

Appendix K

Public Hearing Comments and Responses

MWMO Board of Commissioners Meeting July 13, 2021
MWMO Public Hearing on the 10 year Plan Update - Comments Received

The following public comments were received at the MWMO's Public Hearing. People chose to submit their comments via the chat and MWMO staff read them out loud. Their comments were received and filed. An additional comment that was received following the meeting via email is also included.

Name / Affiliation	Date Received	Public Hearing Comment	MWMO's Staff Response to Comment
<p>Andrew Blackbird, Red River Water Warriors, 501 3rd Ave NE, Dilworth MN 56529</p>	<p>7/13/2021</p>	<p>1) Given the severe drought conditions this year, what is the Mississippi Watershed doing to help the Mississippi River stay as healthy as it can during this time?</p> <p>2) How is letting Enbridge take 5 to 8 billion gallons of Mississippi water contributing to the health of the river?</p> <p>3) Ok so then my comment is to please stop removing water from the Mississippi River for oil and fracking Willow River has already had a frack out and we want Enbridge out! Stop Line 3</p>	<p>The MWMO is a non-regulatory entity. We can comment on agency permits and plans that have a public review period, but we have no authority to require any changes.</p> <p>Our mission focuses on improving water quality, reducing flooding, and improving habitat</p> <p>As a part of stormwater related management, we promote and implement reuse projects and initiatives that can provide additional resilience in the watershed to drought conditions while reducing potable water demand.</p> <p>Our work primarily focuses on 14 miles of the Mississippi River within the Watershed. We recognize this area as a part of the larger Mississippi River system and when possible undertake local studies that are also relevant for upstream and downstream communities.</p> <p>We would recommend speaking directly with the agencies issuing the permits to resolve any Mississippi River appropriations issues.</p>
<p>Wendy Darst</p>	<p>7/13/2021</p>	<p>Thanks for the comment periods for on your 10-year plan, however, they came before this historic period of drought and the negligence of the Walz administration, PUC, MPCA, and Army Corps of Engineers in protecting Mississippi. How are you going to protect the watershed here?</p> <p>Thank you for including our comments on the record. It may be frustrating for commissioners, however many of us see Mississippi not as a "resource" to be manipulated and used but as a natural entity under attack by "landowners" such as Enbridge and Northern Metals. Mississippi, and all of us, have been failed by the DNR and other regulatory bodies, showing their true purpose is rubber stamping the business of climate catastrophe.</p> <p>I appreciate the work of MWMO, and the water use plans. I hope Fridley and Columbia Heights are good stewards as well- but Mississippi is one entity. The headwaters lead here, and through 10 more states. There is water now, but if the "businesses" at the Headwaters continue frac-ing out the tributaries and decimating the watershed it will affect us all.</p>	<p>The MWMO is a non-regulatory entity. We can comment on agency permits and plans that have a public review period, but we have no authority to require any changes.</p> <p>As a part of stormwater related management, we promote and implement reuse projects and initiatives that can provide additional resilience in the Watershed to drought conditions while reducing potable water demand.</p> <p>The MWMO is a part of a larger upstream and downstream river system. It is important to balance private and public use of the river in a manner that maintains the ecological integrity of the river and other systems it supports. The MWMO is collaborating with other public and private organizations to implement a restorative systems-based approach that helps to transition economic growth in this direction. See Plan page 67 and Table 14 and Restorative Development educational workshops : https://restorativedevelopmentpartnership.org/about/partnership-meetings/</p>
<p>Seth Fine</p>	<p>7/13/2021</p>	<p>Per the earlier question: page 211 of the proposed 10-year Plan includes areas for strategic prioritization of issues and goals. Emergency Preparedness (EP) and Emerging Issues (EI) pertaining to climate and change or severe drought are either not rated or rated low or medium priority. This seems unacceptable in the face of current and looming water access, availability and quality issues affecting us citizens and voters in the watershed. How can this be re-prioritized given the immediacy of global and regional warming, and the federal and state commitments to green infrastructure?</p>	<p>The MWMO called out climate change in our prior 2011 - 2021 plan allowing us to shape outcomes of our projects and programs in ways that have started to offset the impacts of climate change</p> <p>The MWMO considers equity and climate change as more comprehensive issues that will permeate throughout all aspects of our organization and the work we do. As such, additional goals or strategies on these topics may be added to Table 27 as staff and the MWMO Board develop the plans and policies needed to fully address these topics.</p> <p>While the MWMO does not currently have an equity or climate change plan we have been providing significant staff time and resources on direct implementation efforts that will address these issues. In 2016 the MWMO started working directly with other public and private organizations to implement a restorative development feasibility study, and a capital project that will directly address issues of inequity and climate change in the Watershed. This holistic systems-based work is set to continue during this 10-year plan. See Plan page 67 and Table 14 and Restorative Development educational workshops : https://restorativedevelopmentpartnership.org/about/partnership-meetings/</p> <p>In addition, we consider the impacts of climate change with most everything that we do. From our educational messaging, to plants we recommend for projects, to sizing of stormwater practices, we are constantly addressing climate change in our work.</p>