

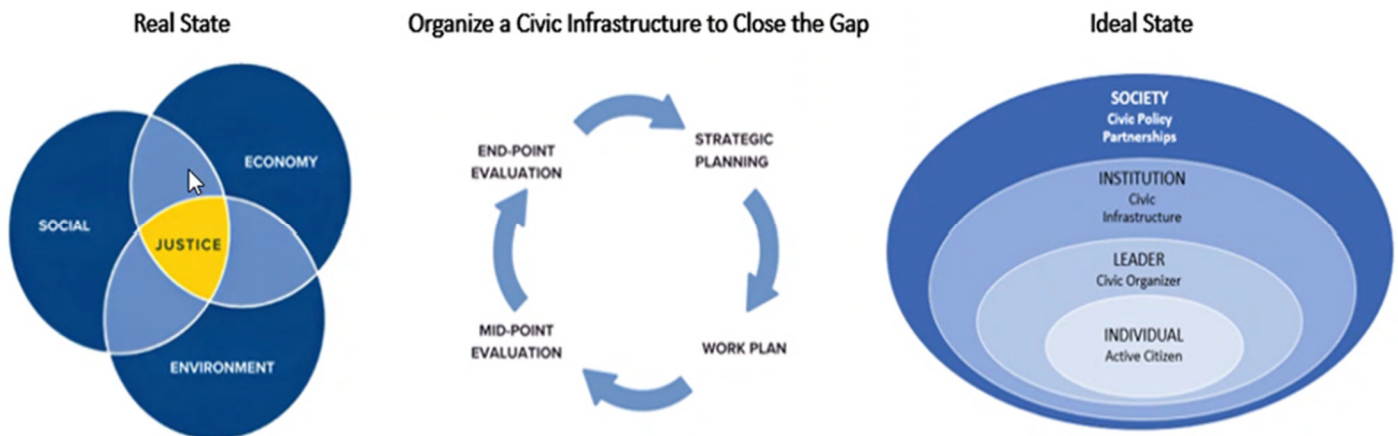
2026 CIVIC STRATEGIC PLAN

PILOT IDENTITY STATEMENT

Mille Lacs SWCD Civic Governance Pilot is applying a Civic Leadership Model for Civic Policy Making to SWCD actions and activities. The desired outcome is a permanent, intergenerational, civic infrastructure that helps develop a base of active citizens with common interest in sustainable soil and water conservation.

PILOT FOCUS

To organize more sustainable partnerships between government and community, by developing and supporting an active role for all citizens in managing soil and water resources, that will ensure soil and water resources can meet the needs and the common good of all citizens.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Civic Leadership Development

Necessary to address the identity statement and pilot focus.

- Staff
- Board
- Partnerships

Program Implementation

These address our statutory role.

- Stormwater
- Groundwater
- Agriculture/Soil Health
- Forests
- Shoreland

Fiscal

Supports the first two priorities rather than drives them.


Civic Leadership Development Strategic Goal:

(REFLECTS THE COMMON GOOD AND WHY THIS WORK MATTERS BEYOND JUST THIS MOMENT.)

Within three years, demonstrate a changed way of partnering that builds greater commitment, better coordination of resources with the community for greater impact, and intentionally support people already interested in sustainable soil and water conservation.

Program Goal:

(PRACTICAL AND “ON THE GROUND”. THE IMMEDIATE NEED WE ARE TRYING TO ADDRESS.)

- Staff See policy 100-02a CG execution “vision” document.
- Board 
100-02a_CG
execution.pdf
- Partnerships Rum Partnership Outreach hour, Ag Tech Team, Facebook page and Newsletter – **measurable/achievable goal TBD**
Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Group – **measurable/achievable goal TBD**
Local Forestry Team – **measurable/achievable goal TBD**
MLSWCD Conservationist Recognition Program – **measurable/achievable goal TBD**
- Civic Partnerships TBD

Program Implementation Strategic Goal:

(REFLECTS THE COMMON GOOD AND WHY THIS WORK MATTERS BEYOND JUST THIS MOMENT.)

Improve water quality and habitat, strengthen community connections, and consider local economic benefits, helping both the organization and the community.

Program Goal:

(PRACTICAL AND “ON THE GROUND”. THE IMMEDIATE NEED WE ARE TRYING TO ADDRESS.)

Need to reference Rum goals for all these

- Stormwater Wetlands – **measurable/achievable goal TBD**
Urban runoff – **measurable/achievable goal TBD**
- Groundwater Drinking water well testing (ML Lake) – **measurable/achievable goal TBD**
Well sealing – **measurable/achievable goal TBD**
Increase awareness of surface/groundwater interactions – **measurable/achievable goal TBD** (groundwater workshops)
- Ag/Soil Health Structural: 3 projects, ~641lbs N/yr nutrient reduction, progress toward Rum and Snake comp plan goal, Hoffman’s are well known in the community (rapport)
Non-Structural: 200 acres of ag practice ~427lbs N/yr reduction, continue building rapport
MAWQCP: 3 farms certified

Building connections (inter-agency, between farmers): 1 project each in partnership with NRCS and MDA.

Ditches/buffers (problem solving, negotiating solutions): Complete required ditch and buffer inspections for the year. Build connections and solve issues as they arise.

CAI (problem solving, negotiating solutions): Regular weed updates and build interest with public works and weed managers.

- Forests
 - Woodland Stewardship Plans for water quality – measurable/achievable goal TBD
 - Cost share for tree planting (DNR would do the technical work) – measurable/achievable goal TBD
 - Partner w/DNR on programs – measurable/achievable goal TBD
 - Invasive species management planning (Rum comp plan goal)
 - Increase tree planting (tree sale/planter) – measurable/achievable goal TBD
- Shoreland
 - Protection of target waters: Mille Lacs Lake, Rum mainstem – measurable/achievable goal TBD
 - Restoration of target waters: West Branch Rum, Bogus Brook.... – measurable/achievable goal TBD
 - Outreach, respond to requests, find out what is at stake for them, bring people together around solution strategies, provide DIY guidance and financial assistance when necessary – measurable/achievable goal TBD
 - “Natural Shoreline” community conversations - – measurable/achievable goal TBD

Fiscal Strategic Goal:

(REFLECTS THE COMMON GOOD AND WHY THIS WORK MATTERS BEYOND JUST THIS MOMENT.)

Improve water quality and habitat, strengthen community connections, and consider local economic benefits, helping both the organization and the community.

Program Goal:

(PRACTICAL AND “ON THE GROUND”. THE IMMEDIATE NEED WE ARE TRYING TO ADDRESS.)

Evaluate investment of public funds relative to social, economic and environmental outcomes.