

Summary of World Café
Patch Restaurant, Warroad MN
October 2nd, 2012

Question 1: How does the Warroad River and Willow Creek add to my family's quality of life?

- Recreation, fishing, boating, hunting, canoeing, kayaking, swimming
- Ice skating
- Trapping
- Cross Country Ski
- Snowmobiling
- Good sucker fishing
- Winter public access
- Swimming when water quality is ok
- Educational
- Drainage benefits
- Water Quality
- Wildlife
- Nesting for birds
- Habitat for minnows and turtles
- Life Source – Meditation, peace of mind, serenity, peace
- Created family togetherness
- Scenery
- Outdoor Entertainment
- Access – boat ramp, snowmobiling
- Grandchildren like to wade in it when water is low
- Hunting
- Water for animals/gardens
- Water for irrigation
- Water for cattle
- Waterfowl hunting
- Economic benefits
- Birding
- History – sharing that with youth
- Education
- Helps in quality of water which helps the lake stay cleaner
- Drainage ensures limited flooding

Question 2: What are we, as a community, doing well when it comes to managing and using the rivers as an asset?

- Working to address problems which will lend itself to make river more of an asset
- Recognizing who is responsible for aspects of making it become an asset
- Across from city docks quiet before island was built – prevents silt from lake
- We let it be used
- It drains lots of problem water
- Use keeps it healthy
- DNR website: re: Shoreline BMP's
- Beavers help (good wildlife)
- Help is available for nuisance beavers
- Clean the banks
- Clean brush out of river
- Habitat for wildlife
- Spring runs of fish
- Navigation
- Commerce
- Tourism
- Campgrounds
- Aesthetics
- Economics
- Shoreline ordinance (City and County)
- Public access (designated and maintained)
- Buffer between farmland and water
- Management of fish, wildlife is okay but could be better
- We have an opportunity to make the river a better asset. Progress is slow. Ongoing studies will help us move in the right direction.
- Maintaining wetlands
- Lots of cattails
- Dredged years ago, last time was up to the casino
- Poor management, poor river safety, more community involvement
- Army Corp of Engineers – Dredging
- Wall deteriorating
- Concerns re: sedimentation of bays on the Warroad River
- Support of local watershed (and it's increasing)
- River operations (docks, fishing)
- Willow River is flooding faster
- Discourage beavers, clean out dams (on Willow River)
- Enforcement/Development of sewage codes
- Allowing use, not over-regulated (compared to down south)

- Not over-managed, benefits wildlife and drainage
- Need for management of beaver where it is a problem
- Need regular management for sediment bars and beaver dam
- Water backs into fields and erodes
- Not flowing correctly by Gary Moyers
- No one is taking responsibility for dams
- NOT an asset – not pretty in town, too many weeds
- Not much

Question 3: What are the partnerships, resources, organizations and programs that should be involved as these studies unfold?

- Better cooperation
- Watershed District
- Citizen groups
- SWCD, NRCS, FSA
- Army Corp of Engineers
- DNR
- Birders
- Local agencies as the lead agency
- County & Townships
- Citizen groups/watersheds should take the lead
- Landowners partner with communities
- Grant for beaver dam removal
- Funding – DU & Pheasants/Grouse (wildlife organizations)
- Lessard Sams grant funding
- MN lottery funding
- Locally lead – keep citizens in the loop
- Less government involvement. Keep it local.
- Water retention – get landowners involved, retain water on state lands and easements
- Local municipalities
- Grants for landowners to clean out beaver dams
- Local municipality (shoreland management and floodplain management)
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Environmental Protection Agency, MN Pollution Control Agency
- DNR & Army Corp of Engineers Floodplain Study
- Sportsman Clubs
- Red Lake Band, Casino
- Resorts
- International Partners
- International Joint Commission

- Youth Education
- CN Railroad
- BWSR, clean water funds, bonding
- NOT EPA, MPCA, DNR, NRCS, STATE or FEDERAL (only county, townships and landowners)
- Everyone should be a part to help hold water back (retention for a while, not permanent)
- Everyone needs to step up and be an owner in this
- Water should be retained on state land (plug ditches)
- Easement buffers along river (NRCS, FSA, WD)

Parting thoughts – comments written down on note cards when asked, “What must be involved in the management plans and not overlooked during these studies”

- SWCD always needs ideas to apply for grants to help solve erosion problems, etc
- Watershed District also has opportunities to apply for grants
- A serious consideration needs to be addresses in terms of plugged waterways. Rivers need to be cleaned to sustain economic activity in the surrounding areas.
- Water retention in Beltrami for Warroad River
- County/State/Townships/Federal purchase land for retention
- Individualized involvement
- As a landowner near (Roseau?) County Ditch #6 – formerly owned land on both sides of the ditch system. When is the river and whatever tributary in that area doing to be cleaned so the ditch system can do its job??? I drowned out (crops) while one to the last had cows relaxing in the shade of the trees in the bottom of the ditch (just east of #35).
- There are several homes along the west branch and the main W’d River and the continual complaint is – “when are they going to clean the river?” That alone would take care of many of the problems with the W’d River. All of this is beyond our jurisdiction. County, state, and federal entities need to work together even if each only does his own share.
- Where there are blocked in river by my place the river should dredge it. The river is washing over on land and it is getting wider and shallower. Many trees have washed out which blocks the flow. Turns in river usually are blocked and debris backs up on property. The west branch could easily be cleaned out so recreation could benefit from it.
- DNR, federal, state, and county – could be contacted and work together. Residents along the river could report what needs improvement.
- Everyone that wants rock in front of their property should have access so the land doesn’t erode. Grants should be available.
- Rules and regulations should be discussed before they are set in stone.
- Drainage ditches deliver water. Directing fertilizers and pesticides to streams and lakes too quickly
- Tile and ditching is becoming too prevalent. Need a permitting process.
- Entrance to Warroad River, Warroad Channel need to be dredged to remain a valuable harbor
- Environmental concerns raise cost to prohibited levels