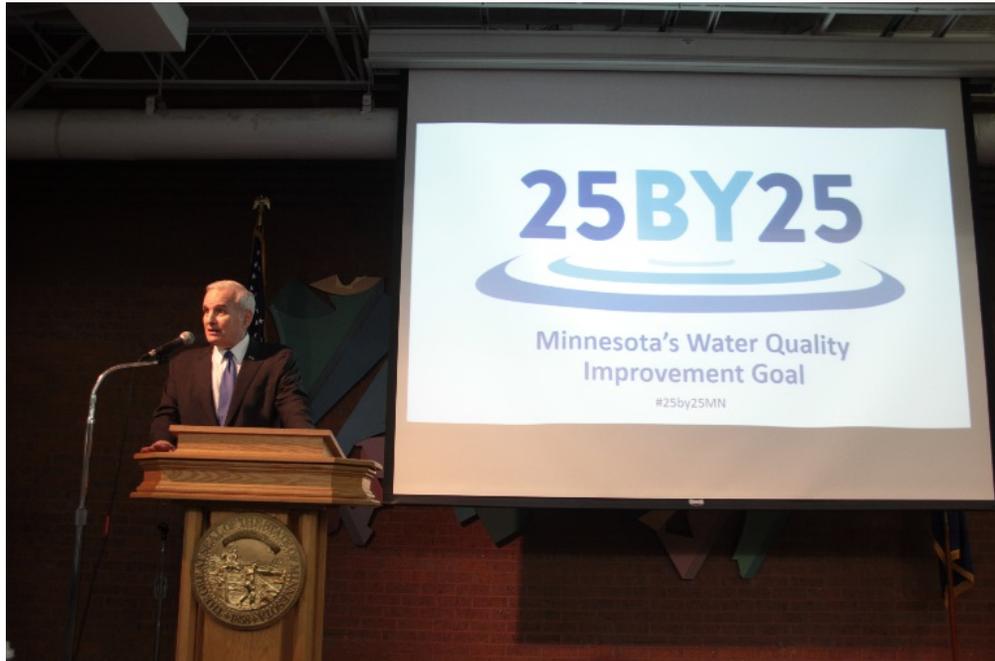


Governor Dayton Engages Minnesotans on Water Quality Goals

November 2017 Snapshots

In a continued demonstration of his commitment to Minnesota's water resources, Governor Mark Dayton spent August and September meeting with citizens and leaders across Minnesota to talk water. The goal of the discussions was a dialogue about how we can work together to ensure that future generations will have safe water for drinking, playing, and to support the state's economy. Governor Dayton has challenged Minnesotans to strive towards improving water quality by 25% and has set a timeframe of the year 2025 for meeting locally driven goals.

Approximately 2,000 people attended ten regional Town Hall meetings and another 500 people submitted comments electronically. The discussions have generated thousands of comments and ideas for meeting the initiative's goals.



Governor Dayton addressing citizens at the Rochester, Minnesota Town Hall

Along with Governor Dayton and his staff, leadership from the Department of Natural Resources, Pollution Control Agency, Department of Health, Department of Agriculture, and the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) were there to hear the conversation.

In addition to the Town Hall meetings, BWSR leadership met with local government partners soon after the Town Halls to get regional perspective on what they heard from citizens. Local partners discussed the opportunities and challenges to improve water quality, and how BWSR can work with them to develop programs and strategies that will make strides to better water quality.



Recently, Governor Dayton addressed Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) and provided his initial thoughts from the Town Halls (click picture to listen). Photo of Gov. Dayton on Aug. 30, 2016 outside of State Fair by Doualy Xaykaothao | MPR News 2016.

“Getting feedback from our local government partners on the ground is critical to thinking of new ways that we can better serve the citizens of Minnesota in promoting changes to improve water quality,” said John Jaschke, BWSR Executive Director. “We have the people, plans, and tools in place to help private landowners find the resources to help protect and restore our waters, improve and conserve our soil resources, and assist in meeting local and State water quality goals.”

The Environmental Quality Board (EQB) is in the process of compiling all the great input we received and we can expect a report back to the public in early winter. Overall, some of the major themes statewide have included education, public infrastructure, accountability, greater adoption of conservation practices, and providing adequate funding from the State to meet water quality goals.



Town Hall Citizens Conversations

For updates, look to the EQB website here: <https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/>