Metropolitan Council Environmental Services

Info Item 1: Turbidity and Phosphorus Permit Issues for Metro Area Waters

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A Clean Water Agency



Background



Phosphorus and suspended solids impact aquatic habitat

- Metro area waters
 - waler5
- Lake Pepin
- Gulf of Mexico



Restoration Tools

Point source control

- Through wastewater permits
- Through MS4 permits
- Nonpoint source control — Voluntary actions





Wastewater Permitting Issues



Point sources minor phosphorus contributor compared to nonpoint sources at normal flow conditions

MCES facilities achieved practical limit for phosphorus

Extreme cost for additional treatment



MS4 Permitting Issues



- MS4s facing tighter restrictions
- Very high added cost to further remove phosphorus



Current Situation







- Phosphorus and solids impact water resources
- Balance of nonpoint and point source reductions
- Solutions are costly
- Need to work together to solve







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