



Dakota County Groundwater Plan:

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

April 2019

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1. Acronyms and Abbreviations

AGQS:	Dakota County Ambient Groundwater Quality Study
BALMM:	Basin Alliance of the Lower Mississippi in Minnesota
BWSR:	Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
CFANS:	University of Minnesota College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resources Sciences
County:	Dakota County, Minnesota
DNR:	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
ERD:	Environmental Resources Department, Dakota County
Groundwater Plan:	Dakota County Groundwater Plan
MDA:	Minnesota Department of Agriculture
MDH:	Minnesota Department of Health
mg/L:	Milligrams per liter
MGS:	Minnesota Geological Survey
MPCA:	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
NCRWMO:	North Cannon River Watershed Management Organization
Planning:	Dakota County Office of Planning
SSTS:	Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (septic system)
SWCD:	Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District
µg/L	Micrograms per liter
USDA-NRCS:	United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service
USEPA:	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USGS:	United States Geological Survey
VRWJPO:	Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization
WD:	Watershed District
WMO:	Watershed Management Organization
WIISE:	Dakota County/MDH Wells and Increased Infant Sensitivity and Exposure Study

2. Introduction

The Dakota County Groundwater Plan (Groundwater Plan) is a framework to safeguard the County's groundwater supply through identification of existing and potential problems and opportunities for protection, management, and development of its groundwater resources. Groundwater protection is needed to maintain and enhance the quality of life in Dakota County by addressing and reducing concerns to public health and the environment.

In 2019, Dakota County's (County) Environmental Resources Department (ERD) will be conducting stakeholder engagement while revising the Groundwater Plan. The stakeholder engagement process will provide the County with timely, relevant, and truthful feedback on public concerns about the water supply and about strategies proposed to be included in the Groundwater Plan.

In August 2017, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners adopted Strategic Plan Goals that include:

A great place to live

- Dakota County strives to be a welcoming place where all people are safe, have opportunities to thrive, and enjoy a high lifelong quality of life.

A healthy environment with quality natural areas

- Dakota County protects and maintains natural resources for the health and enjoyment of current and future residents.

A successful place for business and jobs

- Dakota County fosters business and employment success through modern infrastructure, low taxes, and a prepared, connected workforce.

Excellence in public service

- Dakota County demonstrates sound stewardship of human and financial resources, communicates and engages with the public, and innovates and collaborates to provide excellent service.

Groundwater provides 90 percent of the water supply in Dakota County, so groundwater protection is critical for the future of Dakota County as “a great place to live” with “a healthy environment with quality natural areas.” The Groundwater Plan states the goals, objectives, scope, and priorities for groundwater protection in the County. It describes the County's strategic approach for new and ongoing programs for residents, agricultural interests, businesses, industry, and government to protect and improve groundwater quality and quantity. The current Groundwater Plan, incorporated into the Dakota County Comprehensive Plan, DC 2030, was adopted by the County Board in May 2009, and outlines numerous near-, mid-, and long-term strategies to meet County and State groundwater protection goals.

Significant changes have occurred since the 2009 Groundwater Plan was approved.

- In 2013, the Minnesota Legislature changed the laws governing water appropriations permits, changing the regulatory processes for the construction and use of large-capacity

wells, impacting both municipal water suppliers and agricultural irrigators in Dakota County. As a result of this change in the law, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conducted a Groundwater Thresholds study, which studied the potential impacts of groundwater appropriations on designated trout stream reaches of the Vermillion River and Trout Brook (a Cannon River tributary).

- The Metropolitan Council adopted its 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan and Master Water Supply Plan in 2015. The Metropolitan Council's estimates of future groundwater use in Dakota County show possible aquifer drawdowns of as much as 50% of the available groundwater in the Prairie du Chien and Jordan aquifers by 2040.
- The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) revised its Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan in 2015 and, as of December 2018, is in the process of establishing a Groundwater Protection Rule to address nitrate groundwater contamination statewide. In 2013 and 2014, as part of the Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan implementation, Dakota County partnered with MDA to serve as the pilot region for the "Township Testing" program. More than 5,000 private drinking water well owners in 18 Dakota County communities were given the opportunity to have their wells tested for nitrate for free. Nearly 1,400 residents participated; of these, 27 percent of the wells tested exceeded the drinking water standard for nitrate of 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L).
- The Dakota County Ambient Groundwater Quality study (AGQS) is a long-term program to monitor issues and trends in drinking water quality in private wells located throughout Dakota County. From 1999 through 2018, Dakota County has conducted 15 rounds of sampling. This program has identified widespread issues with human-caused contamination of private wells with nitrate, agricultural herbicides, and chloride; and with naturally-occurring contamination from manganese. Overall, 60 percent of the wells tested were above the drinking water standard for one or more contaminants: 29 percent of the wells had elevated levels of nitrate; 19 percent had high levels of cyanazine breakdown products (an herbicide banned for use since 2002); and 34 percent had levels of manganese exceeding the standard for infants, 100 µg/L (micrograms per liter).
- In 2015 through 2017, Dakota County conducted the Wells and Increased Infant Sensitivity and Exposure Study (WIISE), with funding and technical assistance from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). The purpose of the study was to estimate the prevalence of contaminants of particular concern to infants, in a non-agricultural community (Inver Grove Heights), with a primary focus on manganese. Of the 274 private wells sampled as part of this program, 194 (71 percent) exceeded the Minnesota Department of Health's drinking water guidance for manganese for infants. The study results also raised concerns about detections of arsenic, lead, and coliform bacteria. Unlike other areas of the County, no wells had nitrate above the drinking water guidance.
- In 2017, the Minnesota Legislature changed the definitions of environmental wells (monitoring wells, environmental bore holes, or remedial wells), which shifted specific regulatory responsibilities and authority from MDH to the Dakota County Delegated Well Program.
- Dakota County revised Ordinance 113, Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (Septic Systems), in 2009, 2016, and 2018.

The Groundwater Plan strategies apply to all stakeholders in Dakota County, therefore stakeholder input is important while crafting the revised plan. The County's Public Engagement Tool assigned this project a Level 3 (Involve) Public Engagement Level. A Level 3 requires the County Board to review a Stakeholder Engagement Plan and recommends the use of an Advisory Committee.

This Stakeholder Engagement Plan outlines processes for involving all affected stakeholder groups and creating effective and inclusive engagement methods tailored to each group to motivate and involve stakeholders who may not normally be engaged. A successful Stakeholder Engagement Plan will produce meaningful and pointed feedback to guide the development of proposed Groundwater Plan strategies.

3. Background

The Groundwater Plan's framework and goals are influenced by Minnesota Statute §103H, Groundwater Protection; §103G, Waters of the State; §103I, Wells, Borings, and Underground Uses; and §115.55, Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems. The Groundwater Plan will support the goals of the State expressed in these statutes: that groundwater be maintained in its natural condition, free from any degradation caused by human activities, to the extent practicable (MN Statute §103H.001); and to protect health and general welfare by providing a means for the development and protection of the natural resource of groundwater in an orderly, healthful, and reasonable manner (MN Statute §103I.001). Groundwater use is sustainable if it will supply the needs of future generations and will not harm ecosystems, degrade water, or reduce water levels beyond the reach of public water supply and private domestic wells (MN Statute §103G.287).

The Groundwater Plan will be revised in accordance with Minn. Stat. §103B.255, Metropolitan Groundwater Management: Groundwater Plans. Dakota County adopted its first Groundwater Plan in 1993; the current Groundwater Plan was adopted by the County Board in May 2009 as part of the Dakota County Comprehensive Plan, DC 2030. The revised Groundwater Plan is anticipated to be completed in October, 2020. Upon completion, but before final adoption by the County Board, the County will submit the draft plan for a 60-day review and comment period to the adjoining counties, the Metropolitan Council, the state review agencies, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), the cities, townships, and watershed organizations within the County, and other interested parties. After the review and comment period and any resulting changes to the document approved by the County Board, the Groundwater Plan will be submitted to the BWSR for final review.

4. Stakeholder Engagement Objectives and Approaches

The primary stakeholder engagement objectives are:

1. Learn more about the current perception of the Groundwater Plan and Groundwater Plan strategies.
2. Learn more about stakeholders' perceptions of groundwater issues and their level of concern.
3. Collect data to best inform the County throughout the Groundwater Plan revision process.
4. Describe and explain the necessity for prospective Groundwater Plan strategies to the relevant stakeholder groups.
5. Request feedback, ideas, and opinions from the stakeholder groups to:
 - a. Assess groundwater and drinking water challenges and determine strategies for addressing those challenges.
 - b. Identify opportunities for and barriers to implementing or following prospective Groundwater Plan strategies.
 - c. Understand the level of support for prospective Groundwater Plan strategies.
6. Provide accurate, relevant, and timely information to help all of those involved understand the Groundwater Plan revision process and make informed comments and recommendations.

The County's Groundwater Plan stakeholder engagement approach is designed to solicit ideas, responses, feedback, and opinions from a varied group of stakeholders. The stakeholder engagement process will bring together multiple points of view to inform Groundwater Plan decisions, establish legitimacy to the Groundwater Plan revision process, identify potential problems and generate solutions, and articulate and clarify key Groundwater Plan strategies. The Groundwater Plan process will connect the County with new collaborators and foster relationships with existing partners to encourage change and raise awareness of the Groundwater Plan revision. The County's engagement process will include visibility, transparency of the process, appreciation of points-of-view, and will employ multiple communication methods to engage stakeholders.

The stakeholder groups affected by the Groundwater Plan revision are varied with different and occasionally conflicting drivers and desires for outcomes. Therefore, the County will use a broad range of engagement approaches, including:

- Creating an inclusive engagement system that reflects the demographics of the County and its various stakeholder groups
- Establishing, renewing, and maintaining relationships with stakeholders
- Providing a variety of opportunities using multiple engagement techniques for all stakeholders to share diverse ideas and promote information to direct the revision of the Groundwater Plan
- Informing, listening, inviting, and responding to feedback from stakeholders
- Incorporating feedback into the revision process or addressing it in other ways
- Providing opportunities for ongoing communication with stakeholders
- Updating stakeholders throughout the revision process to discuss and provide new information, ideas, or changes and apply them proactively
- Recognizing and thanking stakeholders for the contributions during the revision process

Supportive Work Efforts: The Groundwater Plan will be revised by ERD staff and the Dakota County Office of Planning (Planning), with assistance from the Dakota County Public Health and Communications Departments, in addition to the Dakota County SWCD. Freshwater Society has been hired to advise in and facilitate the Stakeholder Engagement process.

This engagement plan will be implemented hand-in-hand with a timely Project Communications Strategy to ensure that stakeholders and the general public are aware of the project and of opportunities to be engaged. County staff will be responsible for developing and implementing the communications strategy.

5. Major Groups to Engage

Because 90% of the County's water supply is from groundwater, nearly everyone who works and lives in Dakota County will be affected by the Groundwater Plan revision.

Engagement efforts will explore stakeholder ideas, opinions, attitudes, and reactions to existing and potential groundwater issues and strategies; State, County, and local services, programs, and regulations; and opportunities for County innovation in addressing complex groundwater challenges. Stakeholder groups will be engaged depending on the proposed Groundwater Plan strategy and implementation timeline. Specific stakeholder groups include:

- County Government. County Government leaders have been involved in previous Groundwater Plan revision processes.
 - Dakota County Board of Commissioners. The County Board is responsible for approving the Groundwater Plan and the members are held accountable by their constituents.
 - Dakota County Manager. The County manager is accountable to the County Board and manages day-to-day operations of County employees.
 - Physical Development Division Senior Management.
 - Dakota County Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will be used for committee advice and recommendation of strategies to the Dakota County Board of Commissioners.

- County Departments and SWCD. Selected County departments have been involved in previous Groundwater Plan revisions.
 - Water Resources Unit of ERD
 - Land Conservation Unit of ERD
 - Parks Department
 - SWCD
 - Public Health Department
 - Transportation
 - Communications
 - Operations Management

- State Agencies and Metropolitan Council
 - Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)
 - Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)
 - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

- Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)
- Metropolitan Council

- Watershed Organizations
 - Black Dog WMO
 - Eagan-Inver Grove Heights WMO
 - Lower Minnesota River WD
 - Lower Mississippi River WMO
 - North Cannon River WMO (NCRWMO)
 - Vermillion River WJPO (VRWJPO)

- Municipal Water Suppliers
 - City of Apple Valley
 - City of Burnsville
 - City of Eagan
 - Empire Township
 - City of Farmington
 - City of Hampton
 - City of Hastings
 - City of Inver Grove Heights
 - City of Lakeville
 - City of New Trier (public water supply but uses septic systems)
 - City of Northfield
 - City of Randolph (public water supply but uses septic systems)
 - City of Rosemount
 - City of South St. Paul
 - City of Vermillion
 - Southeast Metro Water Supply Work Group
 - Southwest Metro Water Supply Work Group
 - American Water Works Assn.

- Communities that rely on wells and septic
 - Castle Rock Township
 - City of Coates
 - Douglas Township
 - Eureka Township
 - Greenvale Township
 - Hampton Township

- Marshan Township
 - City of Miesville
 - Nininger Township
 - Randolph Township
 - Ravenna Township
 - Sciota Township
 - City of Sunfish Lake
 - Vermillion Township
 - Waterford Township
- Other Public Entities (not municipal water suppliers)
 - Communities that get water from St. Paul Regional Water Services:
 - City of Lilydale
 - City of Mendota
 - City of Mendota Heights
 - City of West St. Paul
 - School districts
 - U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
 - U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)
 - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
 - Adjoining counties
 - Basin Alliance for the Lower Mississippi in Minnesota (BALMM)
- Residents (public water supply customers). Dakota County has roughly 400,000 residents, of whom about 95% use public water supplies.
 - Single-unit residences.
 - Multi-unit residents.
 - Under-represented/underserved residents, including older adults, non-native English speakers, low income households, racial-ethnic minorities, and people with disabilities.
- Residents (private drinking water wells). Dakota County has approximately 8,000 residences that rely on private drinking water wells. Half of these are in rural Dakota County and half are in the developed part of the County.
- Well and Water Businesses.
 - Well contractors
 - Retail water treatment suppliers (i.e., Culligan, Commers, etc.)
- Business and Industry.
 - High volume users with their own wells (e.g., Flint Hills Resources, Great Lakes Coca-Cola in Eagan).
 - Chambers of commerce.
 - Real estate developers and homeowners associations.

- Construction.
- Golf course operators and other landscape irrigators.
- Aggregate mining.
- Agriculture
 - Farmers (agricultural irrigators)
 - Irrigation equipment sellers
 - S.E. Irrigators Association
 - Commodities Groups, e.g., MN Corn Growers Assn.
 - MN Agricultural Water Resources Center
 - Farmers Union
 - Farm Bureau
 - Irrigators Association of MN
 - Crop advisors
 - Co-ops and other ag retailers and service providers
- Education and research institutions.
 - Dakota County Technical College
 - Inver Hills Community College
 - Minnesota Geological Survey
 - University of Minnesota College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS), including Extension
- Nonprofits, advocacy and special interest groups
 - MN Rural Water Association
 - Friends of the Mississippi River
 - Nature Conservancy
 - Izaak Walton League
 - Freshwater Society
 - MN Environmental Partnership
 - Cannon River Watershed Partnership
 - Hastings Environmental Protectors
 - Trout Unlimited
 - Ducks Unlimited
 - Pheasants Forever
 - Conservation Minnesota
 - Sierra Club

It is important to note that not all of these groups will be impacted to the same degree or have the same level of interest in the Groundwater Plan revision process. However, concerted effort will be made to ensure all who wish to engage in this process are notified of and have opportunity to participate in the methods described below.

6. Engagement Methods

A critical component to ensuring success is gaining input from a broad range of stakeholders at multiple times throughout a plan's development. The engagement methods that will be used in this effort include a mix of in-person stakeholder workshops, online and paper surveys, "pop-up" engagement opportunities, and others that take into consideration stakeholders' availability and seek to involve community members that have not historically engaged in public processes or groundwater planning efforts. These methods are described in more detail below:

- County Board and Planning Commission Meetings: ERD and Planning staff will develop and distribute materials to explain the Groundwater Plan revision process and potential strategies. This includes materials directed to county government, including Requests for Board Action at regular County Board meetings and information and questions for the County Planning Commission at regular Planning Commission meetings.
- County Board and/or Planning Commission Workshop(s): One or more workshops may be conducted and consist of interactive sessions to fully inform the County Board and Planning Commission, and for staff to gather input on the Groundwater Plan revision process, iterative proposed strategies, and the draft Groundwater Plan.
- Technical Advisory Group Meetings: Four or more meetings with the Technical Advisory Group will be conducted for the purpose of reviewing outcomes of stakeholder engagement and providing guidance on how to appropriately incorporate their recommendations. The Technical Advisory Group will consist of representatives from various interests to include construction, agriculture, hydrogeology, well drilling, water management organizations, and local government units.
- Stakeholder Workshops (i.e., Facilitated Group Discussion): Stakeholder workshops will fully engage state agency staff, watershed organization staff, municipal water suppliers, other public entities, well contractors, water treatment suppliers, and agricultural interests in the revision process by inviting participation by all contributors while the Groundwater Plan strategies are still being formed. These open conversations will invite a variety of perspectives and opinions and allow for the emergence of shared understandings about what the strategies should and could accomplish.
- Surveys: Electronic and paper surveys will be provided for residents and businesses. The surveys will ask a myriad of questions to solicit opinions and ideas about drinking water issues in Dakota County and the direction in which residents and businesses would like the County to move in, providing a framework for Groundwater Plan strategies. Paper surveys will be distributed through libraries, township halls, nitrate clinics, County service centers, and other physical locations.
- Water Testing Events: ERD will hold water testing events (nitrate and lead) for private well owners and those on public water supplies. As people turn in samples or collect testing kits, these events will provide an opportunity to survey the public for their opinions and ideas regarding the Groundwater Plan.

- Open House(s)/Meeting(s): Stakeholders will be invited to attend open houses or meetings to browse information on the Groundwater Plan and provide comments on the proposed issues and strategies.
- Pop-up Engagement at Public Events: Several public events, such as the Dakota County Fair, serves another opportunity to survey the public for their opinions and ideas regarding the Groundwater Plan. Depending on the venue, this may include distribution of paper surveys, interacting with an unmanned kiosk to indicate preferences and provide feedback, or the opportunity to fill out the survey online.
- Public/Stakeholder Communications: Effectively promoting and advertising the engagement opportunities will be crucial to their success. County staff will develop and distribute materials to explain the Groundwater Plan revision process and potential strategies as part of the Project Communications Strategy. The Strategy will make use of County communications channels, as well as leveraging other outreach networks:
 - *Use existing communications methods and channels*. The County will assist the stakeholder engagement contractor in using existing communications methods and channels such as the County’s website, business and resident e-news, and newsletter; municipal websites and newsletters; and through social media. The website will be dedicated to updating all external stakeholders on the revision process, upcoming meetings, and outcomes of meetings. County e-news will be used for strategically-timed information. The County will create resources such as mailers and postcards for residents and a web page dedicated to the Groundwater Plan revision process.
 - *Engage existing partnerships*. County staff will engage existing partners through existing interaction methods, such as: meetings of the SE and SW Metro Water Supply Work Groups, city council or township supervisor meetings, SWCD board meetings, and watershed organization meetings. County staff will also use existing materials to generate feedback from stakeholders such as Metro municipal/county/state residential surveys and focus groups.
 - *Speaking engagements or presentations*. County staff will promote the Groundwater Plan revision process and proposed strategies by accepting invitations for speaking engagements and/or presentations. These are likely to be presentations in front of public entity administrators, business trade organizations, and internal presentations to management.

The table below lists engagement methods for each stakeholder group throughout the entire project. **Methods that are expected to be in-person meetings are in bold.** The “x” indicates the intended engagement effort for that stakeholder group, but does not indicate individual events or opportunities as several groups will be engaged through the same events.

		ENGAGEMENT METHODS				
		Stakeholder workshops	Water Testing Clinics	Surveys (pop-up activities)	Open house(s)/meeting(s)	Speaking engagements (County staff)
STAKEHOLDERS	State Agencies and Met Council	X	X			X
	Watershed Organizations	X				X
	Municipal Water Suppliers	X				X
	Communities on wells & septics	X	X			X
	Other public entities				X	X
	Residents (public water supply customers)	X	X	X	X	X
	Residents (private drinking water wells)	X	X	X	X	X
	Well and Water Businesses	X				
	Businesses	X		X	X	X
	Agriculture	X	X	X	X	X
	Research Institutions				X	X
	Nonprofits, advocacy, and special interest groups				X	X

7. Key Questions to Ask

Asking the right question is exceptionally important in ensuring that the engagement of stakeholders leads to information that is valuable for the planning process. A mix of open-ended and quantitative questions will be asked of stakeholders through the various engagement methods described above, striving to answer these broad, overarching questions:

- What do people know about groundwater use and protection? What goals and priorities exist around groundwater issues in the County?
- What are perceived major issues in the County, and what is the level of concern?
- What barriers to protecting groundwater quality and quantity exist?
- What strategies could address challenges and support work towards the goals?

These five questions will be asked of all stakeholder groups in some form through both in-person and online opportunities.

Where specialized knowledge or skillsets need to be called on (such as surface water management, economic development, natural resource preservation, etc.), additional questions will be asked. A full tabulation of those methods and general question types is listed in the design matrix, included as an attachment to this document.

8. Action Plan by Project Phases

See the “Project Phases and Milestones” document for more detailed information.

Phase 1: Start-Up and Project Organization (by end of December 2018) – no public engagement

- Develop Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
- Draft and post Request for Proposals (RFP) for public engagement consultant.

Phase 2: Research on Groundwater Issues and Stakeholder Needs (by end of October 2019)

- Select and contract preferred consultant to support public engagement.
- Meet with consultant and finalize Stakeholder Engagement Plan, and the implementation structure/schedule.
- Develop engagement meeting materials, including survey(s) of residents, businesses, and other stakeholders.
- Conduct survey; compile and review results throughout planning process.
- Update **Planning Commission** on public engagement process.
- Conduct stakeholder engagement sessions to answer the key questions described in Section 7, above.
- Analyze and summarize engagement sessions to inform the development of the draft Groundwater Plan objectives, goals, and strategies
- Conduct two to four meetings with Technical Advisory Group throughout stakeholder engagement process.
- Review findings and content for **Planning Commission** and **Board** with PDD leadership.
- Conduct workshop with **Planning Commission** and/or **Board**.

	PHASE 2 ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS (Estimated)				
	Stakeholder workshops	Water Testing Clinics	Surveys	Open house(s) with water testing event	Speaking engagements (County staff)
State Agencies and Met Council	x				X
Watershed Organizations	x				X
Municipal Water Suppliers	x				X
Communities on wells & septic	x				X
Other public entities					X
Residents (public supply customers)	x		X	x	X
Residents (private drinking water wells)	x	x	X		X
Well and Water Businesses	x				
Businesses	x		X		X
Agriculture	x		X		X
Research Institutions					X
Nonprofits, advocacy, interest groups					X
Number of sessions, this phase	4	2		2	

Phase 3: Draft Goals and Strategies for Plan (by end of May 2020)

- Conduct additional stakeholder engagement to discuss draft Groundwater Plan objectives and goals, and to determine interest/disinterest in potential Groundwater Plan strategies.
- Conduct up to two meetings with Technical Advisory Group throughout stakeholder engagement process.

		PHASE 3 ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS (Estimated)				
		Stakeholder workshops	Water Testing Clinics	Surveys	Open house(s)	Speaking engagements (County staff)
STAKEHOLDERS	State Agencies and Met Council	X				X
	Watershed Organizations	X				X
	Municipal Water Suppliers	X				X
	Communities on wells & septic				X	X
	Other public entities					X
	Residents (public water supply customers)				X	X
	Residents (private drinking water wells)					X
	Well and Water Businesses	X				
	Businesses					X
	Agriculture	X				X
	Research Institutions					X
	Nonprofits, advocacy, and special interest groups					X
	Number of sessions, this phase	5			2	

Phase 4: Draft Plan Review and Adoption (by end of October 2020)

- Present draft plan summary to **Planning Commission**, seek recommendation on plan submittal to BWSR and plan release for public review and comment (60 day period) – suggested simultaneous review by BWSR and public.
- Present draft plan summary to **Board**, seek recommendation on plan submittal to BWSR and plan release for public review and comment (60 day period).
- Conduct 60-day review with notification and engagement of all required stakeholder interests
- Compile and summarize comments. Identify any needed changes to the document.
- Present the comment summary to the **Planning Commission** and seek recommendation on plan adoption.
- Present the comment summary to the **Board** and seek recommendation on plan adoption.

9. Available Resources and Budget

Planning staff has experience with stakeholder engagement in previous county plans. ERD staff created this proposed stakeholder engagement plan with the support of a hired consultant, Freshwater Society, who specializes in stakeholder engagement to enhance and implement this plan. The ERD project team and consultant will be primarily responsible for the stakeholder engagement process. The Dakota County Planning Commission, Dakota County Board of Commissioners, Senior Management, Communications Department, and County Manager will also be informed of the engagement process and involved with it.