Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources
Strategic Planning 2019: Stakeholder Input Results

Public Survey
2,431 responses
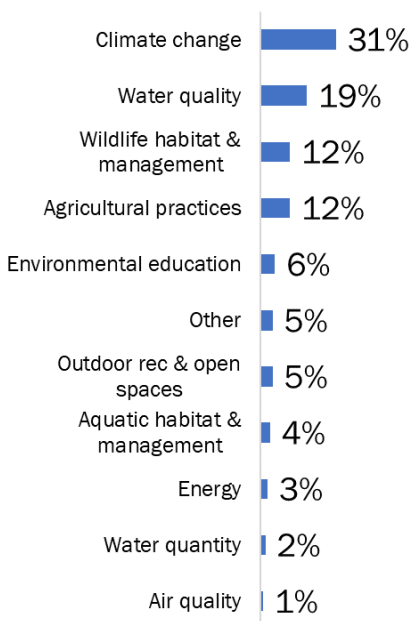
86% responders identified as white
(96% of those who answered identified as white)

49% of respondents were 55 or older

46% from **Greater Minnesota**
46% from the **seven-county Twin Cities Metro region**
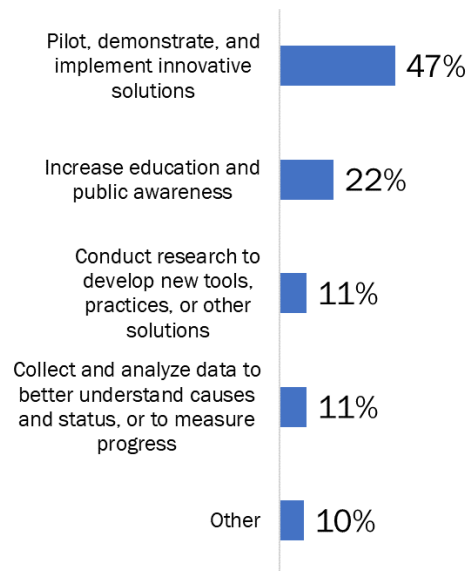
Only 2% reported that they had participated in the strategic planning process in another way

What is your biggest area of concern?

Category	%
Climate change	31%
Water quality	19%
Wildlife habitat & management	12%
Agricultural practices	12%
Environmental education	6%
Other	5%
Outdoor rec & open spaces	5%
Aquatic habitat & management	4%
Energy	3%
Water quantity	2%
Air quality	1%

What strategies should we use to address the concern?

Strategy	%
Pilot, demonstrate, and implement innovative solutions	47%
Increase education and public awareness	22%
Conduct research to develop new tools, practices, or other solutions	11%
Collect and analyze data to better understand causes and status, or to measure progress	11%
Other	10%

What is your big, bold idea for protecting Minnesota's environment and natural resources ?

A word cloud of the most common words that came up in survey respondents' big, bold ideas.
This visualization includes big, bold ideas that came from LCCMR listening sessions as well.

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Subject Matter Expert Survey, Panel and Discussion Groups

Representatives from close to **90 organizations** participated

Local, state, & federal agencies, tribes, academic institutions, NGOs

Reviewed results of state strategic plans

Developed and prioritized the following
Goals and Strategies to guide ENRTF spending:

Subject Matter Experts

Document Scan

↓

Issue Identification Panels

↓

Subject Matter Expert Survey   Site Visit Group Discussions

↓

Prioritization Panel

Water (#1)

Minnesota's water resources are better managed for both water quantity and quality, as a result of better understanding of the connections between surface water and groundwater.

Strategies:

- Research and demonstrate innovative, market-based policies and partnerships that solve local water issues in both forest-based regions and agriculture-based regions.

- Educate local officials on how to improve and protect water resources, including model projects and policies that can be emulated at all scales.

- Research, demonstrations, incentives, and policies to hold back water and increase evapotranspiration opportunities to prevent water pollution.

- Increase understanding of weather and future weather/climate patterns, and how these align with anticipated water needs across Minnesota.

- Research on the impacts of nitrogen and effective agriculture and urban practices to improve surface and groundwater quality, as well as manage water quantity and mitigate the impacts of agriculture drainage and urban stormwater runoff.

Water (#2)

Minnesota is prepared for water volume changes, both excesses and shortages, and extreme runoff events resulting from climate and land use changes.

Strategies:

- Research and demonstrate market-based policies that are economically viable and help pay for the land use and conservation practices needed to achieve water resources protection, especially in agricultural areas.

- Research effective water use scenarios to identify improvements needed to ensure the state's water resiliency and sustainability (including modeling water scenarios, managing water on land, optimizing use to prevent overuse of groundwater, improve water reuse and waste water management).
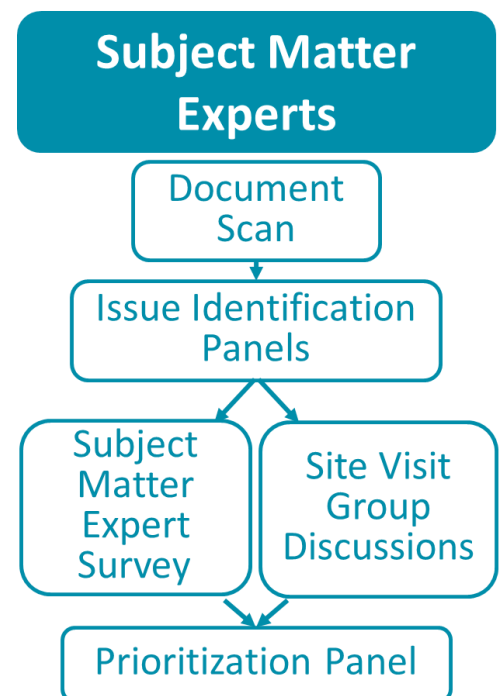
- Identify and promote workable, holistic, multi-benefit, diverse, and viable (economically and socially, etc.) solutions for storing more water on the land, through both engineered and natural solutions targeted at critical areas.

- Support cities, counties, and watershed districts with developing climate resiliency and adaptation plans, and processes for funding and implementing those plans.

- Compile existing research, identify gaps, and develop research to quantify land use and land cover changes, in order to identify restoration and protection needs to achieve sustainable water systems.

Habitat, Fish, and Wildlife

Minnesota has healthy and diverse wildlife and plant populations that sustain and enhance the state's environment, economy, and quality of life.

Strategies:

- Monitor the biologic and environmental health of systems through high quality research, to support management of lands and waters.

- Research key issues and develop strategies to combat them (ex. bird/insect crash).

- Species-specific and habitat-level research and management to effectively maintain, protect, and restore habitats and populations.

- Research to inform managing plant, fish, and wildlife communities to adapt to climate change.

- Conservation of additional lands and support for management of currently protected lands.

Outdoor Recreation & Open Space

All Minnesotans, especially young people, have access to and take advantage of opportunities for culturally relevant and innovative connections to the lands and waters of Minnesota.

Strategies:

- Address the social, economic, and physical barriers to outdoor recreation through programs that encourage inclusivity and address inequities.

- Research people's interests in outdoor recreation and understand barriers to participation.

- Assess programs, activities, and physical spaces for their accessibility; support changes to adapt and retrofit to welcome more people.

- Through collaborative efforts, provide curriculum, programs, and outdoor environmental events that teach K-12 students what public lands are, introduces them to public lands near them, and encourages them to explore local public lands.

- Through partnerships between schools, environmental learning centers, and other community resources, provide evidence-based, engaging programs to bring students to outdoor experiences.

- Capital projects that develop culturally relevant, accessible, and resilient outdoor recreation facilities, infrastructure, and equipment rental programs that create innovative experiences (including parks, trails, fishing piers, shoreline fishing areas, birding trails, shelters, etc.).

Air & Energy

Minnesota achieves reliance on non-polluting, renewable energy in all sectors (including transportation, building, industry, agriculture, and others).

Strategies:

- Encourage bundling renewable energy production and battery storage.

- Demonstrate the ability and statewide potential to generate solar energy on perennially vegetated lands, reducing CO_2 and water runoff, while making the enterprise economically viable.

- Incentivize the use of non-polluting renewable energy in agriculture, industries, and commercial transportation.

- Demonstrate community-scale, net zero renewable energy systems.

- Fund energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy for rental properties, small businesses, and schools.

Working Lands

Working lands in Minnesota, including forestry, grasslands, and agricultural lands, provide long-term benefits to fish, wildlife, and people.

Strategies:

- Through demonstration, educate people on the opportunity for working lands to slow and store water for multiple benefits (water quality, habitat, flood mitigation, etc.) as well as for carbon sequestration

- Develop innovative, market-based policies to make substantive conservation efforts financially feasible.

- Preserve and protect the watersheds that are already in good shape.

- Support and provide technical assistance to private landowners on cost-effective ways to develop and restore diverse, native habitat.

- Conservation actions that prioritize the needs of vulnerable, declining, poorly-understood, and sensitive species.

- Improve and demonstrate how working lands can be economically productive and good habitat.

- Increase understanding and assessment of tradeoffs among different environmental and societal goals to improve decisions on working lands.

- Evaluate, prioritize, and demonstrate how working lands and renewable energy can be mutually beneficial.

- Use public open space to demonstrate climate change adaptation, mitigation, and prevention.

- Create or use existing open spaces, or use them to demonstrate, CO_2 storage, heat sinks, flood prevention.

- Promote, research, and evaluate Best Management Practices (BMPs) on working lands, in order to provide long-term benefits to fish and wildlife.

- Encourage landscape-level and eco-type planning, instead of parcel-level.

- Identify high-quality habitat, recreation open-spaces, and other high-priority areas for action.

- Outreach, education, and engagement through citizen science for landowners, operators, and others on how to economically manage for water resiliency.

- Create market mechanisms for carbon sequestration on working lands.

- Demonstrate how to add diverse cropping systems and incentivize continuous living crops.

- Research and demonstration that show the practical value of regenerative agriculture.

- Development and implementation of agricultural cropping systems with diverse crops that provide multiple benefits, including exploring markets and supply chain.

- Education and public outreach to change landscape and ecosystem norms.

- Research and evaluation of approaches that achieve goals.

- Projects that enlist the support of multiple agencies and organizations.