

# Appendix G

## *Public Comments and Issues Identification*



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## Public Survey Review Summary

### OVERVIEW

An internal review of public commentary via the public opinion survey was conducted by MWWMO staff. Using content analysis, responses to the public survey questions were reviewed to provide MWWMO Staff, Board and CAC with pertinent information in considering public interests in the new 10-year Watershed Management Plan. Results are displayed as a quantitative categorization of tagged responses to a variety of questions relative to MWWMO's work in the watershed, helping to illustrate the key items of interest or concern for the public.

### METHODOLOGY

Review of public input was centered around a survey that was distributed through MWWMO's communication channels. The survey was created in Summer of 2019 to gauge public interest and concerns around a variety of topics. These are the questions that were posed:

1. *Do you live in the Watershed? (Yes/No)*
2. *Where do you go to enjoy nature and what kinds of activities do you like to do? (Open Response)*
3. *What do you perceive as being the biggest sources of pollution in streams, wetlands, lakes and/or rivers in your community? (Open Response)*
4. *What environmental changes would you like to see take place in your community, and how could the MWWMO support those changes? (Open Response)*
5. *Would you be willing to share any demographic information about yourself (such as your age, race, gender, or zip code)? (Open Response)*
6. *If you want to receive the e-newsletter, enter your email address. (optional)*
7. *Have you interacted with MWWMO staff in the past? (Selection of which staff/organization connections respondent has had)*

These questions allowed MWWMO staff to relate responses back to specific areas of work, environmental issues and public interests, and analyze across results to infer areas of importance in planning for the future.

Data was processed and analyzed based upon the type of question posed and type of response allowed. More effort, intention and planning were required in order to process open response

type questions. Using a content analysis process for the public comments, staff coded responses in a manner that categorizes comments around question-specific tags. These coincide with relative MWMO subject matter, projects and programs to provide context for how public comments can be applied to key strategies and issues to address in the 10-year Watershed Management Plan. Tabulated results are included in this summary, along with key words found in answers that led to assigned coding and tagging of that answer.

### **QUESTIONS, DATA TAGGING EXAMPLES AND RESULTS**

Each page below has a description of the specific question, related notes around data coding tags, and tabulated results. Each question is listed separately, with corresponding tagging information and results. Staff will use this information as needed in considering updates for the 10-year plan, as will the Citizen Advisory Committee.

## QUESTION 1: DO YOU LIVE IN THE WATERSHED

### Watershed Tag Notes

Tags were determined as yes/no responses.

### Watershed Tag Results

Watershed	Number of Tags
Yes	289
No	146
Did Not Answer	3

**QUESTION 2: WHERE DO YOU GO TO ENJOY NATURE AND WHAT KINDS OF ACTIVITIES DO YOU LIKE TO DO?**

Activity Tag Notes

Tags were determined by combining like activity types and associated content or context related to that activity. Below is a set of tags and examples of content associated via key words or inferences attributed to those activities.

Activity	Tag	Content Examples
Walking	WALK	Walk, walking, stroll
Hiking	HIKE	Hike, hiking
Riding bike	BIKE	Bike, biking, bicycle, bike paths
Viewing nature	NATURE	Watching pollinators, wildlife, critters
Canoeing	CANOE	Canoe, canoeing
Fishing	FISH	Fish, fishing, fisher
Kayaking	KAYAK	Kayak, kayaking
Bird Watching	BIRD WATCH	Bird watching, birds, birding
Camping	CAMP	Camp, camping
Running	RUN	Run, running, runner, jog, jogging
Pet Walking	ANIMAL	Dog, walking dog, walk the dogs, dog park
Photography	PHOTO	Taking photos, photography, pictures, photograph
Swimming	SWIM	Swim, swimming
Winter Activities	WINTER	Cross country, skiing, snowshoe, snowshoeing
Boating	BOAT	Boat, boating, boathouse
Hunting	HUNT	Hunt, hunting, hunter
Playing Sports	SPORT	Sports, basketball, play, disc, golf, rollerblade
Hammocking	HAMMOCK	Hammock, setting up hammock
Trash or invasive species removal	TRASH	Litter, picking-up, trash, invasive species

## Activity Tag Results

Activity	Number of Tags
Walking	156
Hiking	138
Riding bike	131
Viewing nature	80
Canoeing	44
Fishing	43
Kayaking	38
Bird Watching	34
Camping	28
Running	23
Pet Walking	19
Photography	18
Swimming	17
Winter Activities	15
Boating	14
Hunting	13
Playing Sports	13
Hammocking	5
Trash or invasive species removal	4

### Location Tag Notes

Tags were determined by location types and associated content or context related to that location rather than specific names of locations. For instance, mentions of specific parks or trails would be tagged as a park or trail; specific names register too few tags to be significant in analysis. Below is a set of tags and examples of content associated via key words or inferences attributed to those types of locations.

Location	Tag	Content Examples
Parks	PARK	Park, parks, specific names of parks
River	RIVER	River, rivers, creek, creeks
Trail	TRAIL	Trail, trails, path, paths
Lake	LAKE	Lake, lakes
Nature Center/Preserve	CENTER	nature center, conservatory, gardens, preserves
Greenspace	GREENSPACE	Greenspace, natural areas, neighborhood steets
Woods	FOREST	Woods, wooded, wooded area, forest, forests
Pond	POND	Pond, ponds

### Location Tag Results

Location	Number of Tags
Parks	228
River	161
Trail	111
Lake	108
Nature Preserve / Garden	43
Greenspace	34
Woods	12
Pond	3

**QUESTION 3: WHAT DO YOU PERCIEVE AS BEING THE BIGGEST SOURCES OF POLLUTION IN STREAMS, WETLANDS, LAKES, AND/OR RIVERS IN YOUR COMMUNITY?**

Pollutant or Issue Tag Notes

Tags were determined by combining like issue/pollutant types and associated content or context related to those pollutant issues. Below is a set of tags and examples of content associated via key words or inferences attributed to those issues.

Pollutant or Issue	Tag	Content Examples
Runoff	RO	Runoff, stormdrain, drains, sewers
Trash	TRSH	Trash, litter, waste, bottles, cans, debris
Excess Nutrients	EN	Fertilizer, fertilizers, grass clippings, leaves, algae
Salt/Chloride	SALT	Salt, salting, chloride, winter road maintenance
Industry	IND	Industry, industries, corporate
Chemicals	CHEM	Chemical, chemicals
Automotive	AUTO	Oil, gas, cars, bus, trucks, trucking
Pesticides	PEST	Pesticide, pesticides, herbicide, herbicides, fungicide
Pet Waste	PW	Pet waste, animal waste, poop, dog
Erosion Control	EC	Erosion, soil, soils, sediment, dirt
Development	DEV	Development, developers, high-rises, buildings near river
Bacteria/Disease	BD	Bacteria, disease, specific bacteria or diseases
Invasive Species	IS	Invasive species, invasive, specific species
Microplastics	MICRO	Microplastic, microplastics
Habitat	HAB	Pollinator, bees, habitat, prairie, woods, forest
Climate Change	CC	Climate, climate change
Northern Metals	NM	Northern Metals
Medication	MED	Pharmaceuticals, pharma, medicine, medication
Emerging Contaminants of Concern (general)	ECC	Emerging contaminants, specific emerging contaminants
Shoreham Yards	SY	Shoreham Yards
GAF	GAF	GAF

### Pollutant or Issue Tag Results

Pollutant or Issue	Number of Tags
Runoff	222
Trash	133
Excess Nutrients	132
Salt/Chloride	72
Industry	59
Chemicals	57
Automotive	40
Pesticides	33
Pet Waste	28
Erosion Control	26
Development	13
Bacteria/Disease	8
Invasive Species	7
Microplastics	6
Habitat	6
Climate Change	6
Northern Metals	6
Medication	3
Emerging Contaminants of Concern (general)	3
Shoreham Yards	3
GAF	2

**QUESTION 4: WHAT ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE TAKE PLACE IN YOUR COMMUNITY, AND HOW COULD THE MWMO SUPPORT THOSE CHANGES?**

Focus Area Notes and Tag Results by Group

Focus areas were determined through past 10-year plan efforts and further development of key areas of work as decided by MWMO staff. Below is a set of tags, examples of content associated via key words or inferences attributed to those activities and results by grouping of focus area.

Focus Areas	Tag	Content Examples	Number of Tags
Water Rate/Volume- Infiltration	WRV-INF	Infiltration, runoff, soaking in ground	58
Water Rate/Volume- Flooding	WRV-FL	Flood, floods, flooding	6
Water Rate/Volume- Drought	WRV-DR	Drought, droughts	0
Water Quality- Protection	WQ-P	Protect water, improve water, water quality	102
Water Quality- Upstream	WQ-UP	Upstream, further up river, specific cities and areas upstream	12
Water Quality- Groundwater	WQ-GW	Ground water	6
Water Quality- TMDL	WQ-TMDL	TMDL, TMDLs, total maximum daily load	0
Urban Stormwater Management	USM	Manage stormwater, green infrastructure, stormwater districts, permeable paver/pavement, cistern	106
Regulations/Enforcement- Improve	RE-IMP	Ban, bans, new laws, more regulation, advocate	69
Regulations/Enforcement- Consistency	RE-GEN	Enforce, enforcement, existing rules	18
Monitoring/Data			14
FSR- Financial and Strategic Responsibility	FSR	Funds, funding, strategies, specific member organizations mentioned	35
Emerging Issues (various)	EI	Climate, climate change, emerging, new pollutants, new issues	47

Emergency Response	ER	Emergency, emergencies	3
Education/Outreach- General	EO-STEW	Educate, teach, outreach, volunteers, inform, engagement	114
Education/Outreach- Connections	EO-CON	Collaboration, connections, partnerships, relationships	17
Education/Outreach- Communications	EO-COMM	Communications, emails, website, pamphlets, social media (various)	10
Ecosystem Health- Habitat	EH-HAB	Habitat, open space, natural areas, wilderness, pollinator, prairie, woods, forest, upland	102
Ecosystem Health- Water	EH-WAT	River, lakes, ponds, shoreline habitat	16

Focus Area Tag Results (by the greatest number of tags across all focus areas and statements)

Focus Areas of Work	Number of Tags
Education/Outreach- General	114
Urban Stormwater Management	106
Ecosystem Health- Habitat	102
Water Quality- Protection	102
Regulations/Enforcement- Improve	69
Water Rate/Volume- Infiltration	58
Emerging Issues (various)	47
FSR- Financial and Strategic Responsibility	35
Regulations/Enforcement- Consistency	18
Education/Outreach- Connections	17
Ecosystem Health- Water	16
Monitoring/Data	14
Water Quality- Upstream	12
Education/Outreach- Communications	10
Water Quality- Groundwater	6
Water Rate/Volume- Flooding	6
Emergency Response	3
Water Quality- TMDL	0
Water Rate/Volume- Drought	0

### Issue Tag Notes

Similar to Question 3, these Issue Tags were determined as related to specific issues of interest in the responses in Question 4. There is some overlap, though there are also different issues related back to how MWMO performs its work. Reference Question 3 Issue Tag Notes for Content Examples.

### Issue Tag Results

Issue (in replies to Question #4)	Number of Tags
Habitat	68
Trash	47
Runoff	34
Salt	31
Excess Nutrients	31
Chemicals	21
Pesticides	20
Access	16
Cost Share Programs	13
Climate Change	12
Pet Waste	12
Automotive	10
Transit	10
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	7
Energy	6
Erosion Control	4
Microplastics	3

**QUESTION 5: WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO SHARE ANY DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ABOUT YOURSELF (SUCH AS YOUR AGE, RACE, GENDER, OR ZIP CODE)?**

Demographic Tag Notes

Tags are associated with demographic information volunteered in responses.

Demographic Tag Results

Age	Number of Tags
No Reply	154
Under 20	5
20-29	39
30-39	52
40-49	50
50-59	52
60-69	58
70-79	18
80-89	5

Race/Ethnicity	Number of Tags
White	227
No Reply	184
Black	8
Native	4
Latinx	3
Asian	3
Hmong	3
Non-white (not specific)	2
Muslim	1
Indian	1
Jewish	1

Gender Identity	Number of Tags
Female	168
No Reply	155
Male	110
Other/Non-binary	1

ZIP Code (MWMO)	Number of Tags
55418	49
55413	30
55406	25
55414	16
55408	11
55421	11
55108	10
55403	9
55405	9
55412	8
55432	7
55404	4
55407	4
55416	3
55411	3
55401	2
55114	1
55415	1
55454	1

ZIP Code (Outside MWMO)	Number of Tags
55102	4
55106	4
55107	3
55113	3
55123	3
55419	3
55430	3
55443	3
55101	2
55103	2
55104	2
55112	2
55124	2
55330	2
55409	2
55410	2
55417	2
55422	2
55426	2
55428	2
55436	2
55441	2
55775	2
54751	1
55025	1
55033	1
55038	1
55044	1
55057	1
55065	1
55075	1
55082	1

55105	1
55116	1
55117	1
55118	1
55119	1
55128	1
55305	1
55319	1
55343	1
55345	1
55347	1
55364	1
55398	1
55398	1
55420	1
55423	1
55429	1
55431	1
55433	1
55442	1
55448	1
55450	1
55734	1
55901	1
55924	1
55940	1
55947	1
55987	1
56278	1
56301	1
56345	1
56442	1
56501	1
66418	1

**QUESTION 6: IF YOU WANT TO RECEIVE THE E-NEWSLETTER, ENTER YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS**

Email Tag Notes

No tags necessary; data set shows how many provided email addresses

Email Opt-In Results

178 respondents provided emails

## QUESTION 7: HAVE YOU INTERACTED WITH MWMO STAFF IN THE PAST?

### Organizational Contact Tag Notes

Tags were determined by multiple-choice options in the survey and tabulated by each selection.

### Organizational Contacts Results

Contact/Connection	Number of Tags
Communications and Outreach Staff	121
Projects Staff	88
Planning Staff	63
Administrative Staff	49
Board Members	43
Citizen Advisors	41
Monitoring Staff	40
Executive Director	32