

The Upper Mississippi River Source Water Protection Project (UMRSWPP)

Scope: Regional/Watershed

Location: Minnesota

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Interactive Website: https://www.mapfeeder.net/umrswpp_bwr/v2/quest

SCOPE:

- Upper Mississippi River, within state of Minnesota.
- Focus: The Upper Mississippi River Source Water Protection Project (UMRSWPP) is a joint powers collaboration to protect source water in the Upper Mississippi River. Collaboration is between local governments and water utilities for three cities (St. Cloud, St. Paul, and Minneapolis), Minnesota Rural Water Association and watershed districts and organizations, Minnesota Department of Health and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.
- The three water utilities serve 20 communities and a population of over one million.

COLLABORATIVE FORMATION, STRUCTURE, AND FUNDING:

- The Minnesota Department of Health prepared Source Water Assessments in accordance with the 1996 Amendments to the Safe Water Drinking Act. In response, three cities in Minnesota voluntarily formed the UMRSWPP in 2002 and developed Source Water Protection Plans. They formed a Joint Powers Agreement in 2011 and have a line item in their budgets for implementation of these plans.
- Twice a year, Minnesota sets aside one-eighth of one percent of the state sales tax for \$10,000 source water protection competitive grants to local governments. UMRSWPP received a \$30,000 grant – combining \$10,000 for each of the three cities – and developed an interactive mapping tool to prioritize source water protection projects.
- Working with NRCS: Lisa Vollbrecht, St. Cloud Utilities, is a member of the NRCS State Technical Committee.

MEMBERS:

- St. Cloud Public Utilities
- St. Paul Regional Water Services
- Minneapolis Water Treatment and Distribution Service

ADVISORY PARTNERS:

- Minnesota Department of Health
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Minnesota Rural Water Association

COLLABORATING PARTNERS:

- Twin Cities Metropolitan Council
- Anoka Conservation District
- Central Minnesota Water Education Alliance
- Crow River Organization of Water
- Elk River Watershed Organization
- Mississippi National River and Recreation Area
- Rice Creek Watershed District
- Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization (WMO)
- Lower Rum River WMO
- Sauk River Watershed District
- Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)
- Benton County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)
- Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization

WATER CONCERNS:

- Source water protection will be based primarily on watershed management, land use planning, and point and non-point pollution control. The implementation of the source water protection plans will identify and accommodate such high priority land use areas as:
 - Population growth centers;
 - Areas where land use conversion is taking place; and
 - Environmentally vulnerable areas (nitrates, surface water/ground water interaction).
- A few examples of contaminants of concern are Cryptosporidium, fecal coliform, Giardia, other viruses, total suspended solids, sediment, and suspended organics.

STRATEGIES:

- UMRWPP is a collaboration focused on reducing contamination that contributes to the main source water for the three cities, the Mississippi River.
- As part of UMRWPP collaboration, three cities - St. Cloud, St. Paul and Minneapolis - have prepared, and are implementing Source Water Protection Plans.
- Implementation of the Plans' objectives is at the watershed level to best advance source water protection.
- Source water protection is based primarily on watershed management, land use planning, and point and non-point pollution control.
- Twice a year, Minnesota sets aside one-eighth of one percent of the state sales tax for \$10,000 source water protection competitive grants to local governments. UMRWPP received a \$30,000 grant – combining \$10,000 for each of the three cities – and developed an interactive mapping tool to prioritize source water protection projects.

RESULTS:

- Through collaboration, members prepared Water Intake Protection Plans to protect drinking water sources from source water concerns in the upper Mississippi River watershed.
- Through public relations and building community interest, UMRWPP supports the SWCD efforts to undertake projects to protect water quality.
- Results include improved management of stormwater outfall in the drainage area

Information current as of November 2020. Please check with the Collaborative contacts (or website if available) for the most up to date information. To find other source water collaboratives across the U.S. or to add yours to the list, visit the Source Water Collaborative's [How To Collaborate Toolkit](#)