



## Summary of Public and Work Group Comments

February 16 and 17, 2021

Kirk Koudelka | MPCA Assistant Commissioner

Jess Richards | DNR Assistant Commissioner

Heather Hosterman | Abt Associates

# Source of comments



Community, organization, and/or work group member comment letters

Organizations including 3M, Met Council, and MCEA  
Woodbury and Lake Elmo resolutions



Work group comments on specific/technical elements of the Conceptual Plan



Public survey comments

Comment period: September 10 through December 10, 2020  
247 public survey comments received to date

# Themes – Work group/communities

## Administrative

- Allow communities to begin preliminary work before Conceptual Plan is final
- Other

*Request for expedited funding mechanism that allows communities to begin preliminary work*

*Request for funding mechanism that does not require a community to cover costs while seeking reimbursements*

## Capital and O&M

- Concern about high amount of funding allocated to West Lakeland
- O&M duration for private wells vs public water systems
- Costs estimates are low; cities are afraid they will have to cover the difference

*Request for an independent review of the cost estimates and technical design*

*Request for Co-Trustees to evaluate potential liability that communities may have for disposal of spent treatment media and assist in determining how to eliminate or mitigate that liability*

# Themes – Work group/communities

## Administrative

- Allow communities to begin preliminary work before Conceptual Plan is final
- Other

*Concern about how funds are distributed among communities*

*Suggestion to extend O&M for public water systems, in some cases to 100 years or equal to O&M funding for private wells*

## Capital and O&M

- Concern about high amount of funding allocated to West Lakeland
- O&M duration for private wells vs public water systems
- Costs estimates are low; cities are afraid they will have to cover the difference

*Concern that capital and O&M costs are low and, in some cases, request for justification on cost assumptions*

*Request for guarantee to fully implement projects that are included in the final Conceptual Drinking Water Supply Plan if costs are underestimated*

# Themes – Work group/communities

## Funding categories

- Desire to prioritize/fund drinking water treatment systems before funding other drinking water protection and conservation/sustainability projects

## Most work group members prefer option 2

## Municipal vs. private well

- Many West Lakeland residents and Township Board members request keeping private wells if connected to municipal system
- Lake Elmo and Oakdale – No desire to connect to other systems

*Request additional details about the drinking water protection and sustainability and conservation funding categories*

# Themes – Work group/communities

## Funding categories

- Desire to prioritize/fund drinking water treatment systems before funding other drinking water protection and conservation/sustainability projects

## Most work group members prefer option 2

## Municipal vs. private well

- Many West Lakeland residents and Township Board members request keeping private wells if connected to municipal system
- Lake Elmo and Oakdale – No desire to connect to other systems

*Some are encouraged that all three options use HI thresholds below 1 to identify wells for treatment*

*Some prefer Option 1 to ensure sufficient funding for everyone/other needs, whereas others prefer Option 2 because it treats more wells*

# Themes – Work group/communities

## Funding categories

- Desire to prioritize/fund drinking water treatment systems before funding other drinking water protection and conservation/sustainability projects

Most work group members prefer option 2

## Municipal vs. private well

- Many West Lakeland residents and Township Board members request keeping private wells for irrigation even if connected to municipal system for drinking water
- Lake Elmo and Oakdale – No desire to connect to other systems

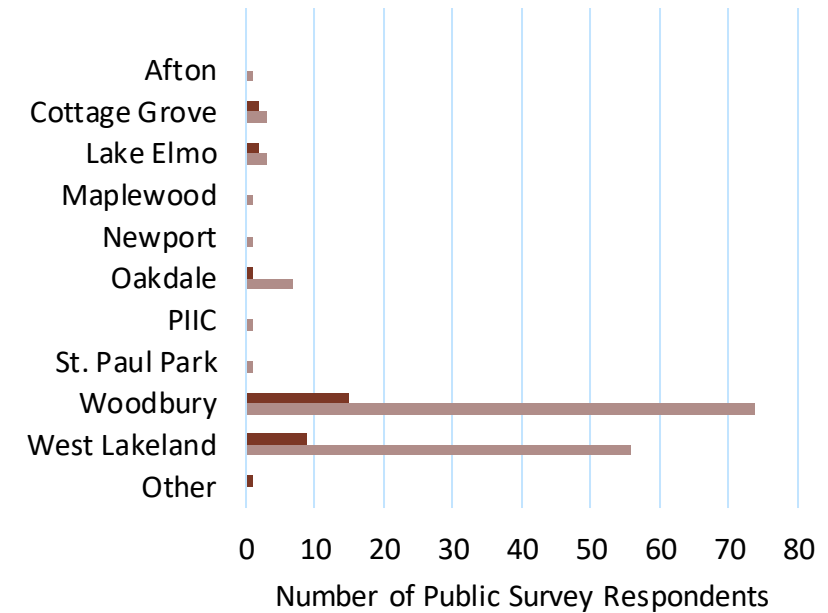
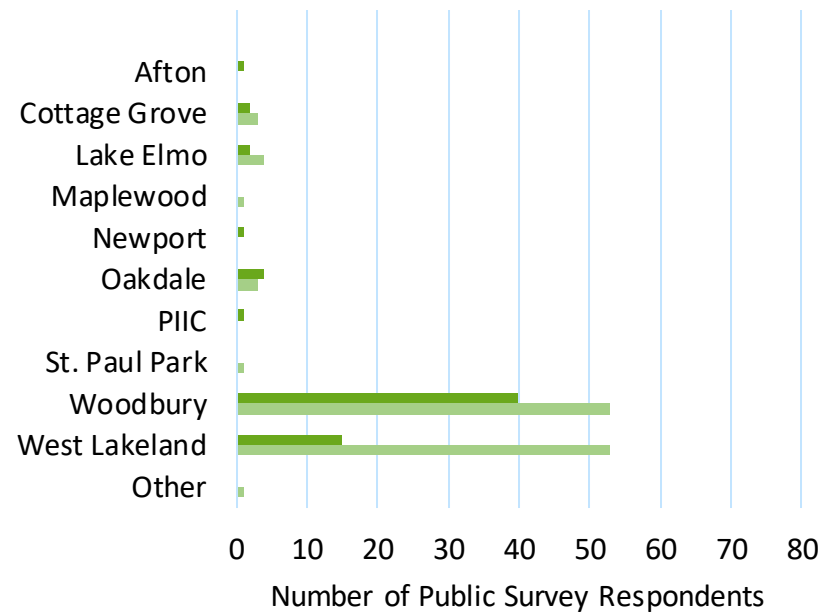
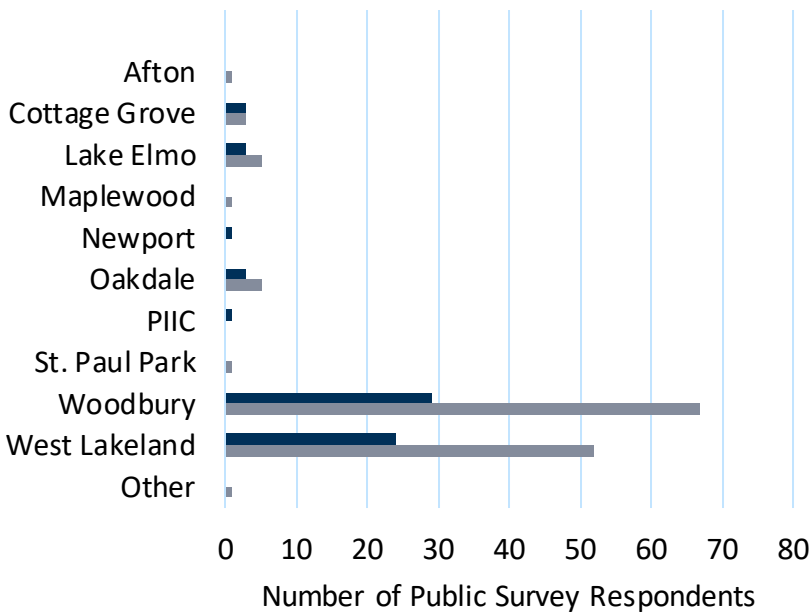
# Public survey responses

Public survey asked if Options 1, 2, and 3 were acceptable and given an opportunity to provide an open-ended response.

Option 1

Option 2

Option 3



■ Option 1 - Yes ■ Option 1 - No

■ Option 2 - Yes ■ Option 2 - No

■ Option 3 - Yes ■ Option 3 - No



# Public survey responses

- Use the lowest possible HI threshold to identify wells for treatment.
- Excessive amounts of the Settlement for future uses without providing guidance (e.g., conservation and sustainability, drinking water protection).
- Some public feel they did not create this disaster and should not bear any costs.
- Many West Lakeland residents strong desire to keep current wells (irrigation)/ opposition for municipal system. Some want ability to vote.
- Prioritize capital and long-term O&M to minimize increases to water bills.



# Questions