SHERBURNE COUNTY

Why is Rural Runoff a Concern? …and What Can We Do About It?

Discussion Summary
Becker, MN
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QUESTION 1: WHAT ARE THE CONTRIBUTING ISSUES TO WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY IN SHERBURNE COUNTY?

TOP ANSWERS

• Lack of education – who to ask, what to implement
• Ag runoff
• Development
• Impervious surfaces
• Stormwater runoff
• Lack of shoreland buffers
• Lack of ag buffers

ALL ANSWERS

• Feed lot ordinances - keep
• Need increased buffers on shoreland
• Compliance of all residents/owners needed
• Increased impervious surface – too much
• Residential lawn runoff – increased fertilizer
• Rural residential development
• Ag buffers need to be installed
• Large homes on small lots
• Topography changes
• Erosion control on crop land
• Ag runoff
• Expanding development
• Ecoli – feedlots, hobby farms
QUESTION 1: WHAT ARE THE CONTRIBUTING ISSUES TO WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY IN SHERBURNE COUNTY?

ALL ANSWERS (CONTINUED)

- Lakeshore runoff – everyone wants a green lawn
- Agriculture runoff (west – More ab) no buffers
- Drain tile, drained wetlands
- Lack of education – residential lakeshore owners, basic principles
- Farmer ditches – going to creek
- Lack of BMPs
- Stormwater runoff
- Impervious surfaces
- Developments
- Feed lots
- Drainage
- Soil erosion
- Ditches
- Irrigation impact on aquifers
- Road salt
- Weed control
- Ag runoff
- Tiling
- Tree removal
- Lawns
- Fertilize
- Invasive Species
- Beaver dams
- Fertilizer
- Impervious surface (roads)
- Failing septic systems
- Erosion
- Ag drain tile
- General pollution
- Salt runoff from roads
QUESTION 2: IN YOUR ROLE, WHAT DO YOU SEE AS IMPORTANT FOR US TO DO, WHAT ACTIONS SHOULD WE TAKE TO IMPLEMENT CHANGES TO IMPROVE RURAL STORMWATER RUNOFF?

TOP ANSWERS

- Educate officials, pass along info
- Compensation for ag to have buffer strips
- Improve grey language in ordinances to current standards
- Limit impervious surfaces/lawns
- Townships make common implementation practice in compliance

ALL ANSWERS

- Require farmers to install buffers
- Everyone should abide by the policies that are set
- To obtain a variance, property owners must install a shoreline buffer
- Limit the amount of area of a parcel that can be converted from natural vegetation to impervious surface OR lawn (manicured Kentucky bluegrass)
- Outreach programs
- Tax relief for ag operations
- Salt ratio reduction on county and township roads
- One system doesn’t fit all for stormwater maintenance facilities
- Permit enforcement, more staff?
- Improve ordinance (marks) “zonings”
- Stronger language that is more inline current standards
- Become more responsive
- Lots of “gray” language
- Enforcement – happens by improving ordinances
- Education – YouTubes – need to understand why there are rules
- Follow comprehensive plan
- Hold and slow rainwater runoff
- Consistency in ordinance enforcement
- Common implementation (i.e. MS4)
- Educate officials – then pass along
- Enforce regulation like impervious surface
- Implement BMPs as condition of permits
- Promote pervious payment credits
QUESTION 3: BARRIERS

- Money
- Lack of communication between townships and officials – now?
- Lack of common understanding
- Lack of concern
- Lack of political will
- Enforcing existing/development
- Inadequate permit enforcement

QUESTION 4: SOLUTIONS

- Incentive
- Increase staffing/funding – how do you do that
- Support education
- Communication – Tweet/social media – need people to do the work
- Property transfer letter
- Consistent messages
- Repeatedly
- Education
- Plans