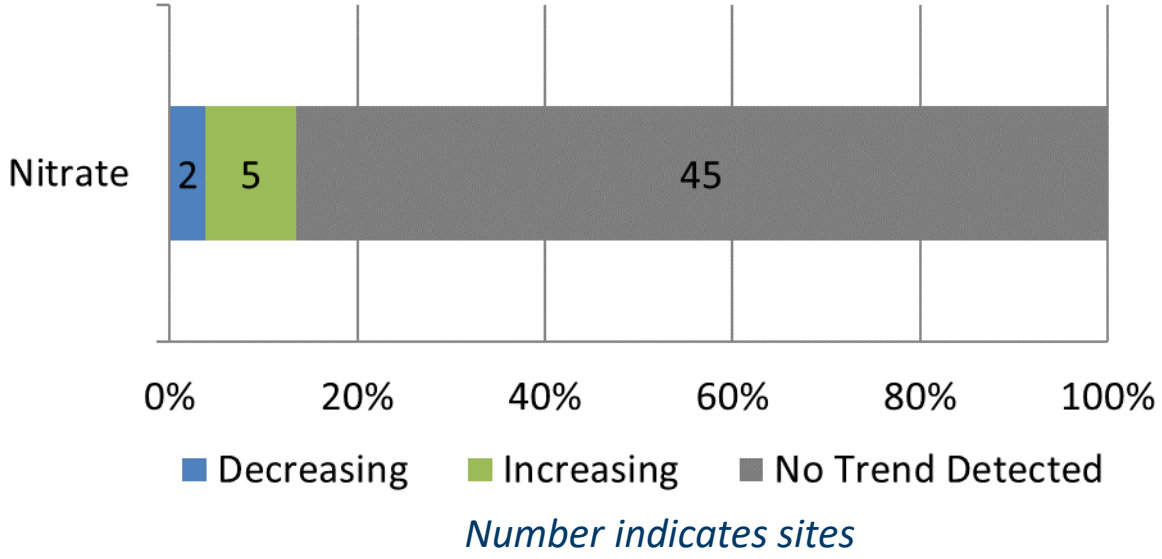
Stream & River - **fish** community condition change between IWM Cycle 1 and Cycle 2





Rivers – Nitrate trends in *concentration*.

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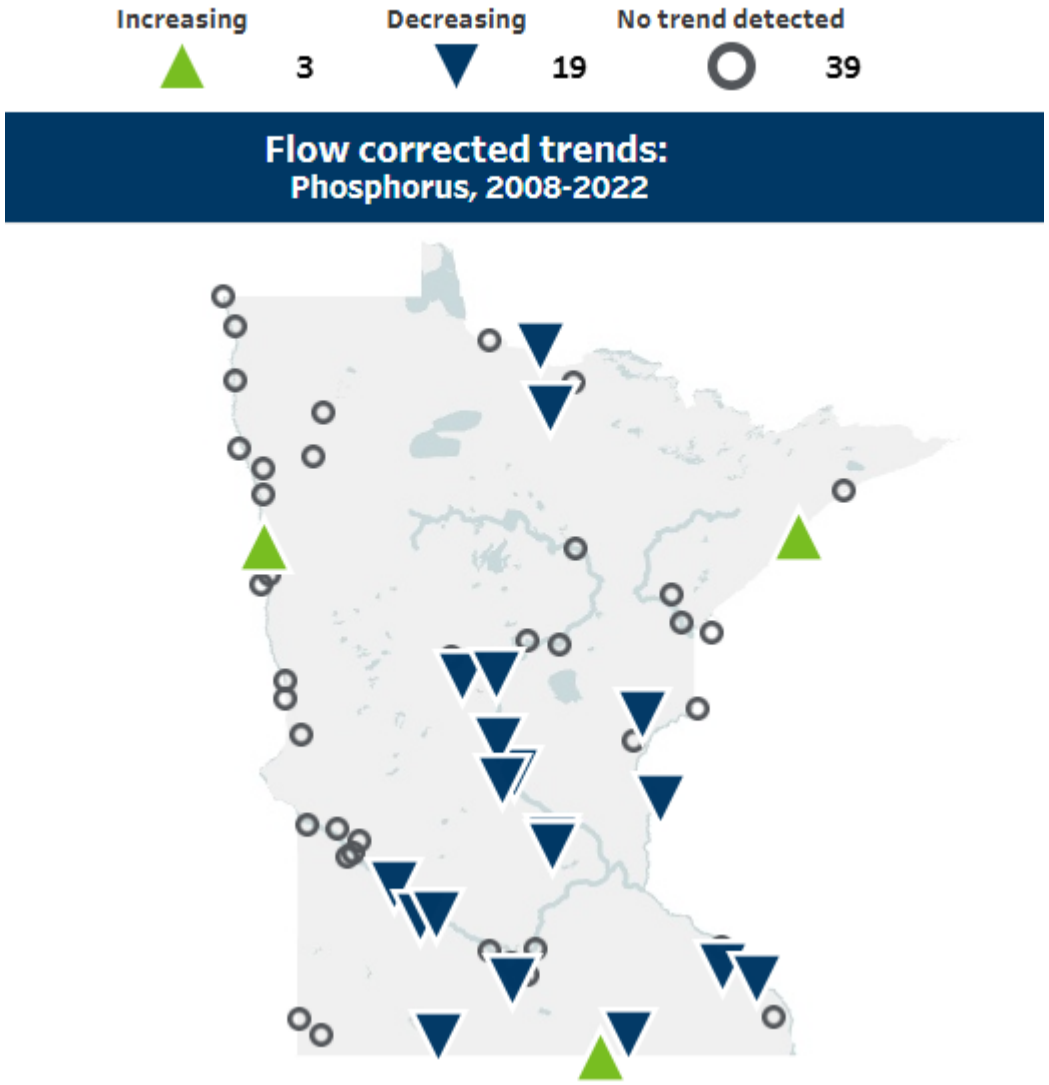

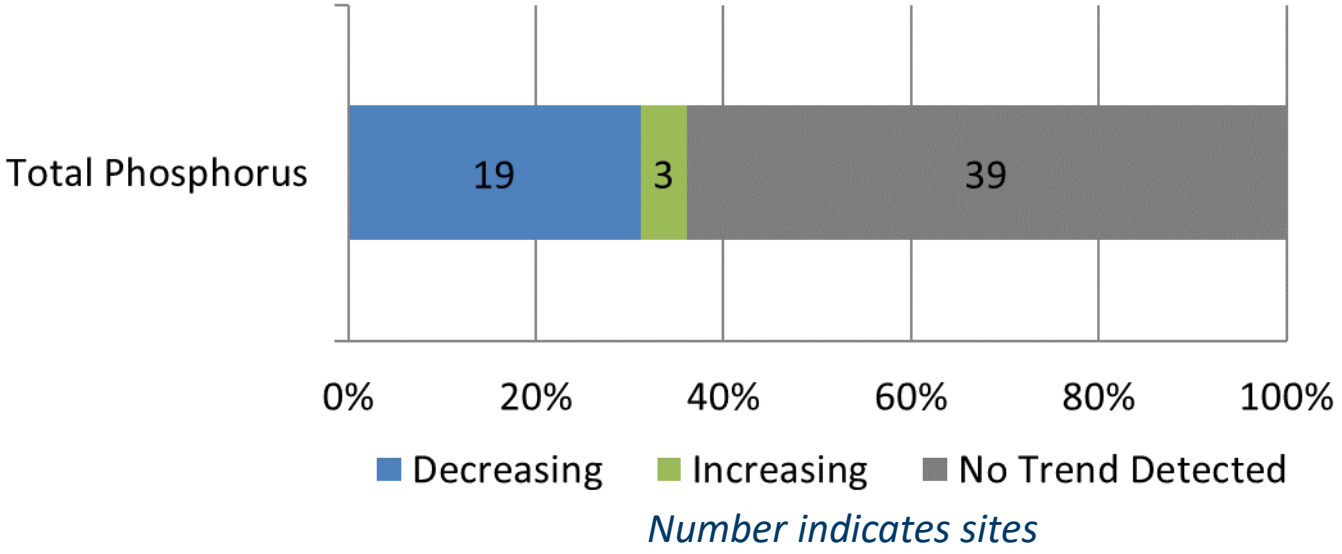

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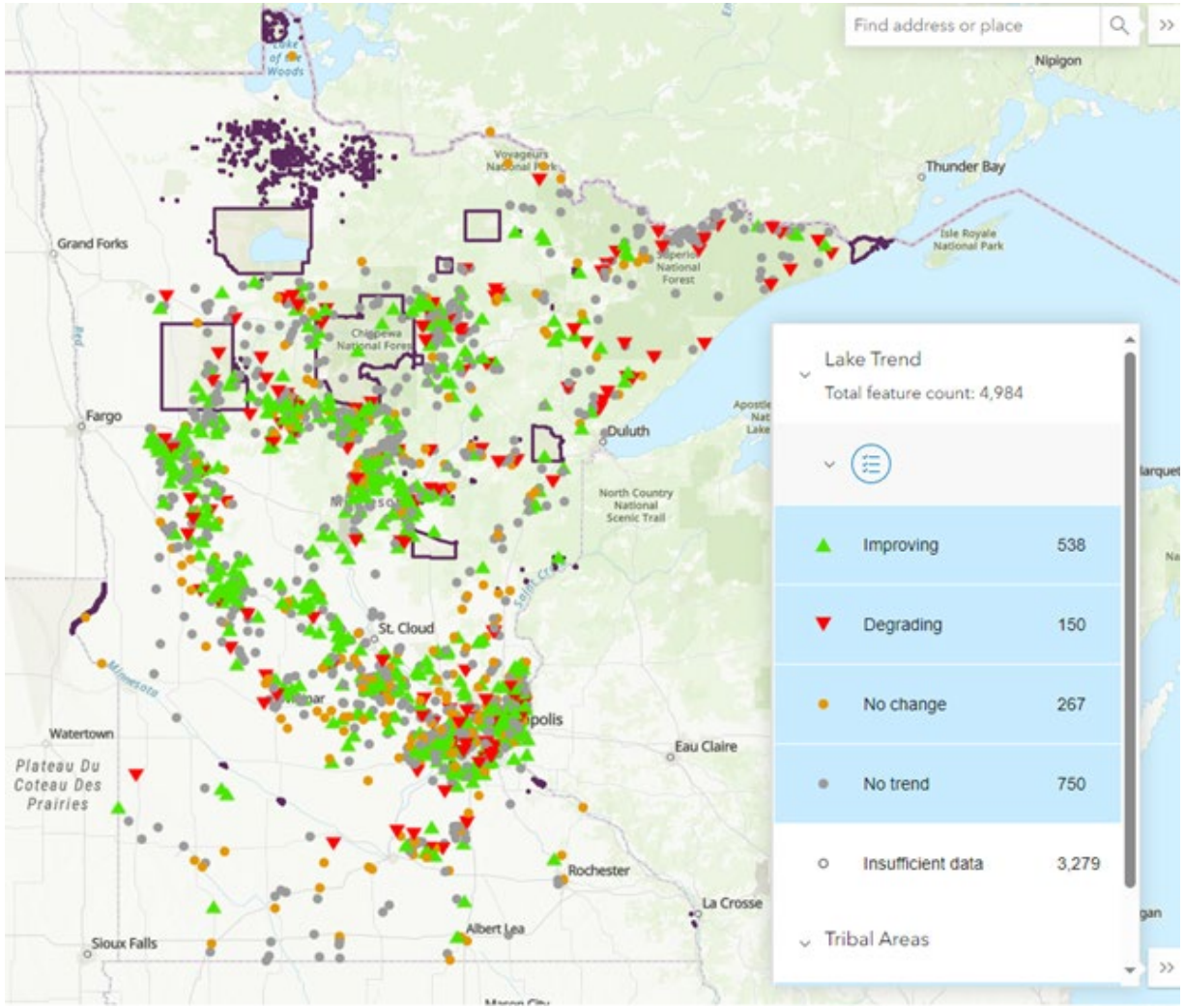
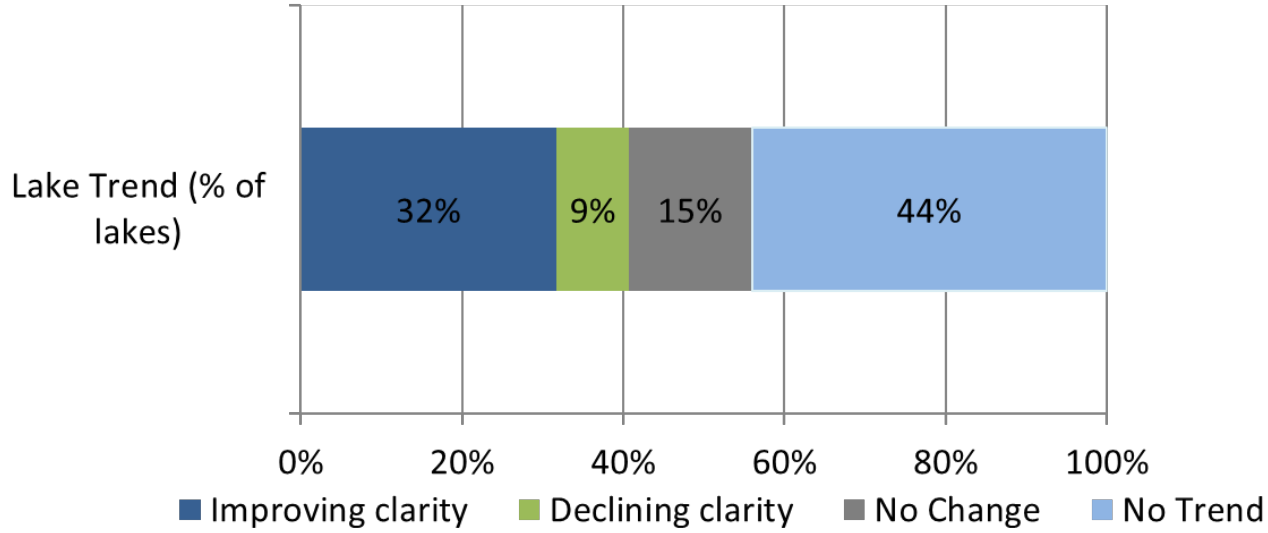
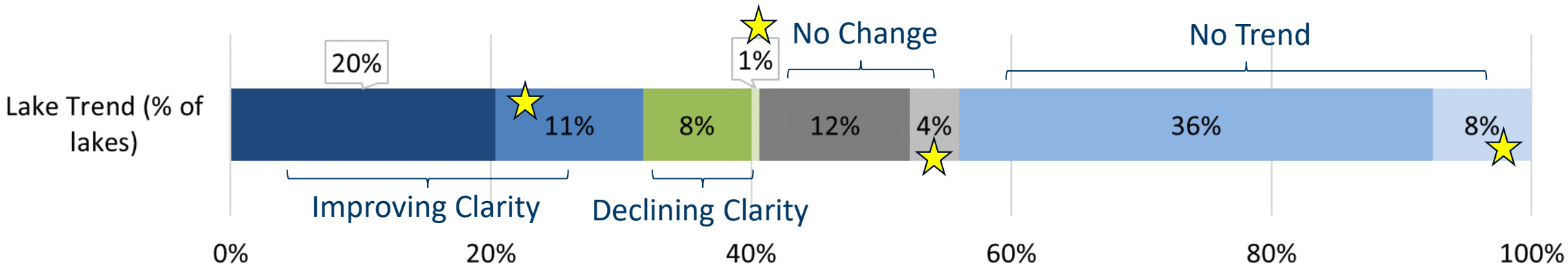
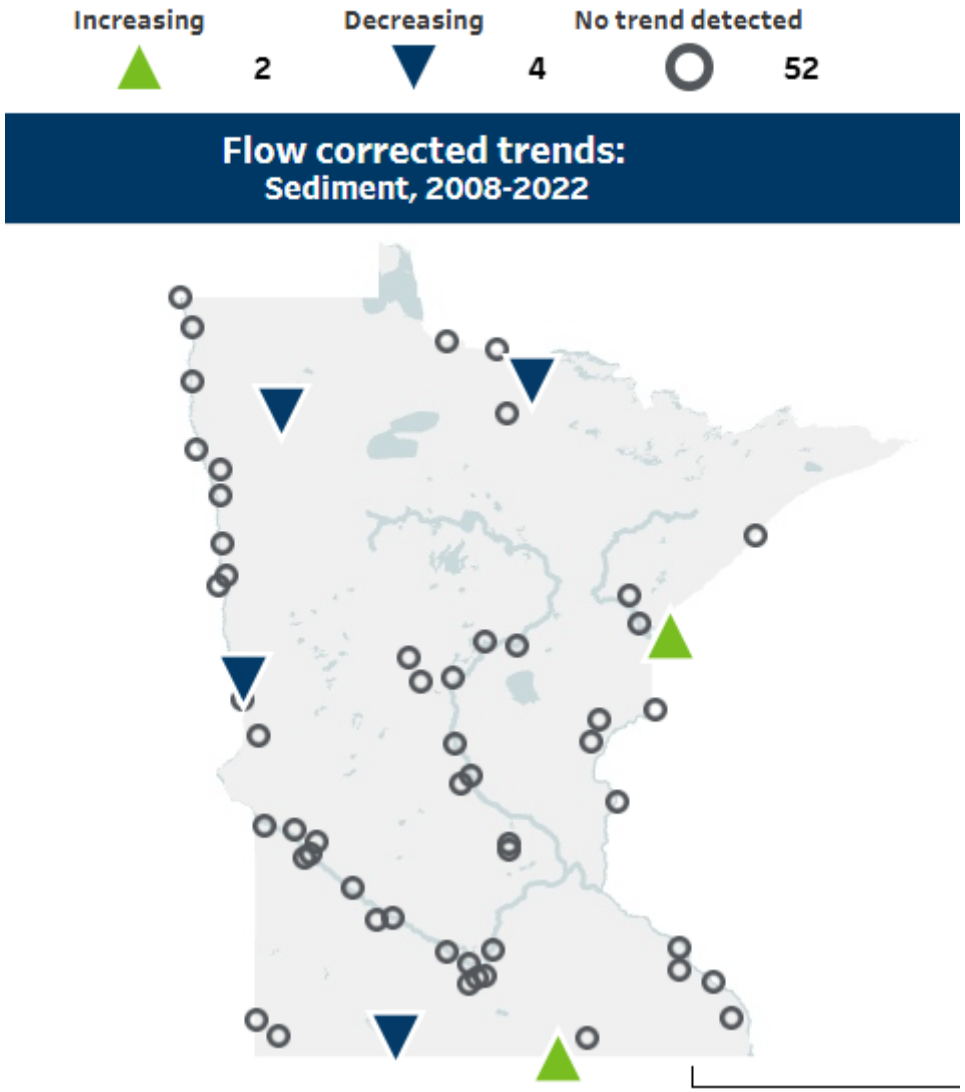


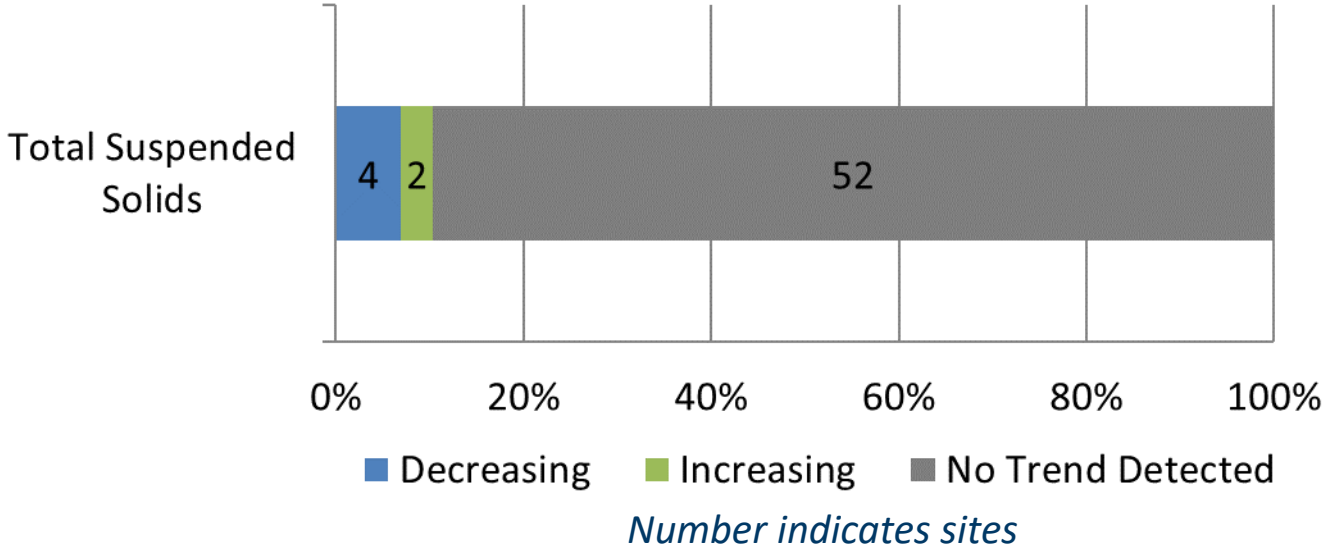


Lakes - **clarity** trends



Lakes - **clarity** trends, zebra mussel impacts ★





Rivers - Total Suspended Solids trends in *concentration*.

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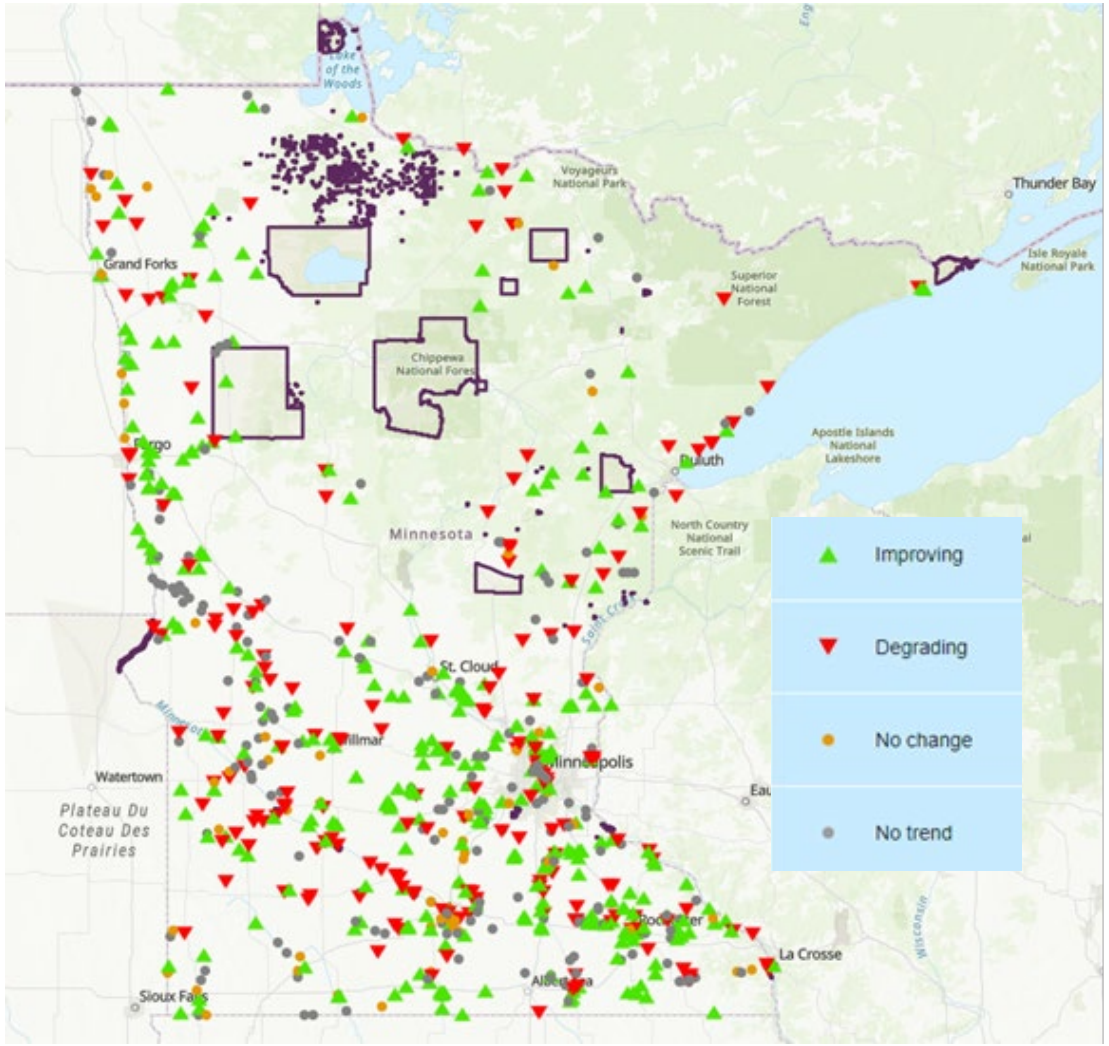
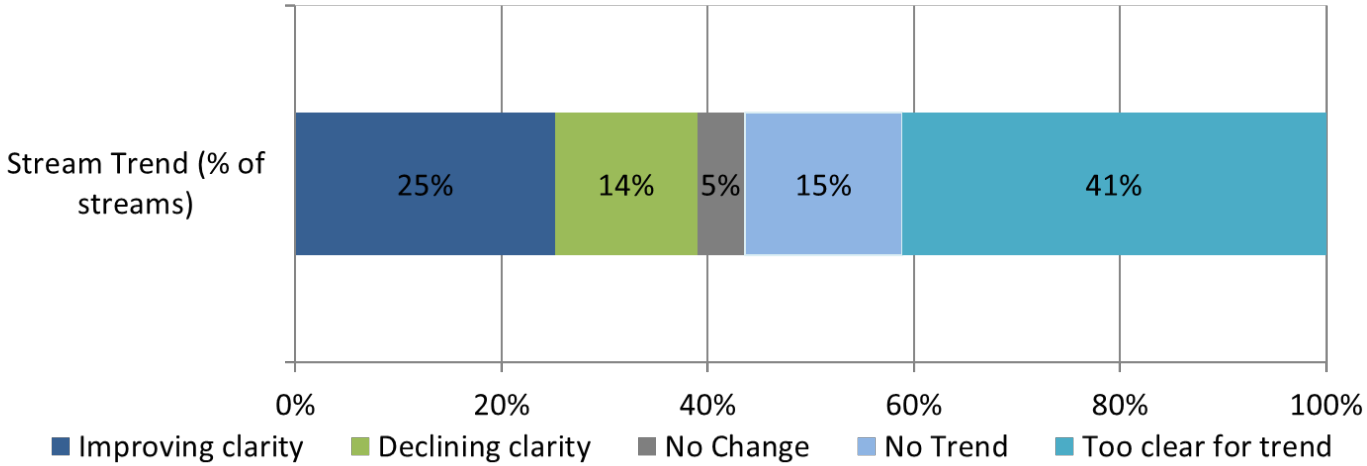
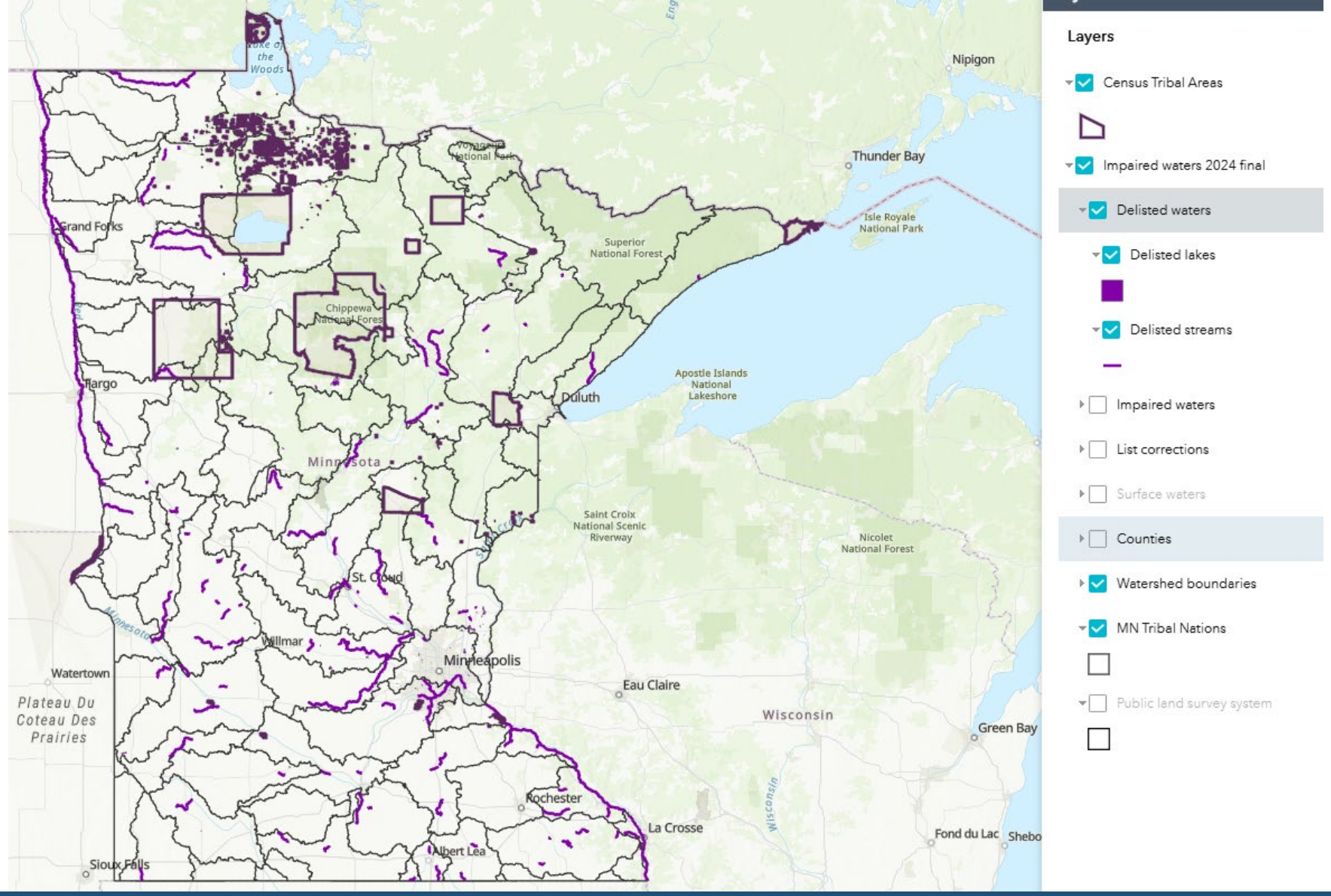




Streams & Rivers - **clarity** trends



Delisted waters statewide through the 2024 impaired waters list

Discussion of Questions

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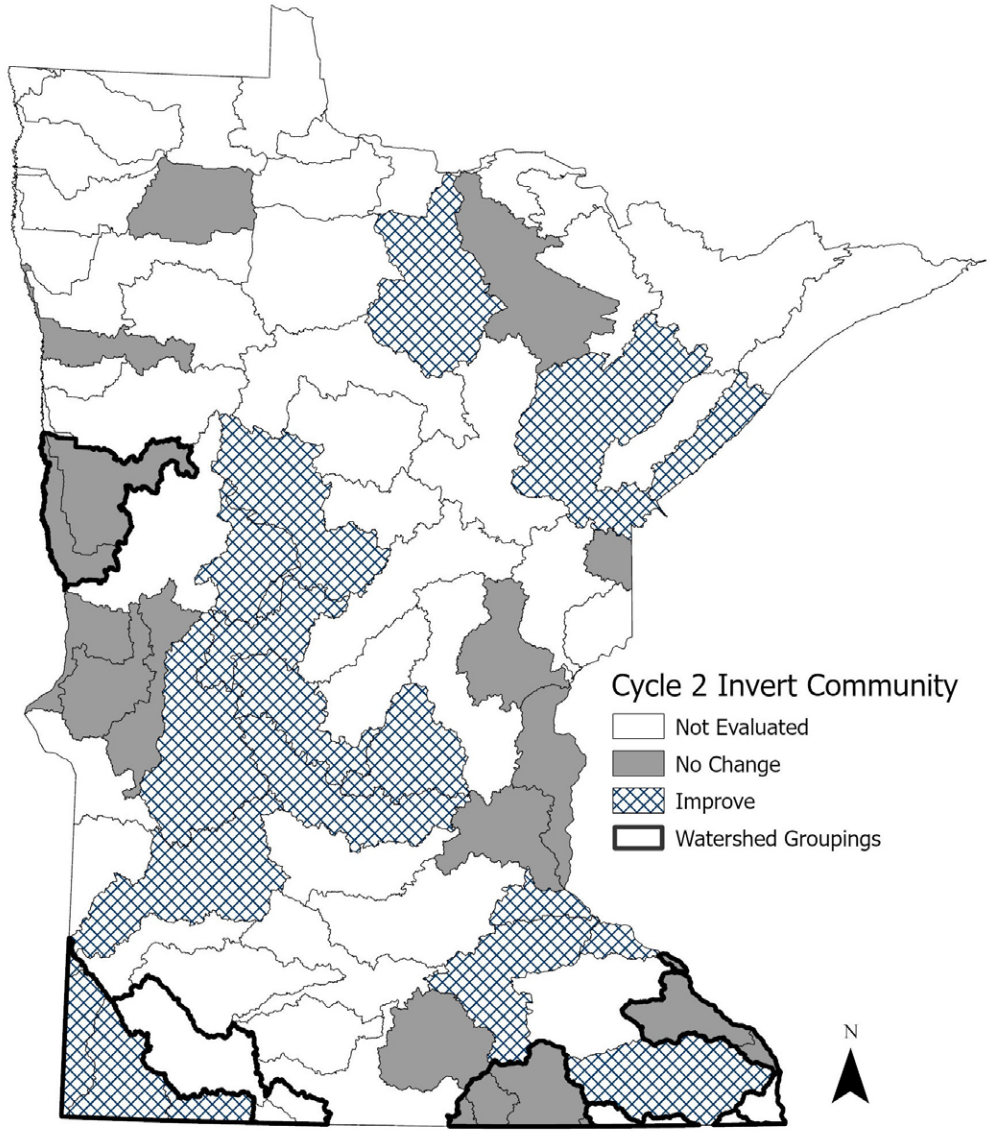
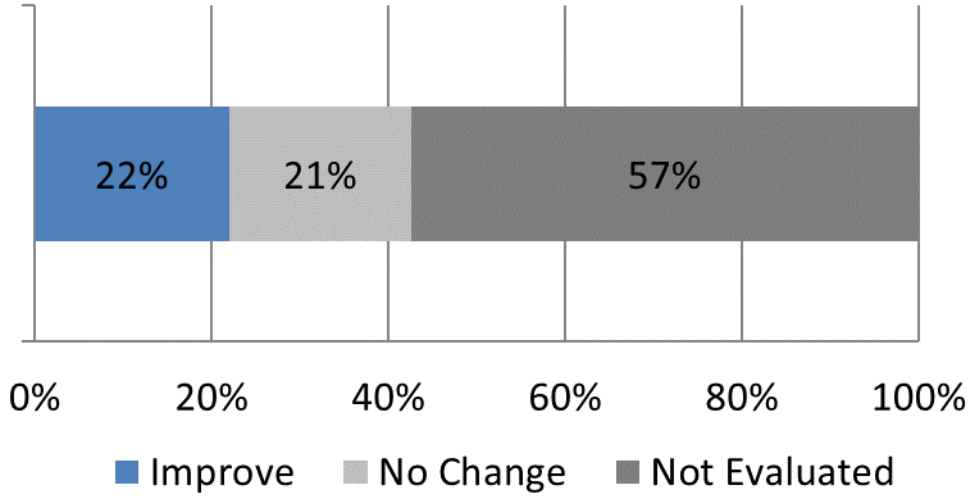


Statewide Macroinvertebrate Changes



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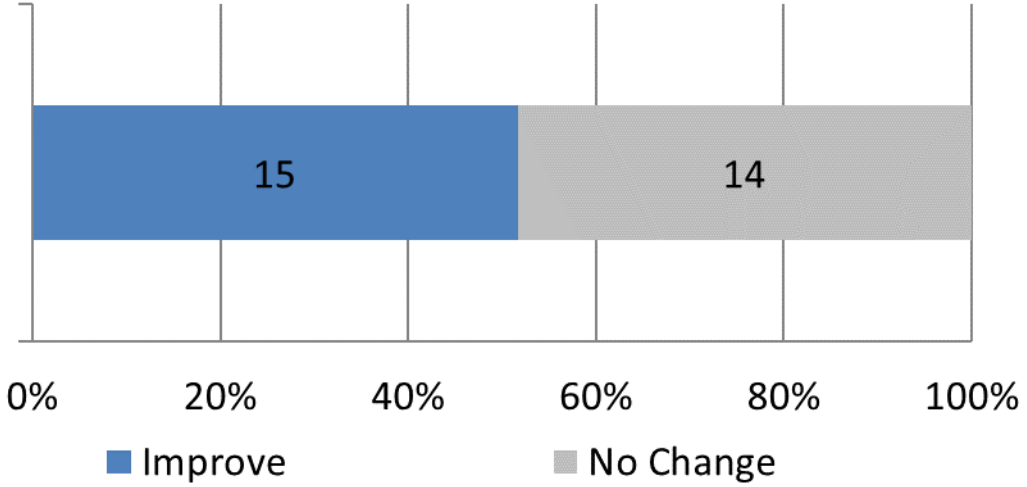
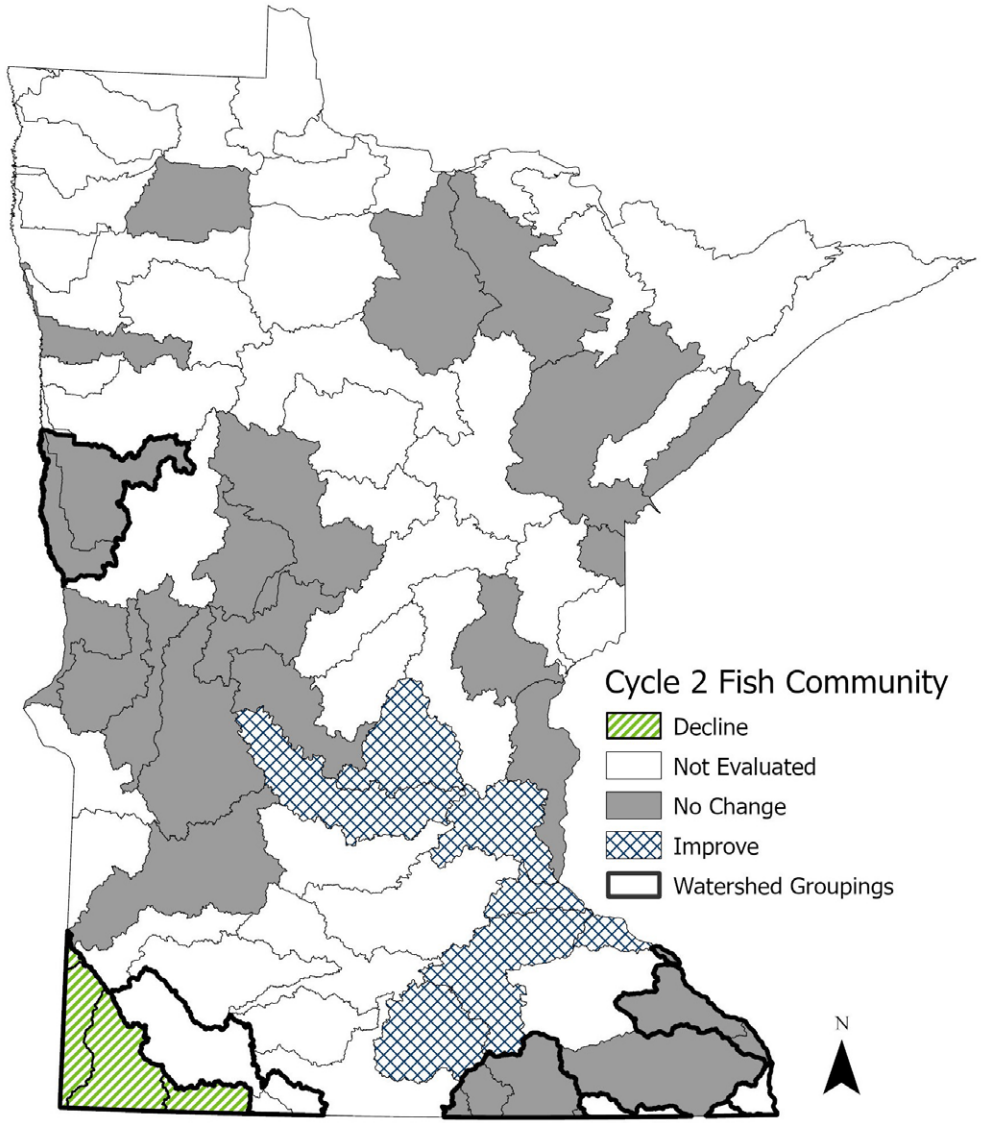
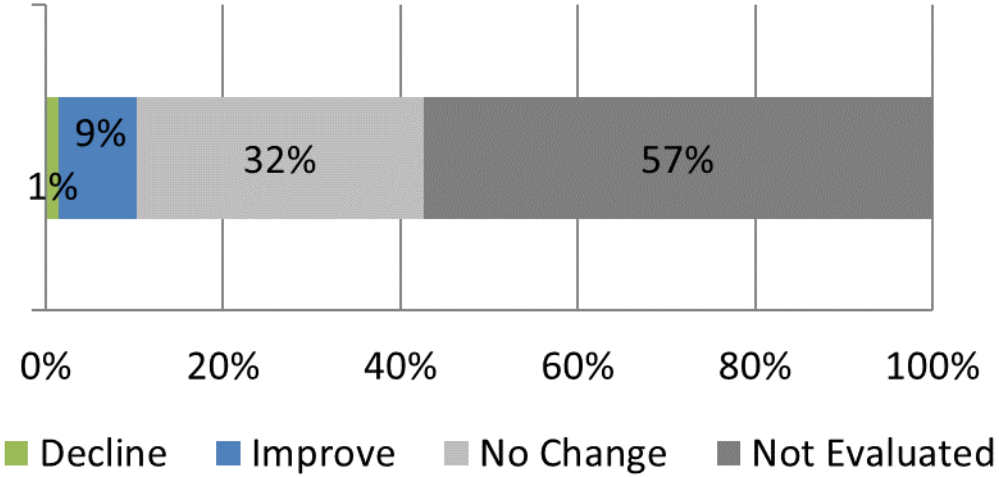


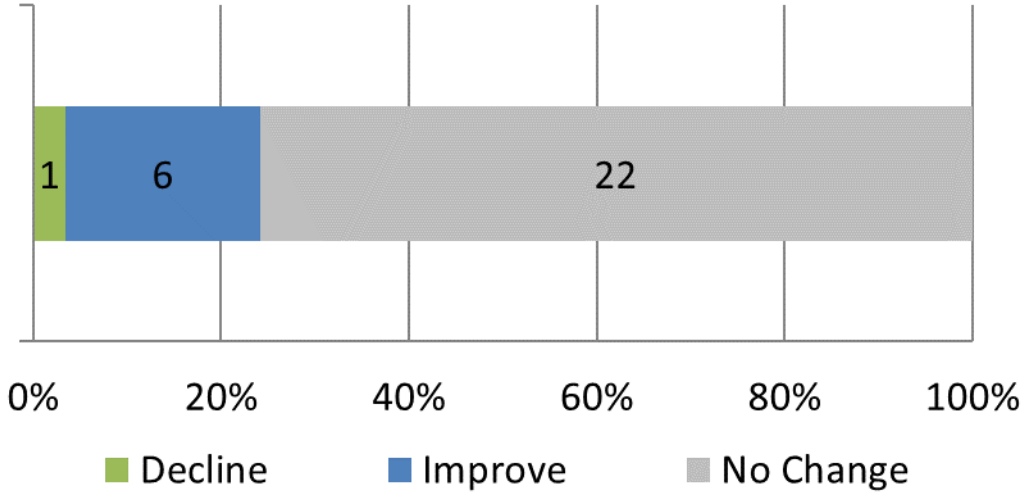
Stream & River - **macroinvertebrate** community condition change between IWM Cycle 1 and Cycle 2



Statewide Fish Changes



Evaluated Fish Changes



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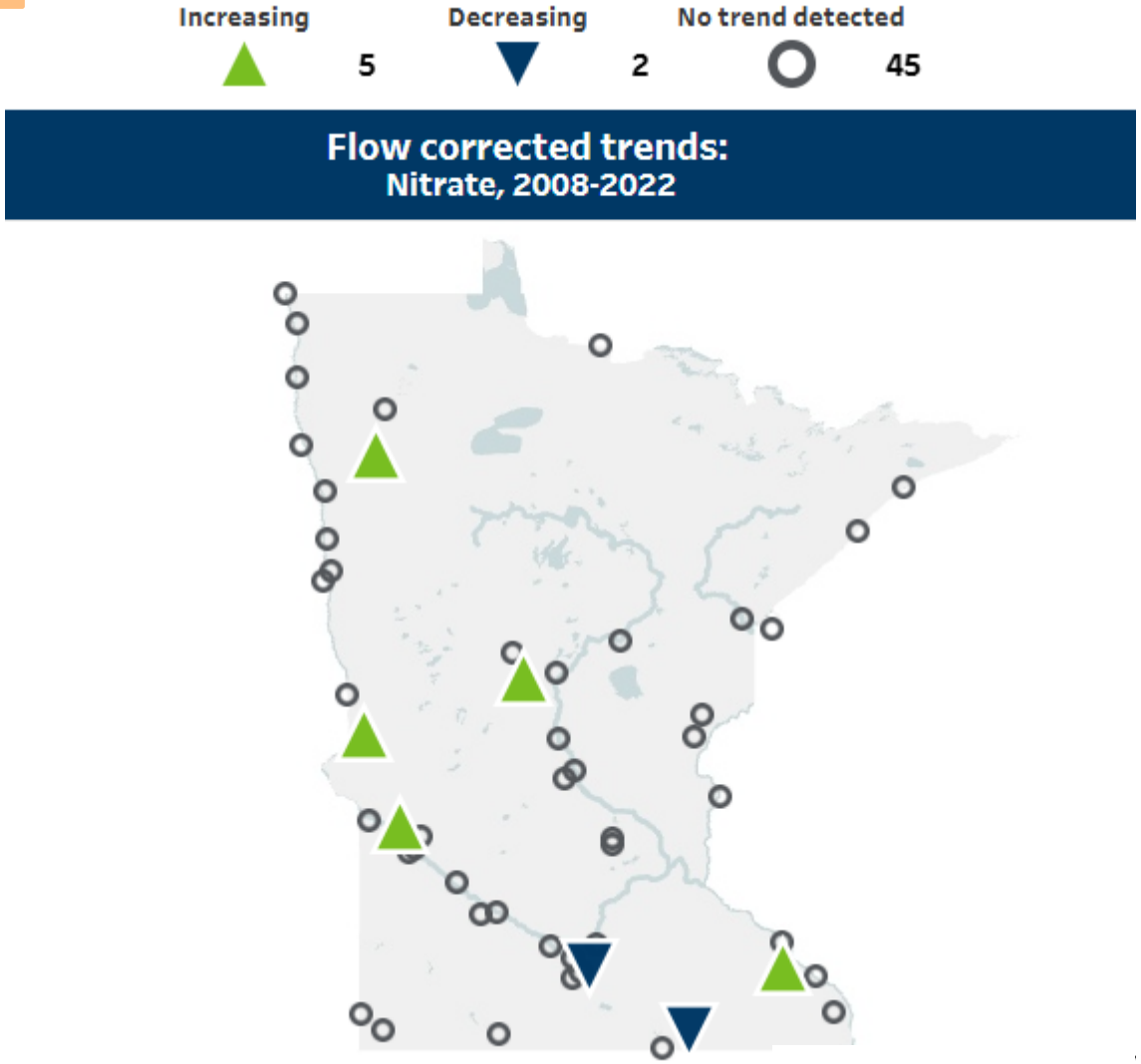

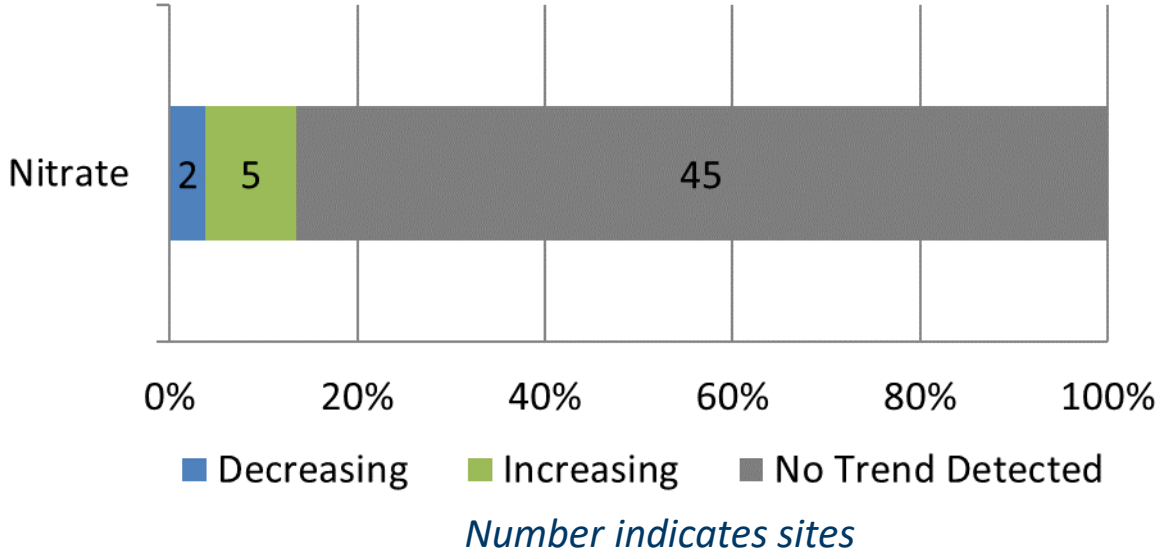

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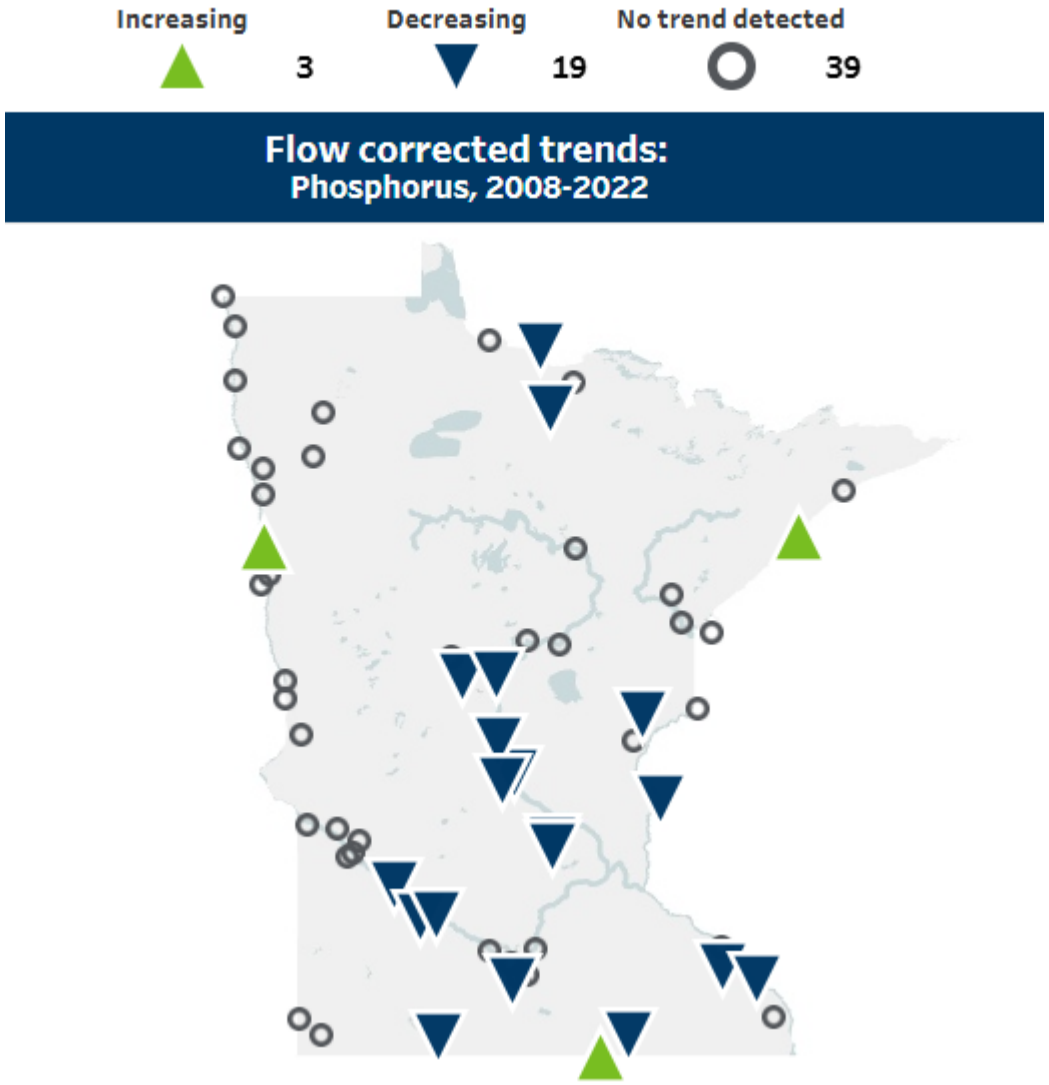

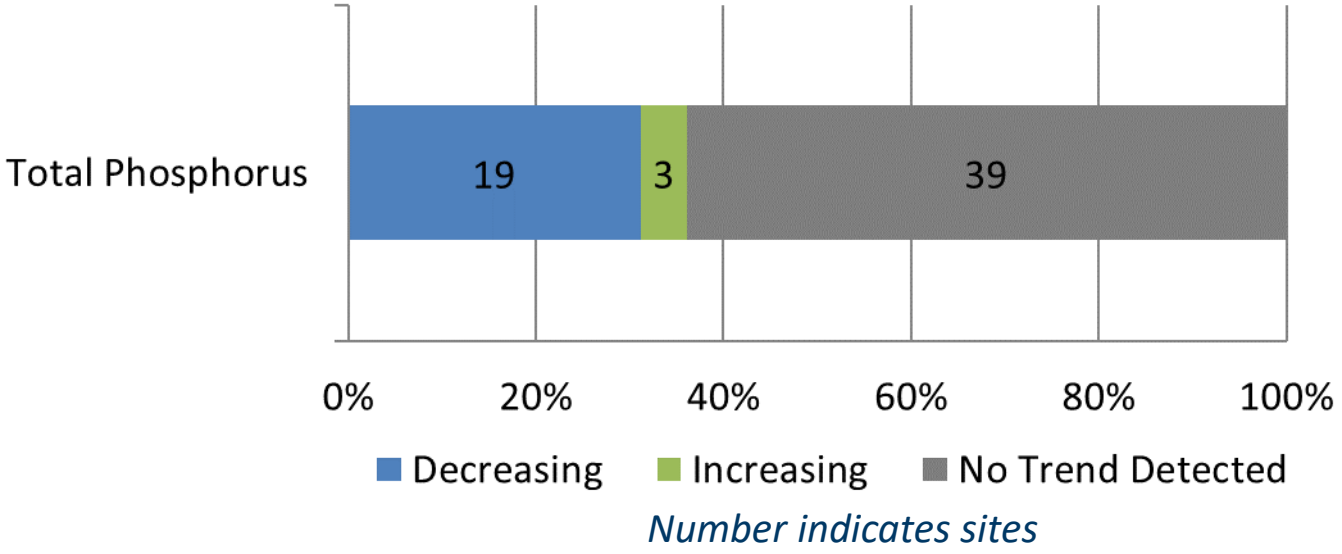

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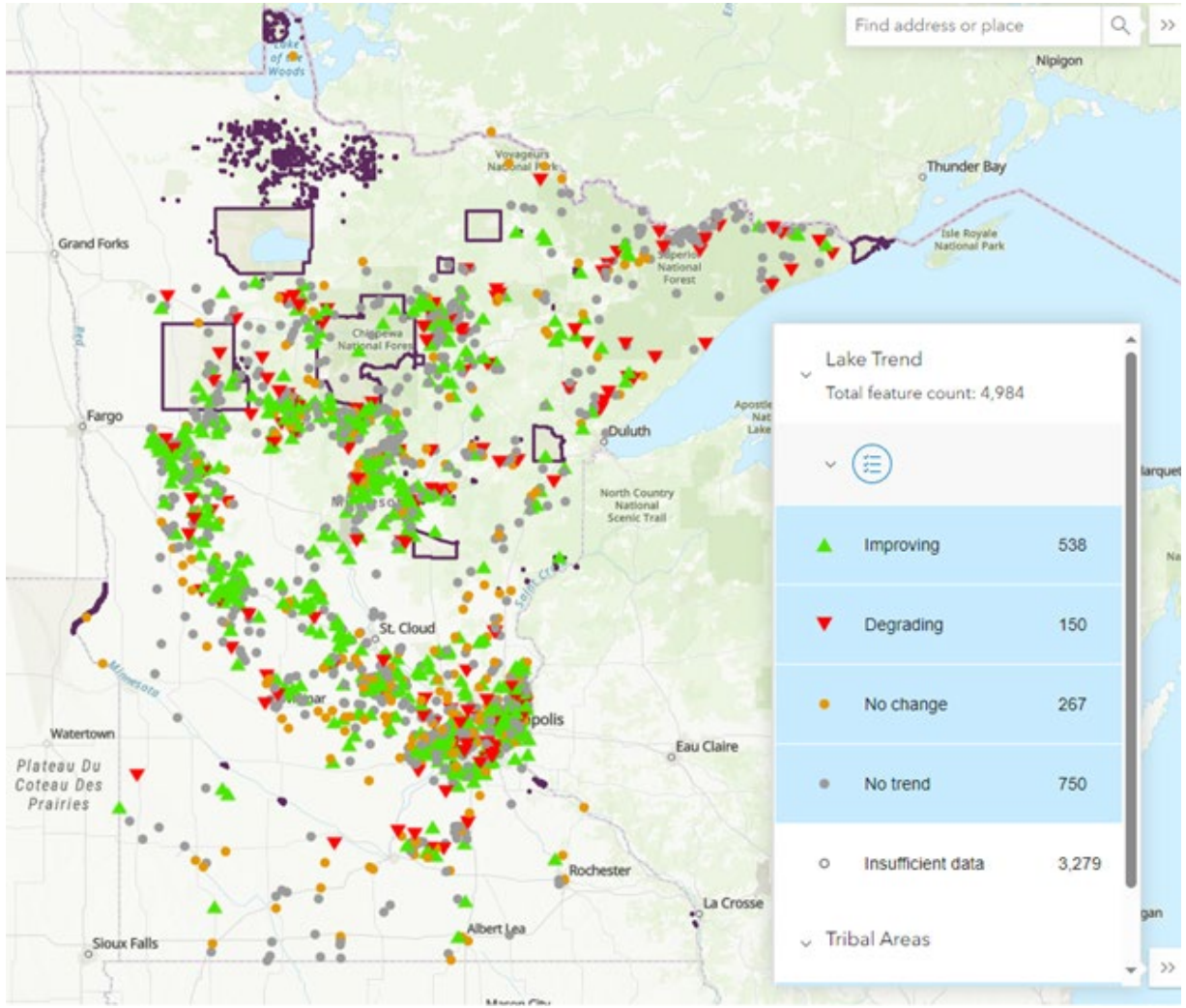

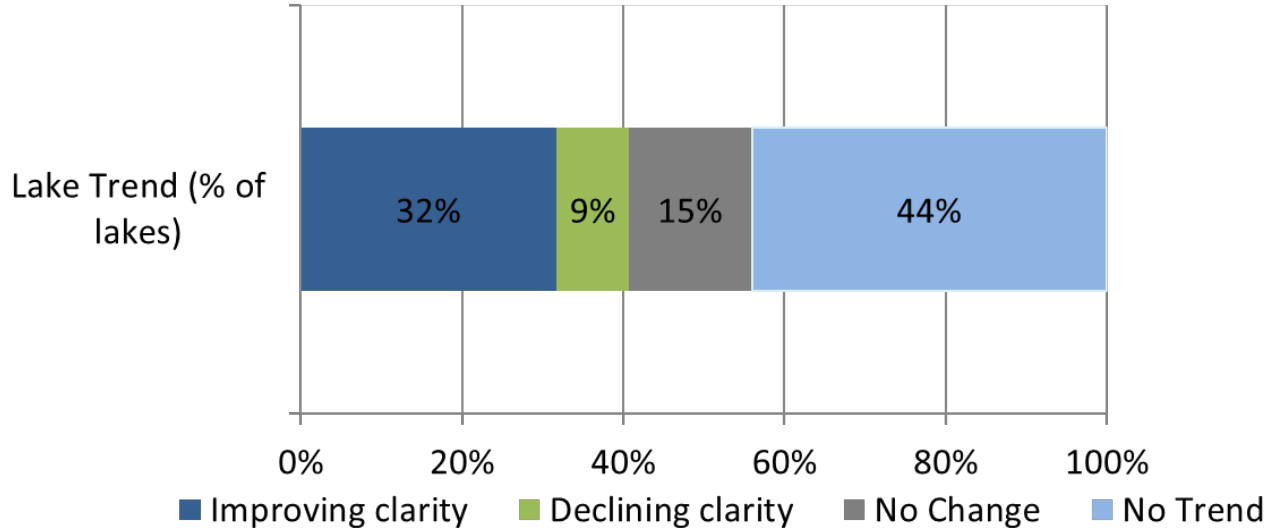

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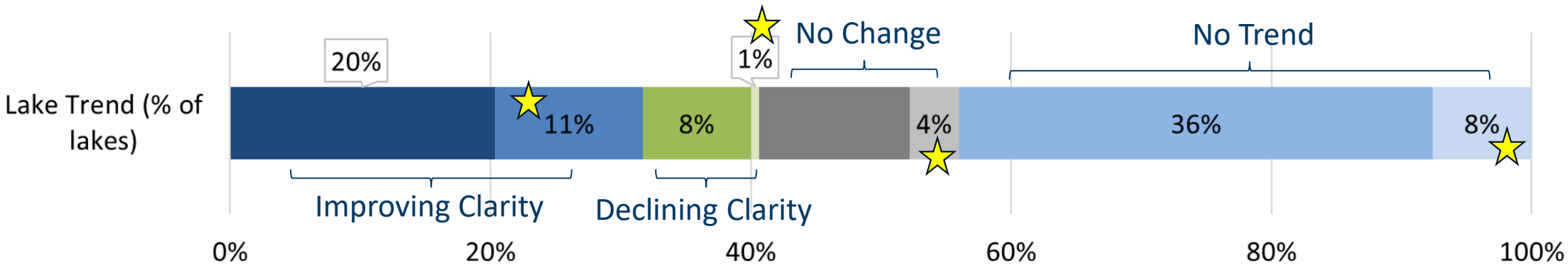

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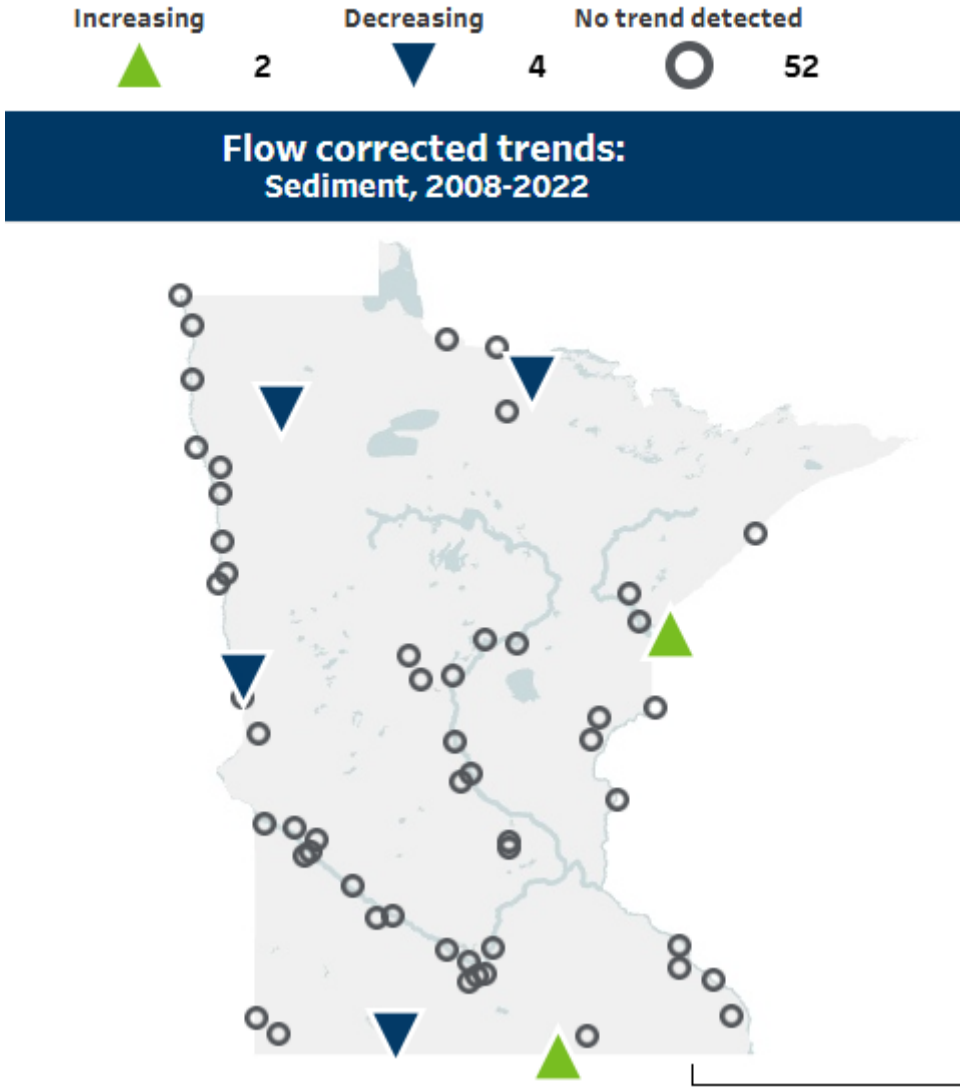

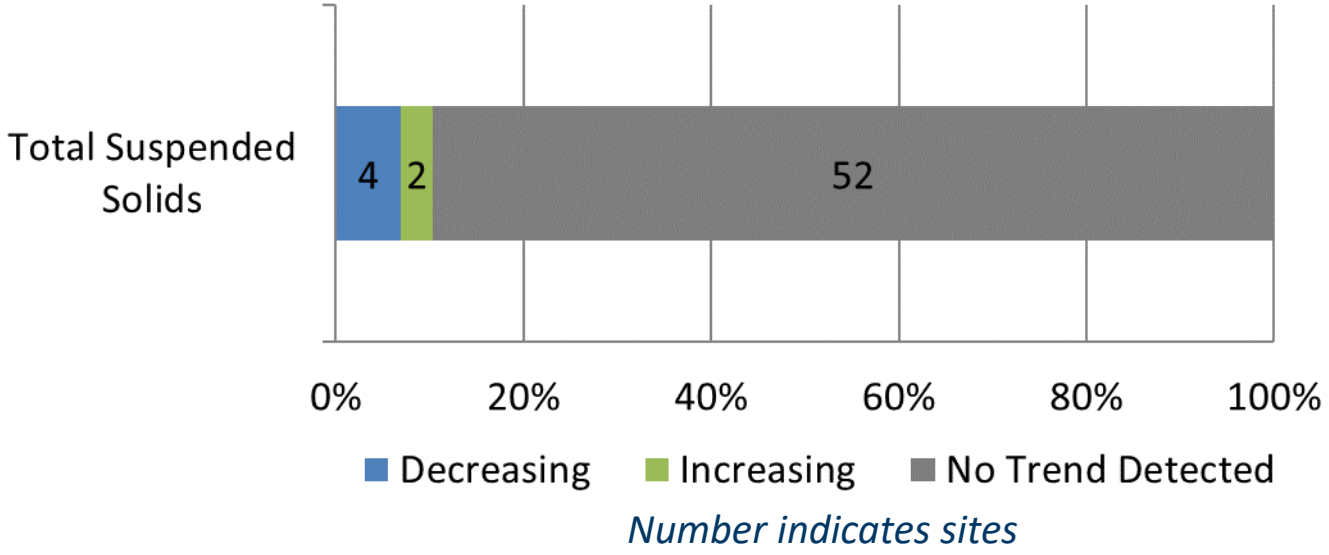

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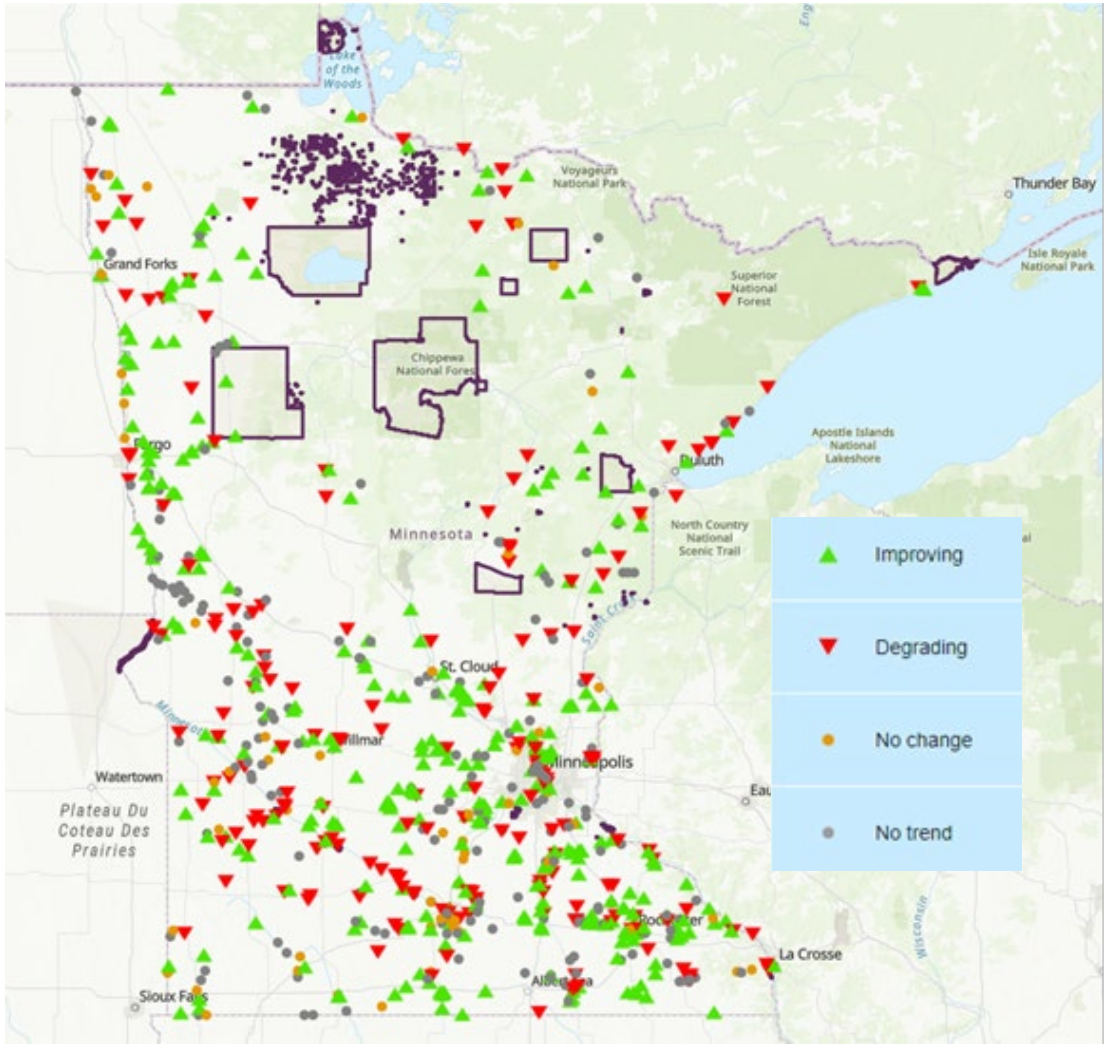

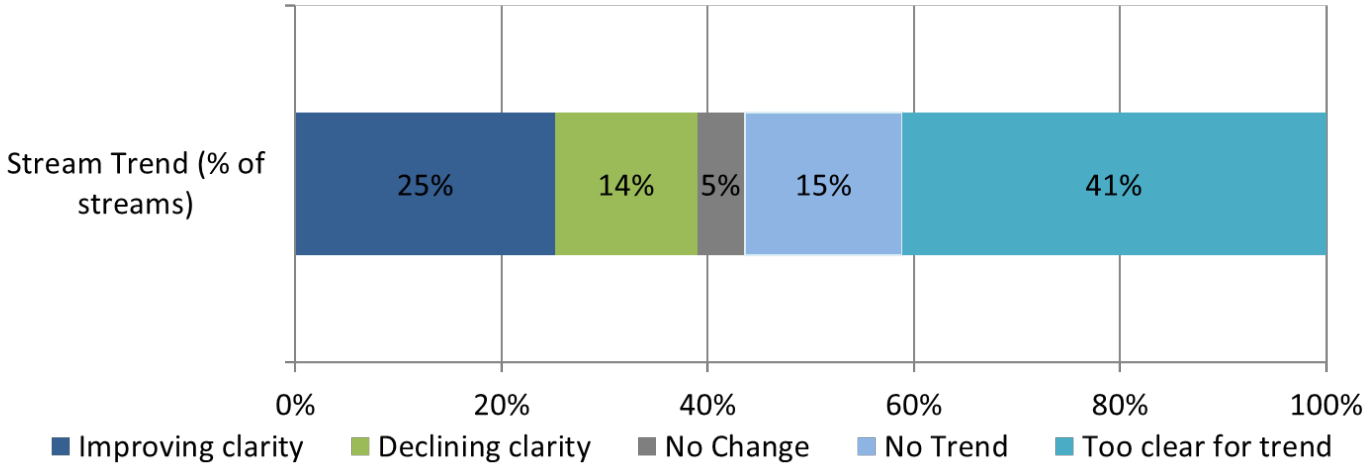

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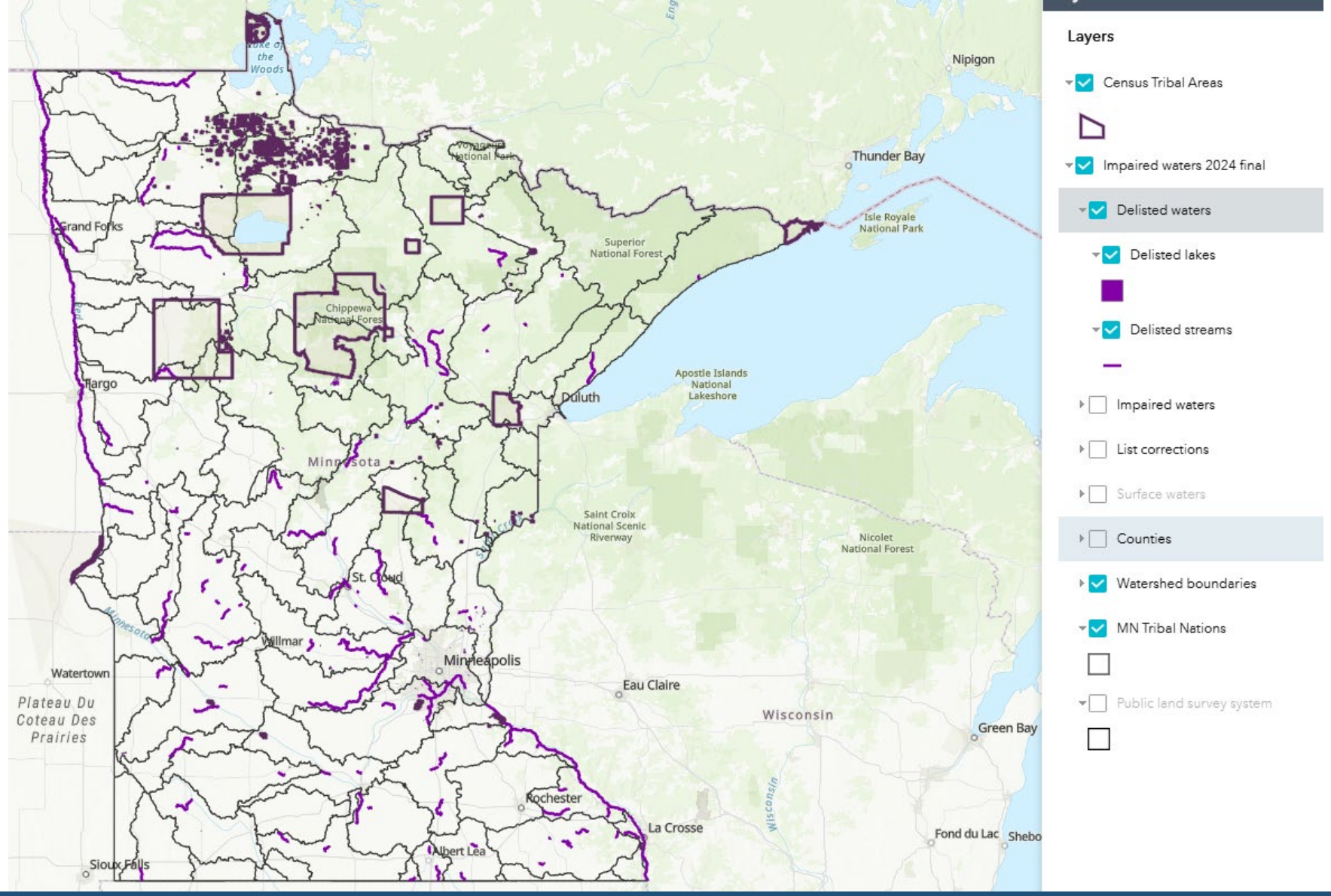
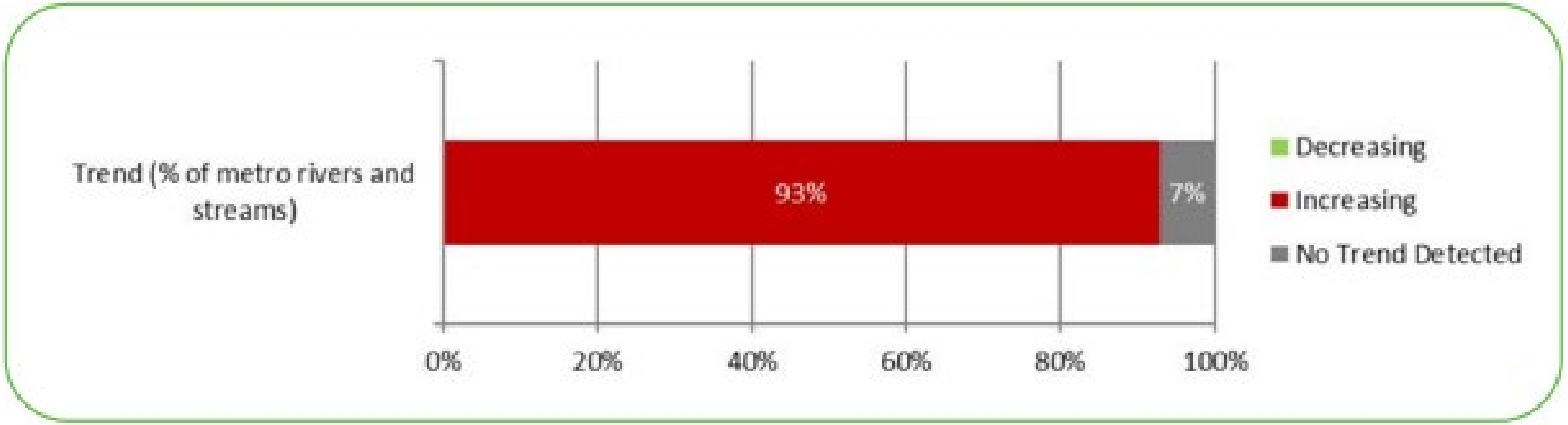


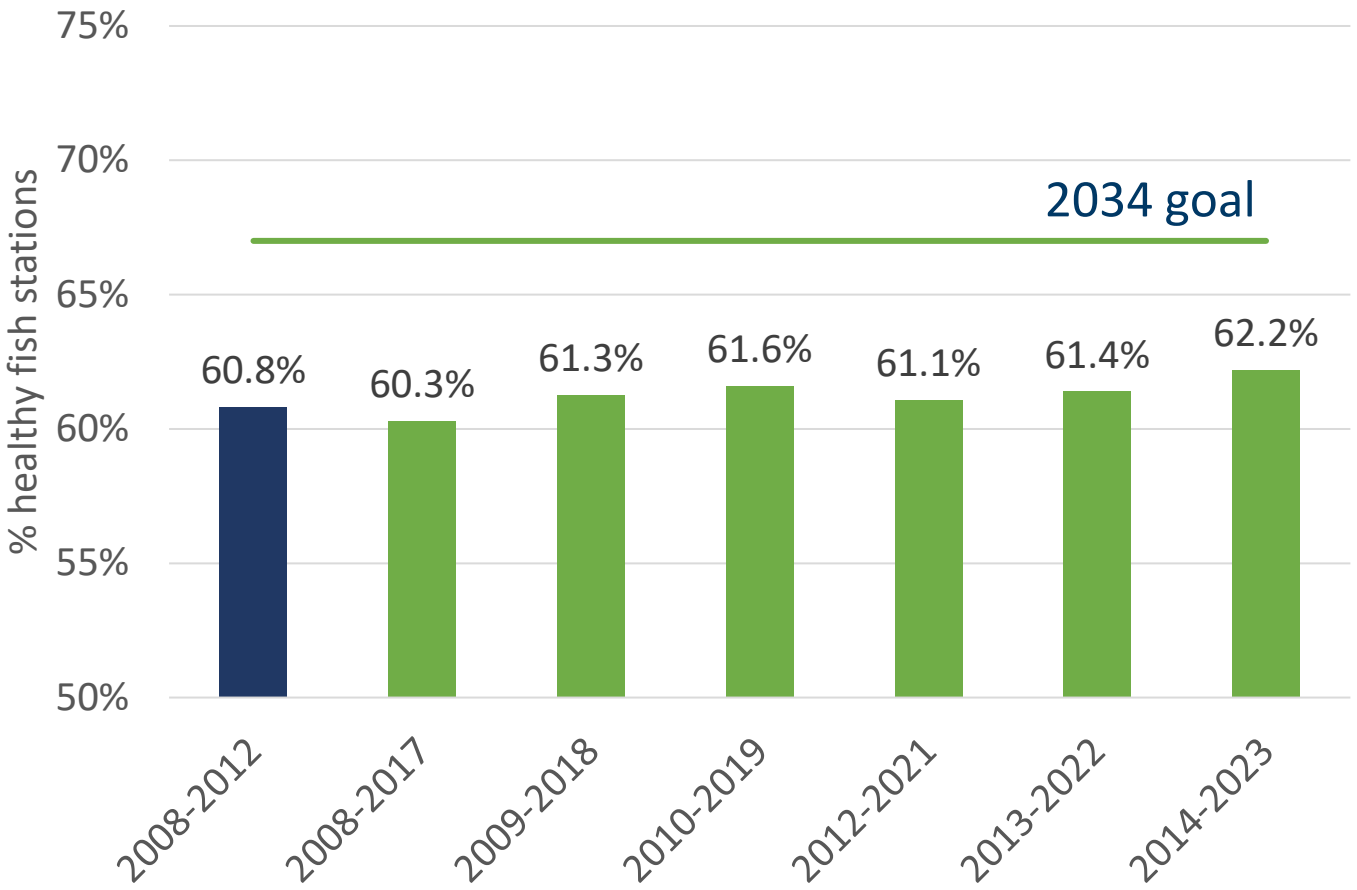
Delisted waters statewide through the 2024 impaired waters list

Additional indicators - Performance Report

Chloride trends in Twin Cities Metro Area (Met Council)



Additional indicators - Clean Water Fund Roadmap



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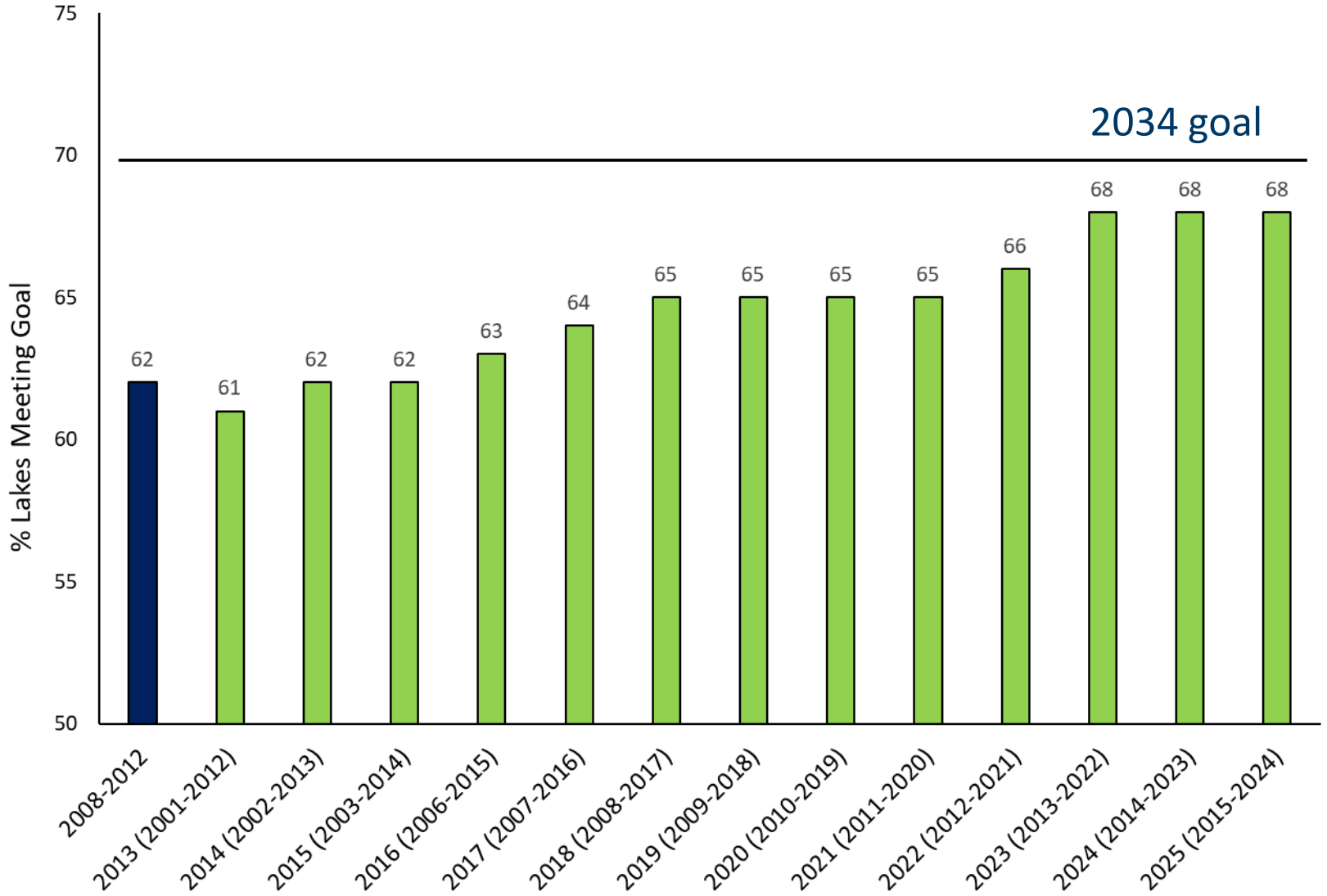
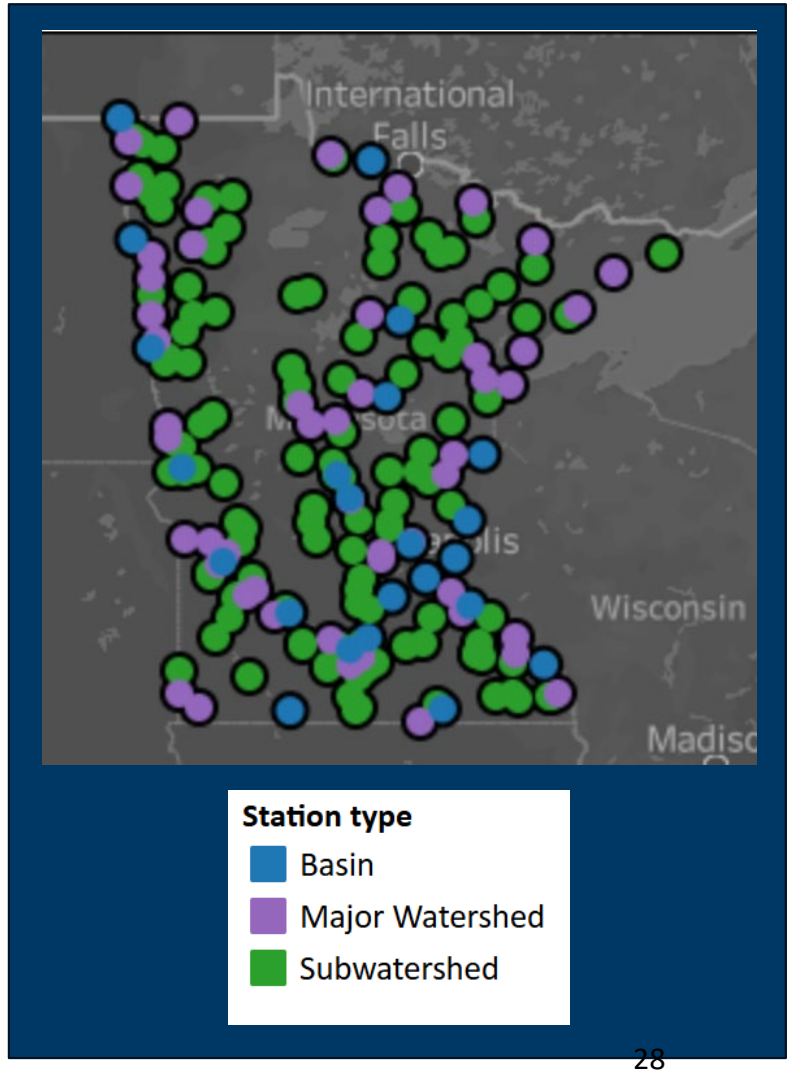


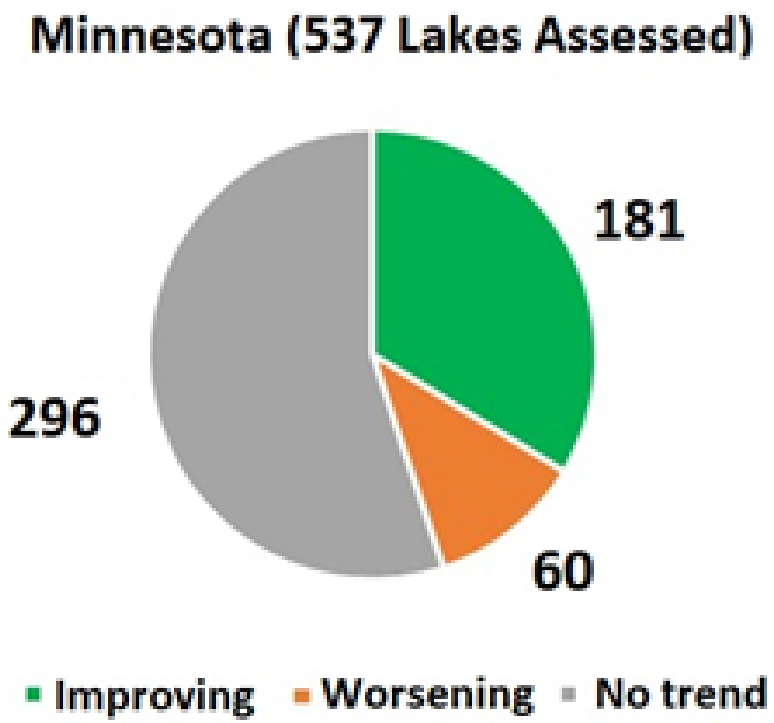
Coming Soon

- Nutrient Reduction Strategy
- Nitrate Sensor Network
- Watershed Pollutant Load Monitoring Network Subwatershed Trends
- Continued stream and river biology change over time
- Lake biology change over time



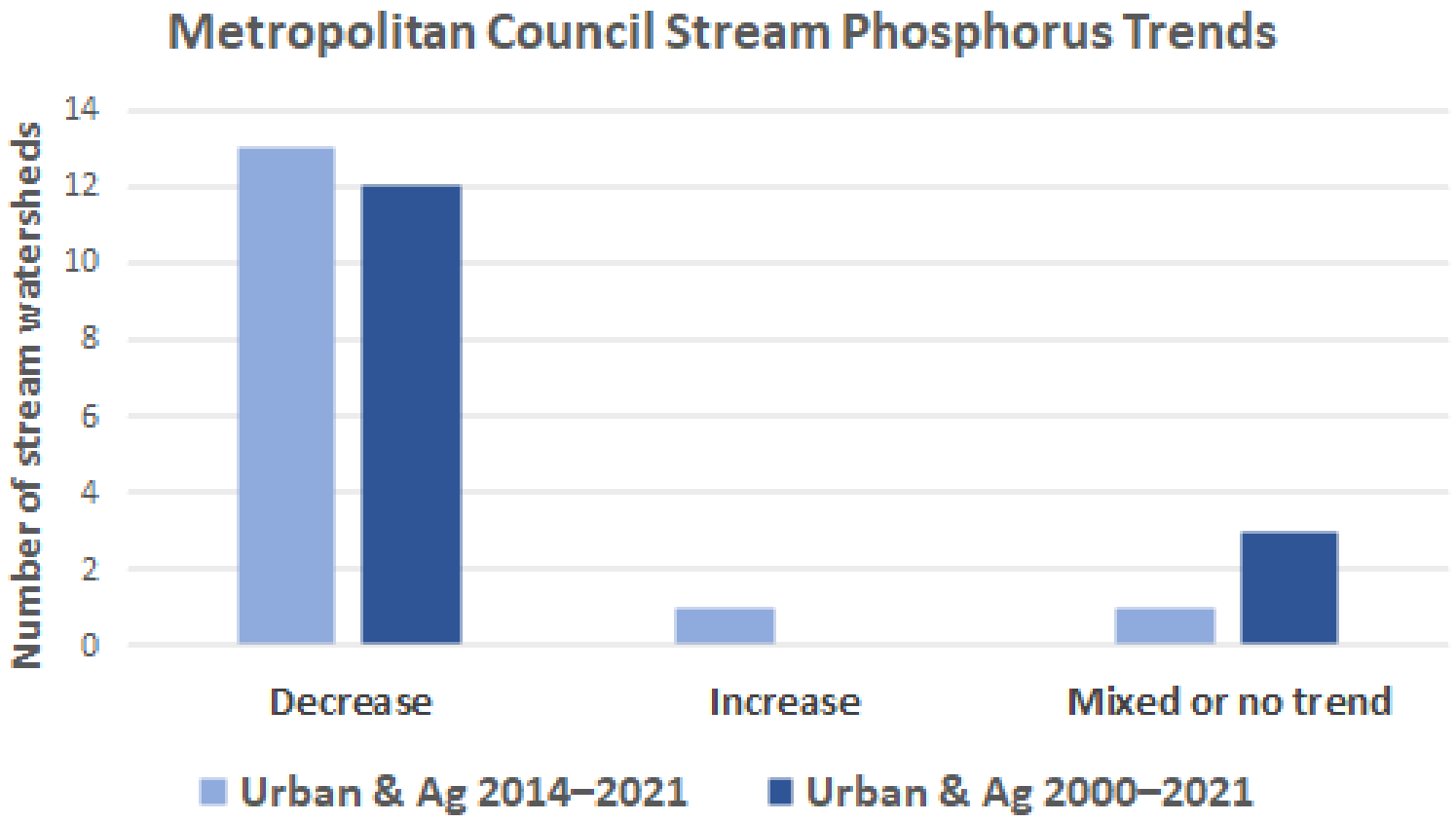
Nutrient Reduction Strategy (NRS) - Preview

Lake Phosphorus Concentration Trends



Nutrient Reduction Strategy (NRS) - Preview

Twin Cities Area Stream Phosphorus Trends (Met Council)



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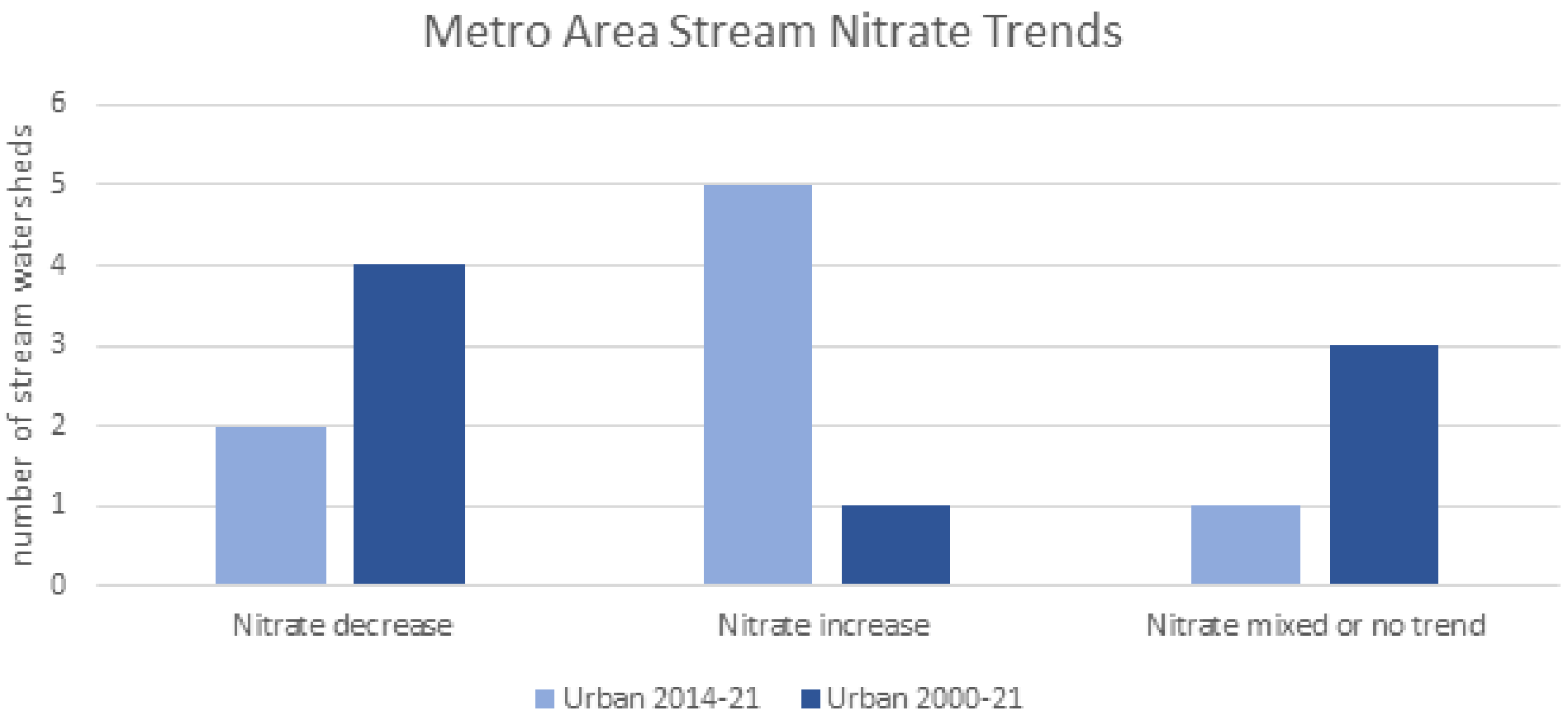


Nutrient Reduction Strategy (NRS) - Preview

Total phosphorus concentrations in major rivers in Twin Cities area, back to the late 1970s (Met Council)

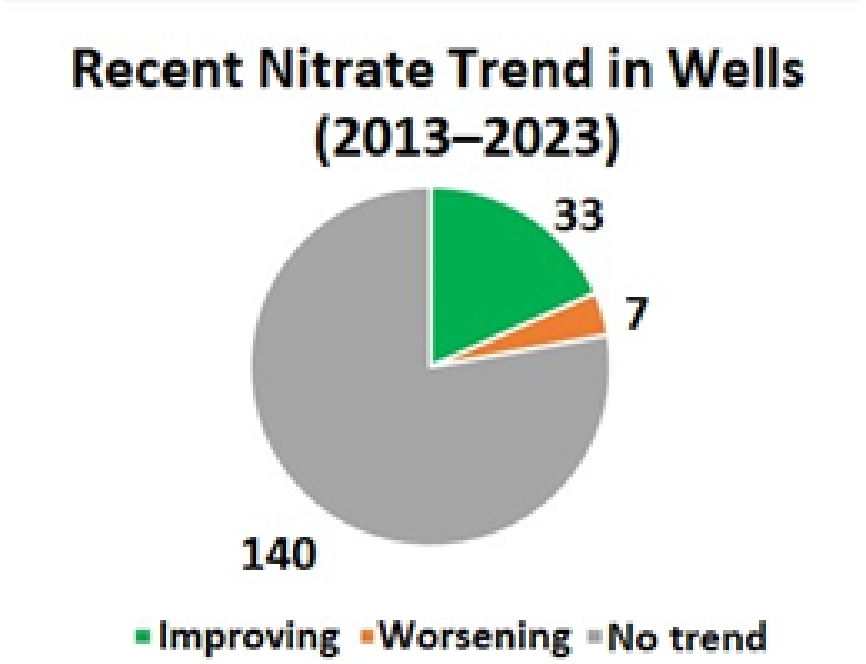
River monitoring site (trend years)	Change in concentration
Minnesota River at Jordan (1979–2023)	-35.4%
Mississippi River at Anoka (1976–2018)	-35.3%
Mississippi River at Red Wing (1988–2023)	-47.0%

Source: Metropolitan Council (2024)

Note: A p-value < 0.05 is typically considered to be statistically significant.

Nutrient Reduction Strategy (NRS) - Preview

Upper Aquifer Well Nitrate trends (MPCA+MDA)

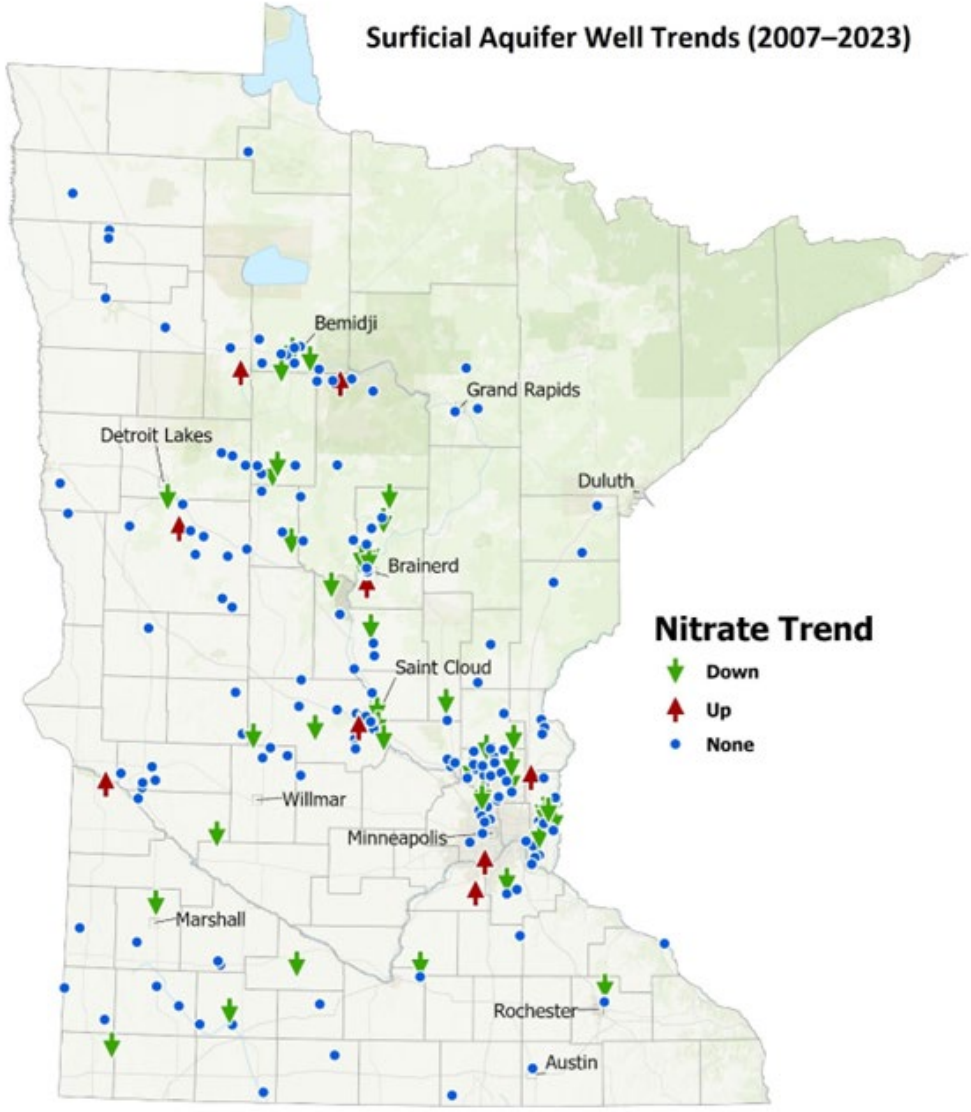


Nutrient Reduction Strategy (NRS) - Preview

Surficial Aquifer Well Trends

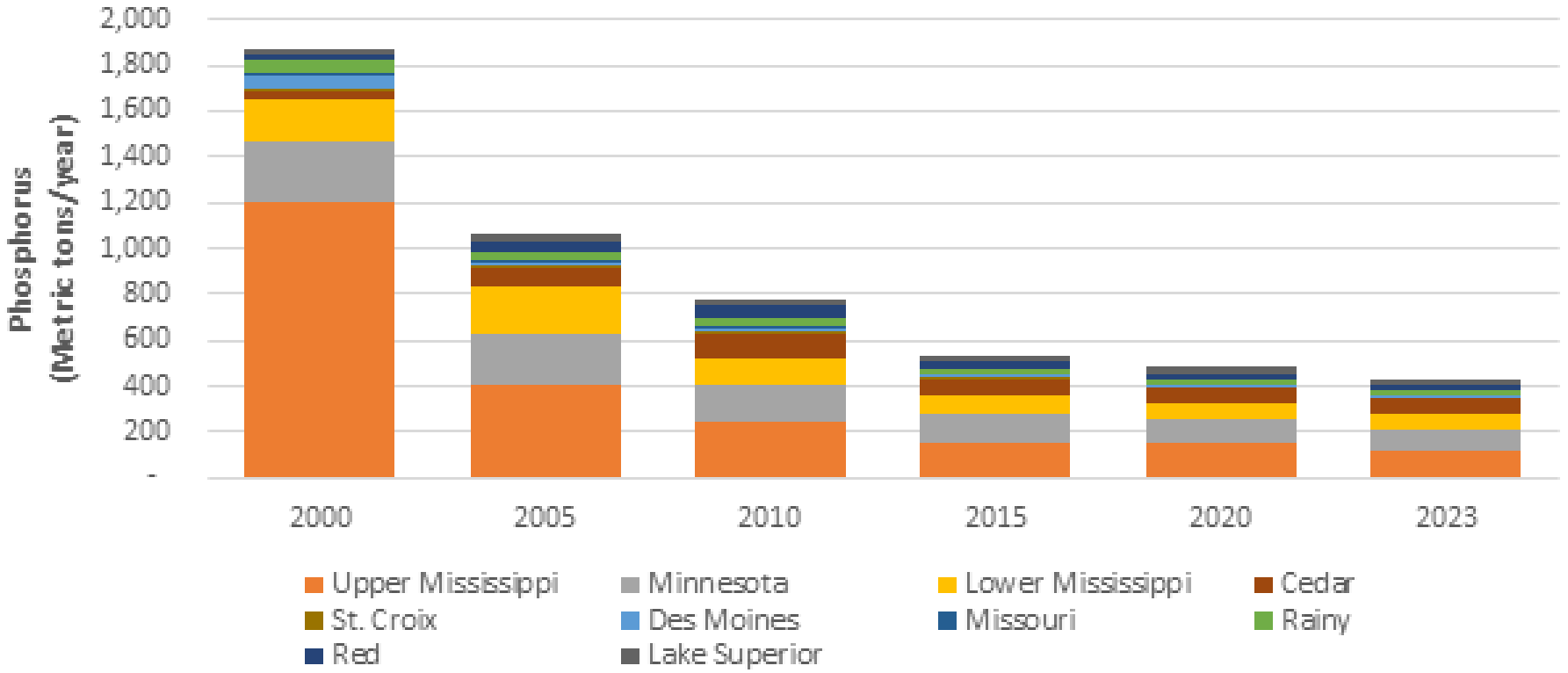
4% of urban and agricultural wells trended up (worsened)

20% of urban and 16% of agricultural wells trended down (improved)



Nutrient Reduction Strategy (NRS) - Preview

Wastewater effluent phosphorus loads by basin



Thank you!

MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY