What to Expect at Your 25x25 Town Hall Meeting

First of all, what is a 25x25 Town Hall Meeting?

Governor Dayton’s 25x25 Town Hall meetings offer an opportunity to openly discuss water quality challenges facing our communities and our state. The Town Halls gather participants’ input by fostering collaborative conversations among attendees’ diverse perspectives.

At the event, you will sit at small tables and talk face-to-face with 5-6 fellow community members about the most important water priorities within your region. You will then work with one another to brainstorm potential solutions for identified problems, as well as discuss possible first steps to implement such solutions.

We recommend you bring something to take notes on, in addition to a portable electronic device that is easy to type on (if you can). One person at each table will be asked to post their group’s top three ideas in an online forum. However, laptops also will be available.

Typical Event Agenda

The agenda will vary for each regional town hall, but they will all follow the same basic format:

- Registration – 1 hr
- Welcome and Introductions – 10 min
- Regional Water Challenges and Opportunities – 15 min
- Community Conversations – 1 hr 20 min
- Closing Remarks from State Commissioners – 15 min

Discussion Questions

Attendees will be asked to sit at different tables for each question.

#1) What goals could be established to improve water quality by 25 percent?

#2) What actions are needed to get to these goals?

#3) What specific next steps are needed to move the actions forward now?

Helpful Online Resources

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
MCEA 25x25 Home Page

Impaired Waters Webmap

Water Quality Reference Worksheet (helpful to determine priorities going into the Town Hall)
**Pointers for a Successful 25x25 Town Hall**

**BEFORE THE TOWN HALL**

- **Determine why you are going** – Do you have a particular problem that you are concerned about or do you have expertise to offer on water challenges in your region? Do you want to listen and learn from others?

- **Develop a compelling personal story** – Be prepared to very briefly share with others why the problem you identified affects you. Alternatively, what have you observed or heard about that drives you to attend?

- **Prepare answers for questions #2 & #3** – List possible long-term and immediate steps to address your priorities (see back side).

- **Connect your concern to regional & state importance** – Why should your personal priority be a regional priority?

- **Recruit others who share your priorities** – The more times an idea appears, the more likely it will become a regional priority.

**DURING THE TOWN HALL**

- **Come early** – You will need time to register, visit educational displays, and meet your neighbors.

- **Spread out** – If you come with a group of people do not sit together. Instead, spread out amongst several tables. That will give you a better chance to register your top priorities multiple times.

- **Share** – Time will fly. Don’t hesitate to start sharing once you sit down at your table.

- **Listen** – Listen to the priorities others bring.

- **Keep the conversation moving & synthesize** – There isn’t time to dwell on any one issue. Synthesize similar ideas into one clear statement, then move on to discuss another issue.

- **Select your top three contributions** – Each table will be allowed to submit three responses to each question. Help your table select the three ideas that generated the most excitement and engagement.

- **Up vote** – Even if you are not the person designated to submit your table’s ideas, you can still up vote other ideas using the same online tool. Login, follow along with the conversation, and up vote ideas you like from other tables.

**AFTER THE TOWN HALL**

- **Continue to engage** – Submit your feedback to the Governor’s Office through online participation tools at [http://bit.ly/2g6TLw6](http://bit.ly/2g6TLw6)

- **Share with others** – Encourage others who share your priorities, but were unable to attend the Town Hall, to participate online.

- **Host a 25x25 meeting** – Use online tools from the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board to host your own 25x25 meeting. Make it a fun house party by inviting your neighbors over for dinner to talk about water quality problems affecting your community. You can host a meeting with a social group, youth group, religious organization, etc. Access the EQB’s online tools here: [https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/CommunityWaterMeeting](https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/CommunityWaterMeeting)