

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SURVEY RESULTS

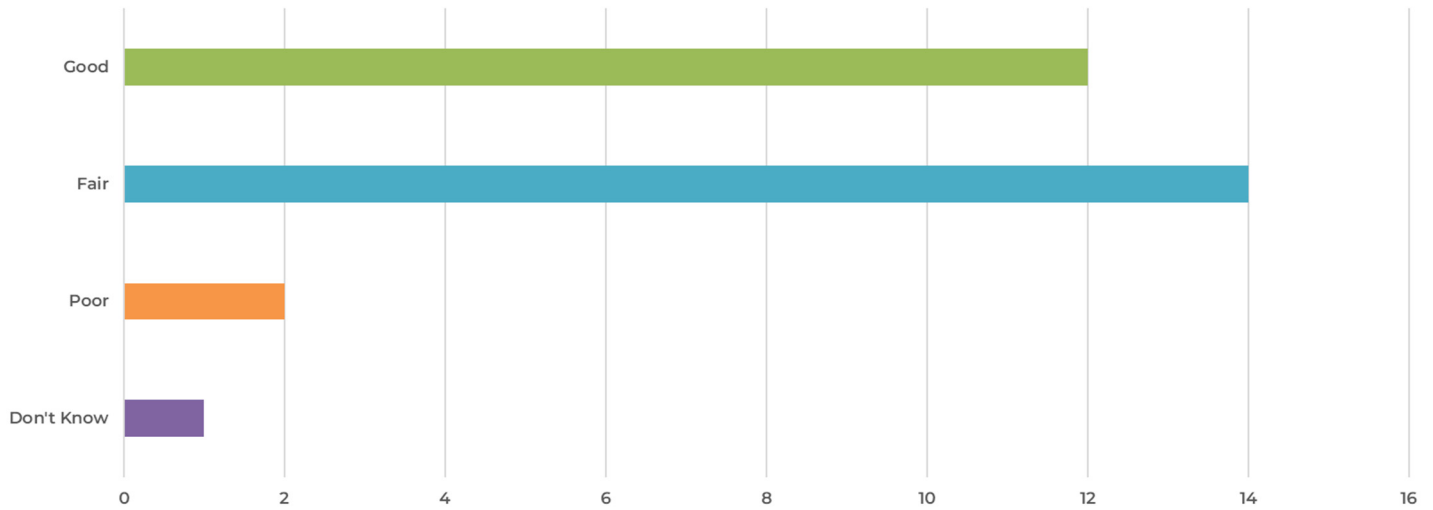
Survey Respondent Relationship to MSCWMO Member Communities



How Respondents Interact with Water Resources in their Community



How Respondents Characterize the Overall Quality of Surface Waters in MSCWMO



Reasoning for a Good rating:

"Wildlife is thriving"

"I mostly interact with the St. Croix which is very clear"

"Water seems clear. [St. Croix] National Riverway protection gives me the impression that it's a higher quality"

"The water is beautiful and seems clean"

Reasoning for a Fair rating:

"River seems fair downtown [Stillwater] but has litter issues"

"There is a fair amount of [algae] blooms in the lakes and rivers during hot summer times"

"Most of the lakes we paddle or swim are in good condition. Some get mucky or weedy in the summer months"

"Pollution from boats and trash in the water"

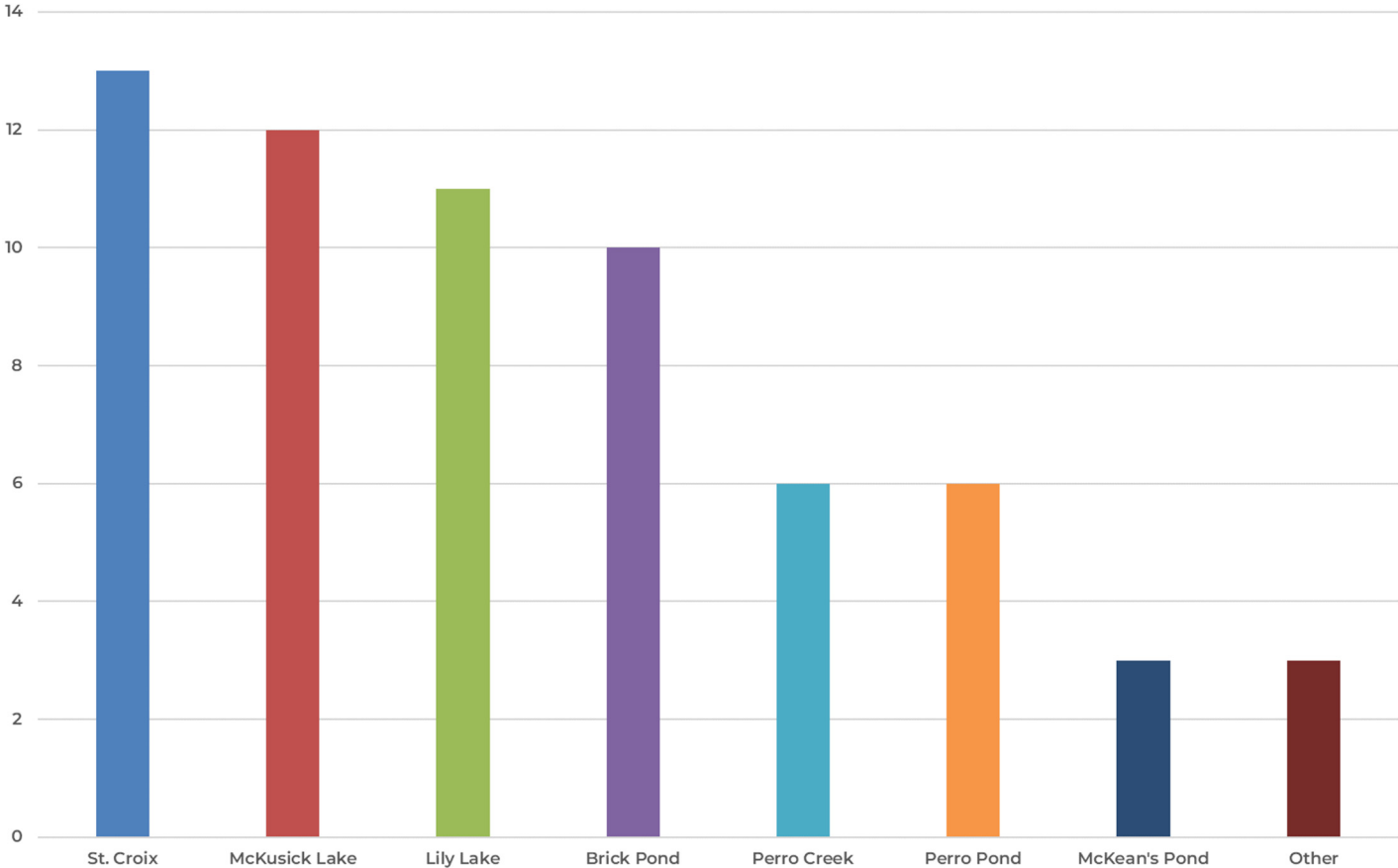
"There have been improvements but more needs to be done"

Reasoning for a Poor rating:

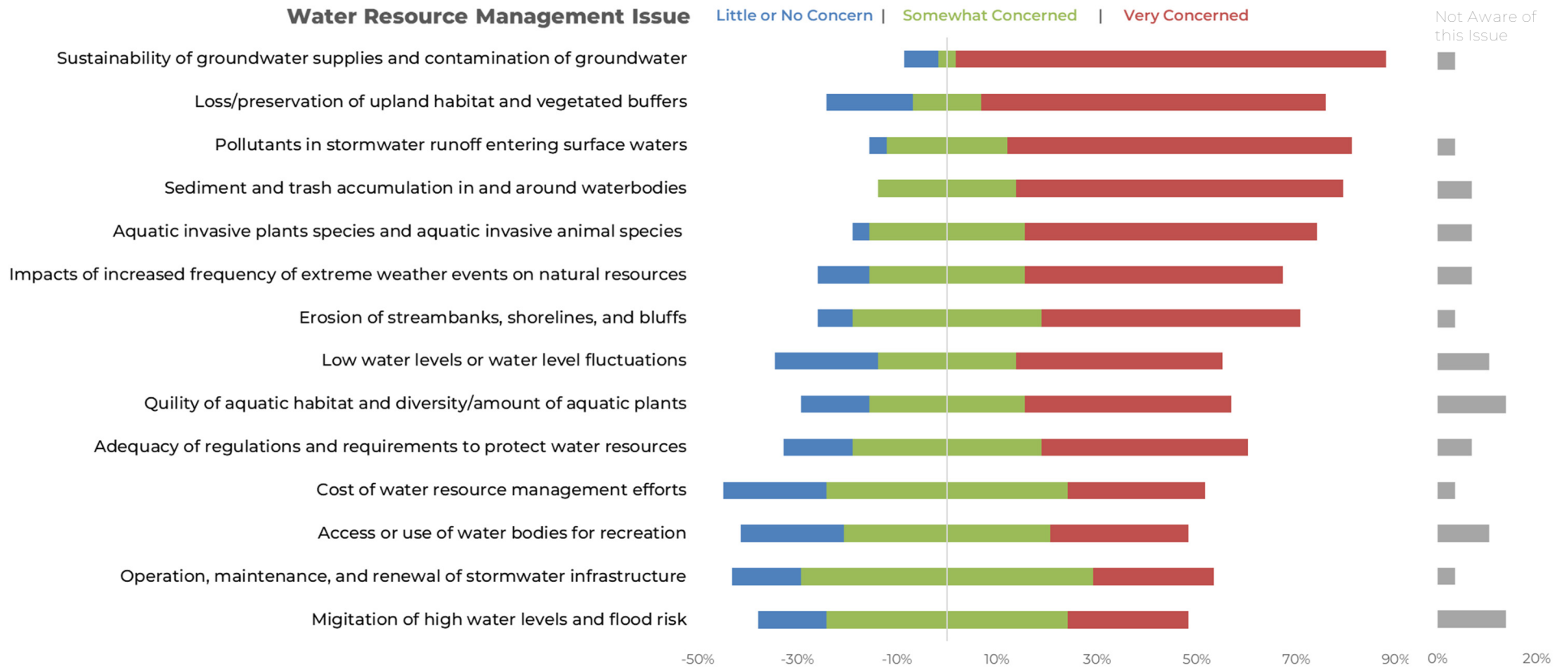
"Impaired and polluted waters"

"Minnesota's state and local water quality rules and laws are not enforced hence waters are contaminated by industry and residential chemical use"

Specific Water Resources in MSCWMO Respondents Would Like to See Improved



How Respondents Ranked Their Concern of Water Resource Management Issues



Other areas of concern from respondents:

Terrestrial invasives like buckthorn and garlic mustard · far too much new construction going on building more and more homes; watershed management driven by engineering firms and wasting too much tax money that residents have little control over · invasive carp in the St. Croix · groundwater · supply weighing cost as a factor in prioritization · unsealed abandoned wells in floodplains · lack of resources for compliance enforcement · septic systems · PFAS contamination · funding for invasive species management · ability of smaller communities along the St. Croix to enforce Riverway codes and the lack of knowledge and good shoreline stewardship by builders, realtors, and owners · protection from contamination is not a priority and state leadership does not allocate enough resources or direction to protect water

Specific actions respondents would like MSCWMO take to protect water resources:

“Plant trees that would thrive in warmer climates”

“Hard stop on new residential construction, lawn watering bans for commercial and residential properties, more rain gardens, promotion of adopt a drain program”

“Salt use by the city public works and private vendors salting parking lots. Very heavy salt use at Walmart and others. City of Stillwater is a poor example of water conservation as they water grass at parks even the day after a heavy rain event”

“Use money wisely and impose common sense solutions, not costly engineering firm ones”

“Continuing interaction with governmental units to protect water resources”

“McKusick Lake needs help. The weeds just turn this into a stinky stagnant mess in summer”

“I know nothing about the MSCWMO. Could you start with educating the public about what you do? I never heard of the MSCWMO before this survey.”

“Conduct a survey to determine how many unsealed, abandoned wells exist in the WMO. Provide well and grand information to well owners. Provide grants to extend casings above the 100-year flood elevation in compliance with state well code.”

“Emphasis on bluff land management and flooding”

“More public cleanup and education days to celebrate local watersheds and get people to build community around them.”

“I would love to see more webinars available on water quality and how homeowners can get involved in their own property and in the community”

“I would like to see more direct information on shoreline stewardship go to owners and inspectors and city employees.”

“Continued and increased management of these important resources”

“Prohibit herbicide use especially in areas of concern.”

How the health of surface water, groundwater, and natural resources affects respondents, their friends, and their community:

"Healthy environments support my well-being. Unhealthy forested areas behind our home require a lot of upkeep!"

"Substantially. We need clean water."

"Our groundwater seems to be high quality and I think it's an underappreciated resource. I appreciate the water department's new tiered rates to encourage conservation and hope there are additional incentives to conserve"

"Concerned about quality and quantity (depleting ground water) as well as maintaining and improving the quality of surface water"

"If we don't have clean water, what's the point?"

"I am assuming my city/tap water is ground water. It is awful. It tastes bad and leaves limestone build up on everything. It makes my dog's skin break out. I am concerned by byproducts from salt usage on roads/runoff -how is that affecting wildlife?"

"Lakes are a community resource that allow everyone to swim and play in beautiful public space. Healthy lakes, healthy communities."

"Healthy water to drink improves health outcomes for all members of our community."

"Directly affects our personal/collective health and well-being and our ability to live and enjoy life in this location."

"It affects all of us. Why aren't you including Wisconsin counties? Watersheds don't stop at state boundaries."

"PFAS pollution - I have GAC filters."

"Affects health and well-being of community members"

"Swimming/recreation, drinking water, health of future generations of humans, animals and plants"

"I think contaminated water - groundwater or surface water is a huge public health issue and environmental issue."

"All of these resources are vital to our environment, thus our health."

"Environmental health = human health. If our water is contaminated - so are we."

"I am very concerned about PFAS"