



Regional Council of Mayors Water Quality and Quantity

Sarah Strommen | Commissioner

Sarah Strommen, Commissioner

- Mayor, City of Ramsey 2013-2018
- Appointed DNR Commissioner by Governor Walz on January 7, 2019
- Oversees seven areas of DNR work:
 - Ecological & Water Resources
 - Enforcement
 - Fish & Wildlife
 - Forestry
 - Lands & Minerals
 - Parks & Trails
 - Operations Services



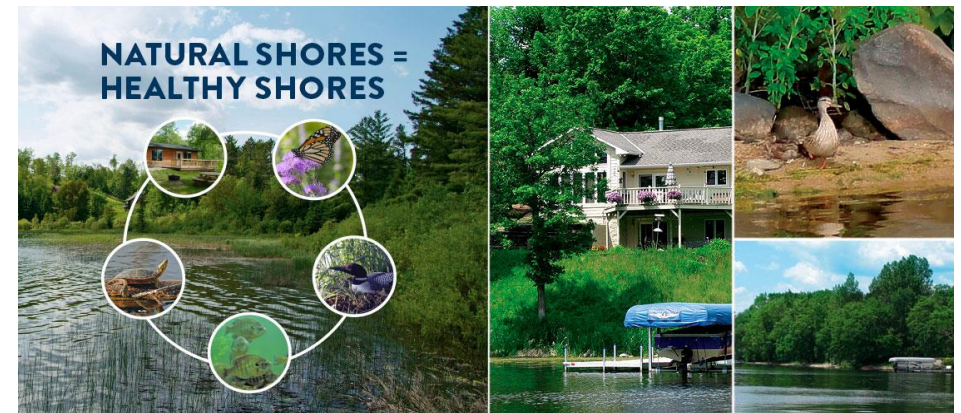
DNR Water Authority – Appropriations

- Authorize water use – amount, timing and source of water.
- Comply with MN Statutes requiring that water use meet certain criteria, including protecting water quality, water levels, ecosystems, and the ability to meet the needs of future generations.
 - Examples: municipal water supply, industrial uses, energy generation, irrigation (agriculture and golf courses), dust control, temporary dewatering for construction.
- Review and approve water supply plans for public water supplies that serve more than 1,000 people. Plans intended to anticipate water needs for the next 10 years, and incorporate conservation measures.



DNR Water Authority – Public Waters

- Permitting for infrastructure work within or above public waters:
 - Roads
 - Culverts
 - Bridges
- Floodplain and Shoreland programs – DNR assists communities with requirement compliance.
 - Shoreland standards influence what landowners can do with their property.
 - Proper floodplain management aims to minimize risk from potential flood hazards. Local governments can work with their landowners for floodplain-related development.



Climate Trends Affecting Water

- Increasing temperatures and increasing rainfall
 - Minnesota's annual average temperatures and rainfall are increasing – warmest and wettest years on record have occurred between 1990 and 2020.
- More damaging rains
 - Minnesota has seen dramatic upticks in heavy precipitation and flooding, with implications for agriculture.
- Cold weather warming
 - Minnesota is experiencing a long-term decline in cold extremes.



Thank You!

Sarah Strommen

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