

LAKES AND ZONING SEMINAR

SURVEY RESULTS

City of Lake Crystal, City of Madison Lake and Blue Earth County

Elected and Appointed Officials

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

Background

A seminar on lakes and shoreland zoning was held at the Country Inn and Suites in Mankato on May 9, 2017. The seminar focused on the connection between shoreland management, lake water quality, fisheries and aquatic life in the Middle Minnesota River watershed lakes. Local government elected and appointed officials and staff from Blue Earth County, the City of Madison Lake, and the City of Lake Crystal were invited to the seminar. Five lake associations from lakes in the Middle Minnesota River Watershed were also invited to the meeting.

The meeting featured presentations from Craig Soupir, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Manager of Waterville Fisheries, Gary Bennett, DNR Hydrologist in the Middle Minnesota watershed, and Bryan Spindler, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency manager for the Middle Minnesota watershed project.

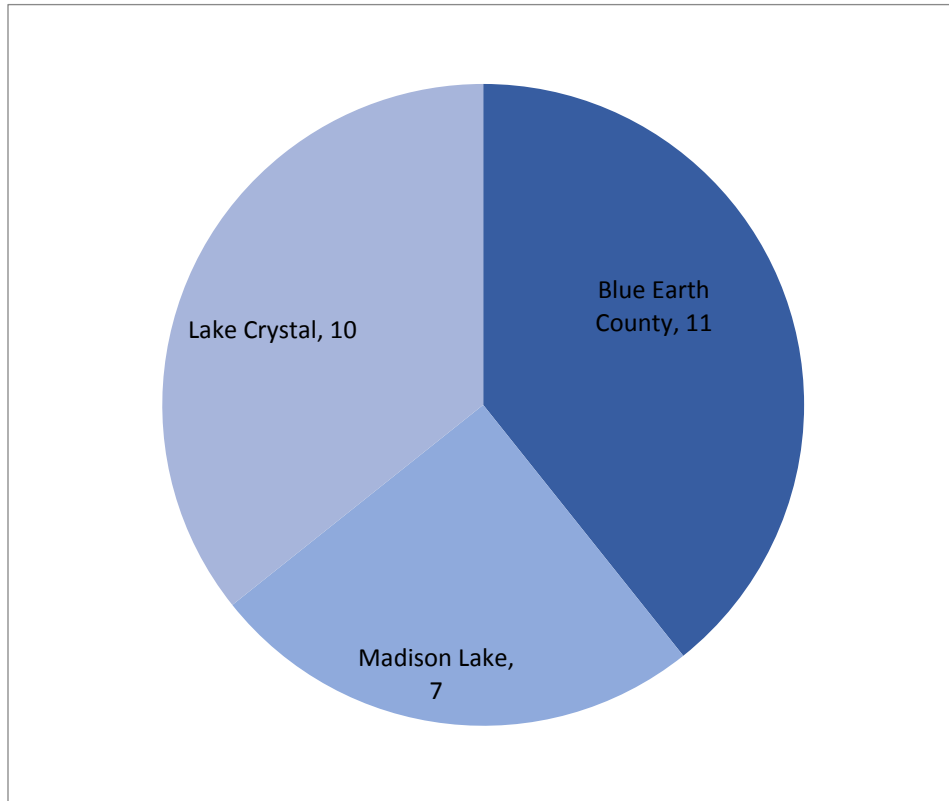
After the presentations, a written survey was distributed to attendees to learn more about their opinions on the benefits of the various strategies affecting lakes and water quality.

There was good representation at the meeting. Of the 46 local officials invited, 40 attended. Of the 50 lake association members invited, ten attended. A total of 28 surveys were completed by representatives of the following lakes and jurisdictions:

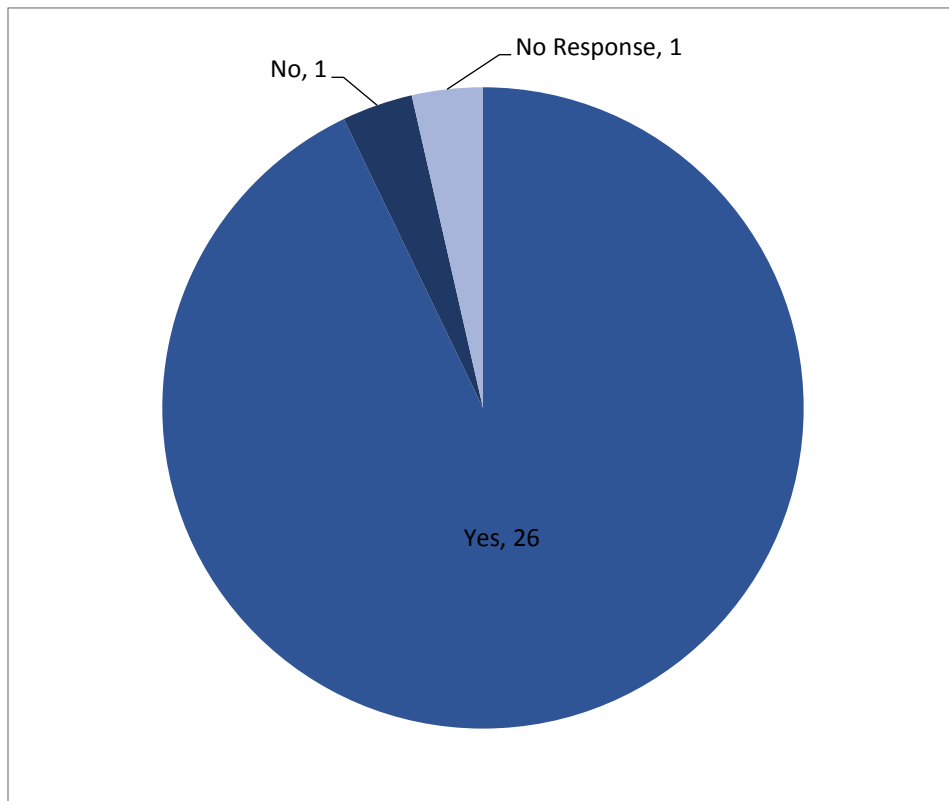
- Blue Earth County, all lakes - 11 surveys completed
- City of Lake Crystal, Lake Crystal, Loon and Mills - 10 Surveys completed
- City of Madison Lake, Ballantyne, Duck and Madison - 7 Surveys completed

The charts on the following pages display the responses to the written survey. An example survey is at the end of this report.

Which jurisdiction do you represent?

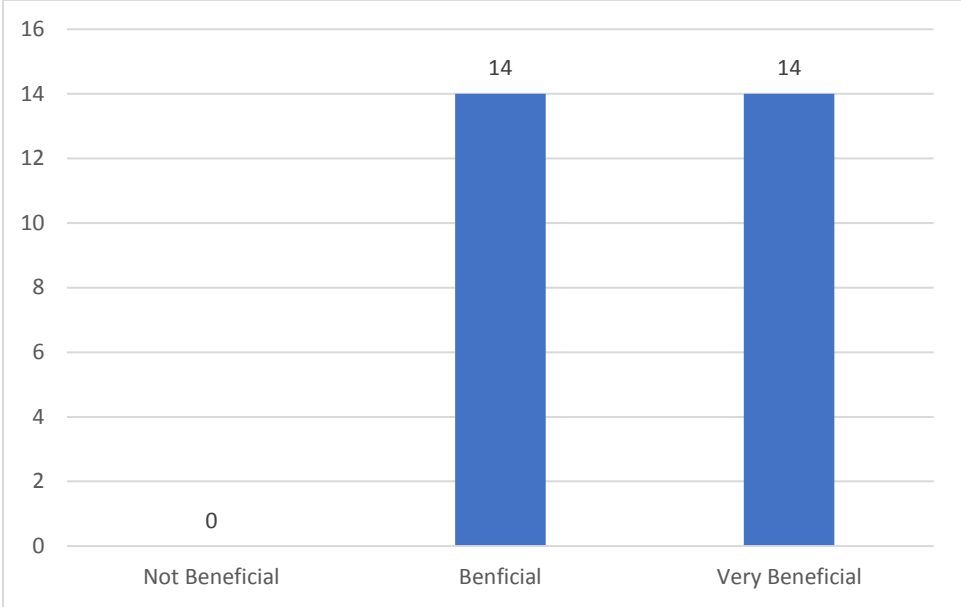


Do you think your city/county has a role in protecting your lake water quality?

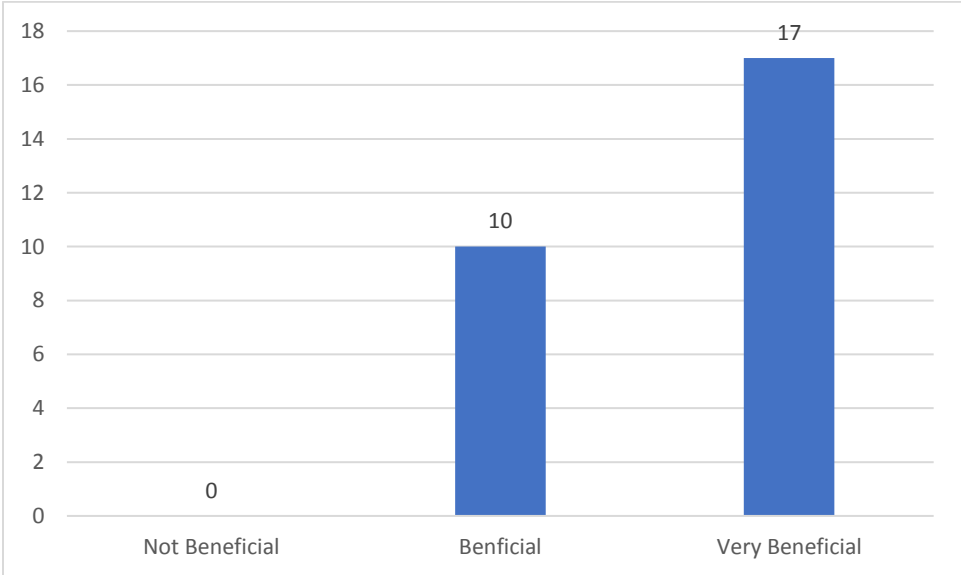


How beneficial are the following strategies are to lake water quality and the lake in general:

Managing Construction Site Water Runoff

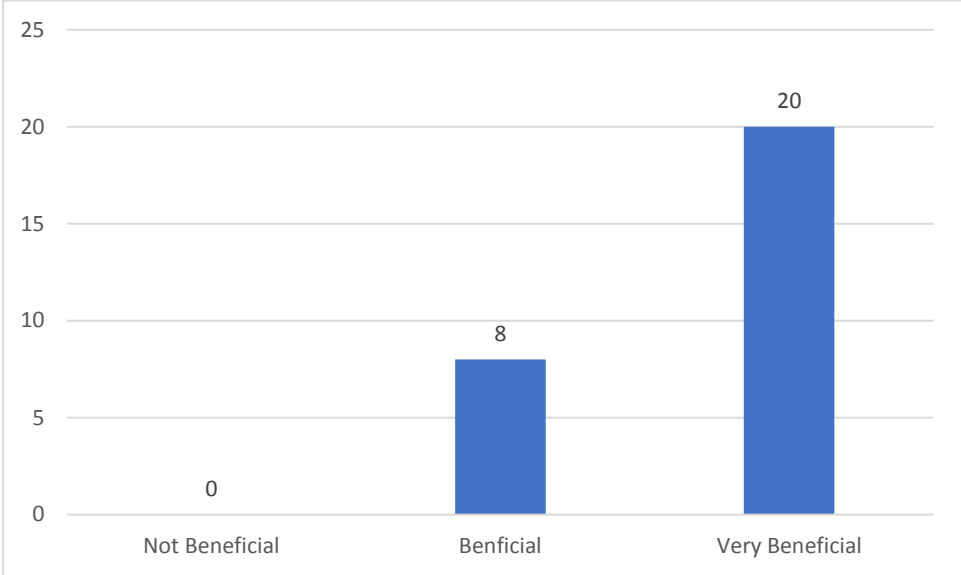


Managing Stormwater Runoff from Existing Development

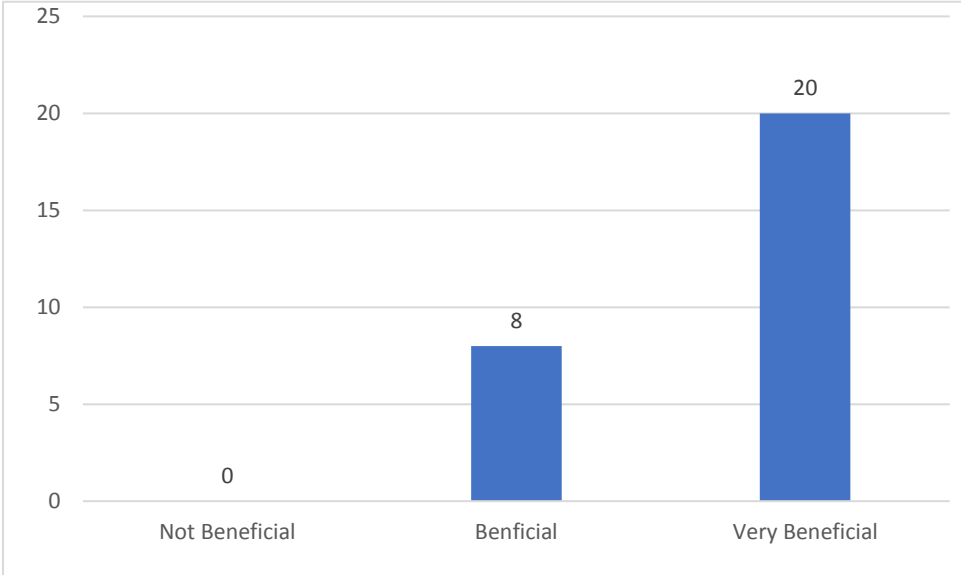


How beneficial are the following strategies are to lake water quality and the lake in general:

Managing Stormwater Runoff from New Development

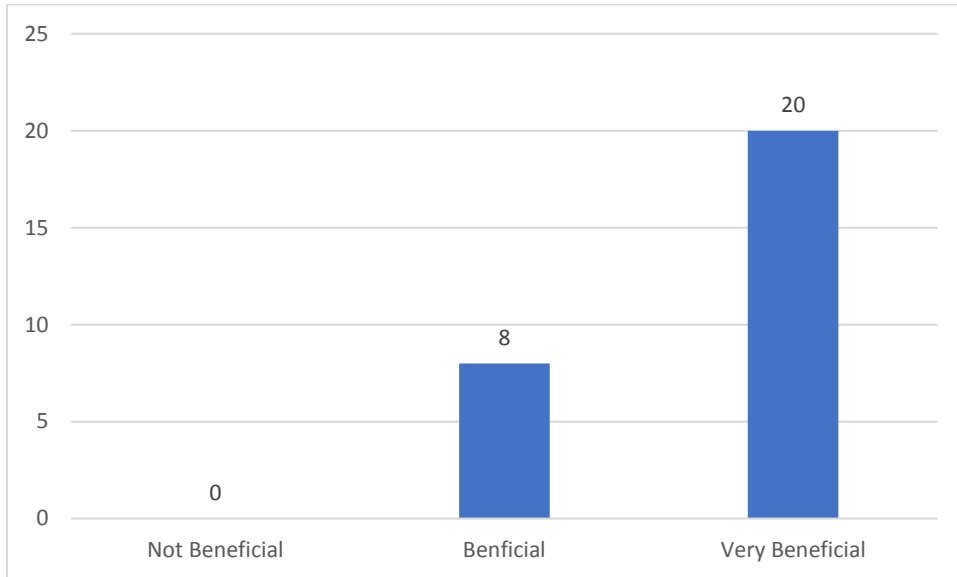


Restoring Vegetation in And Near the Lakeshore

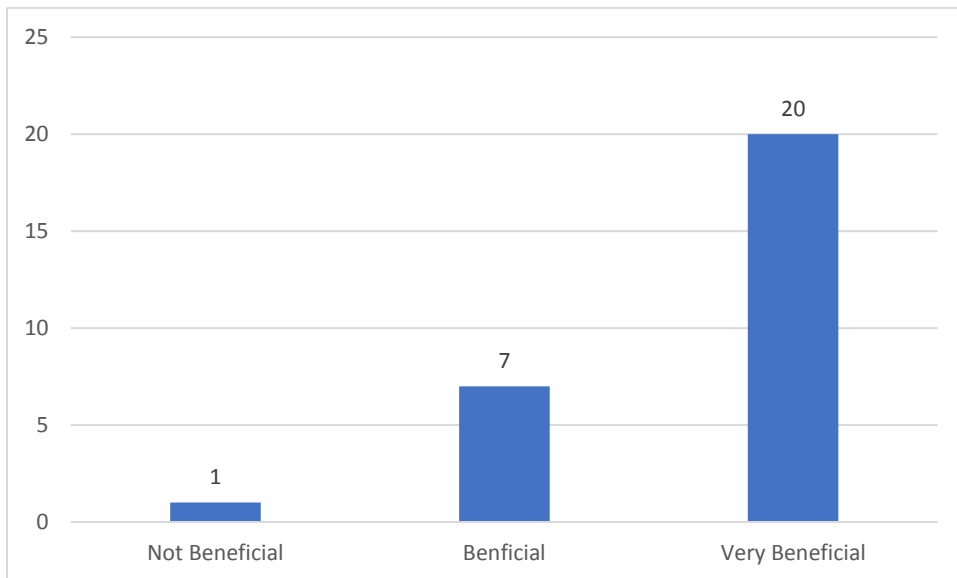


How beneficial are the following strategies are to lake water quality and the lake in general:

Protecting Vegetation on Steep Slopes

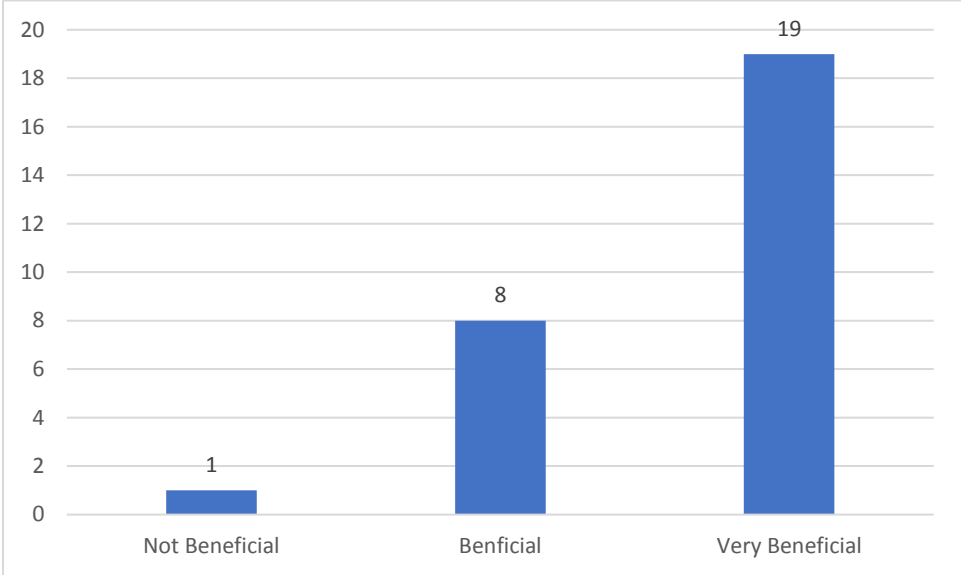


Stabilizing Shorelines

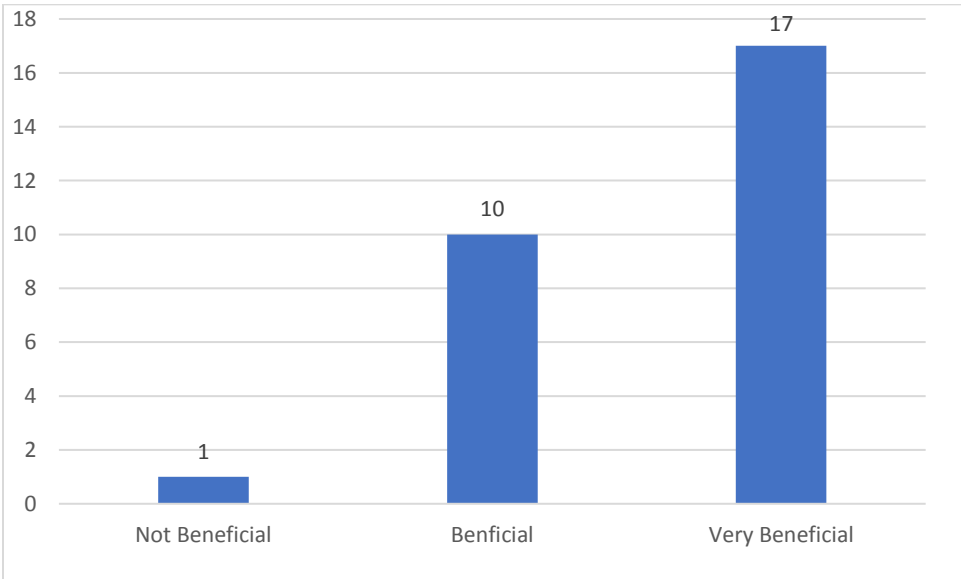


How beneficial are the following strategies are to lake water quality and the lake in general:

Protecting Existing Wetlands

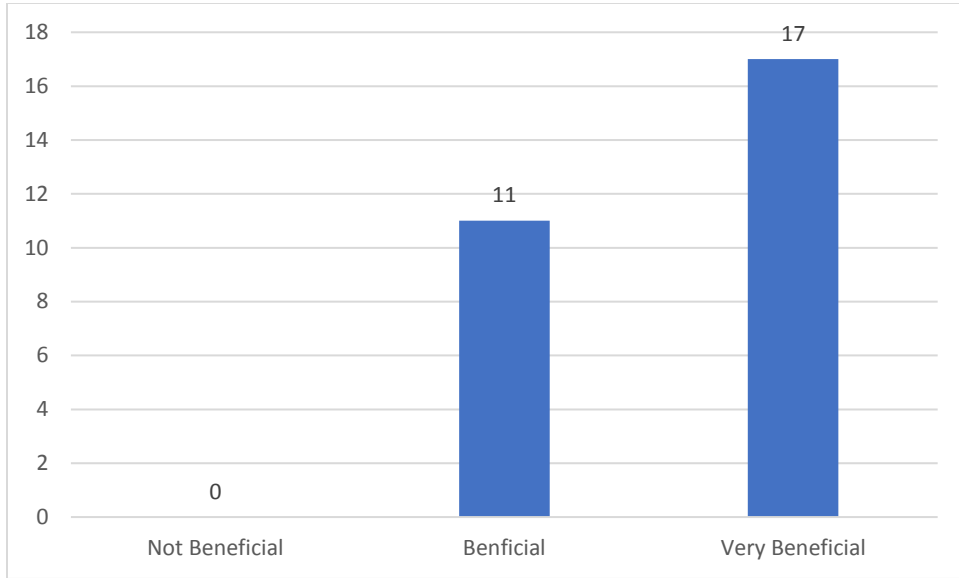


Restoring Wetlands Near or in the Lake Watershed

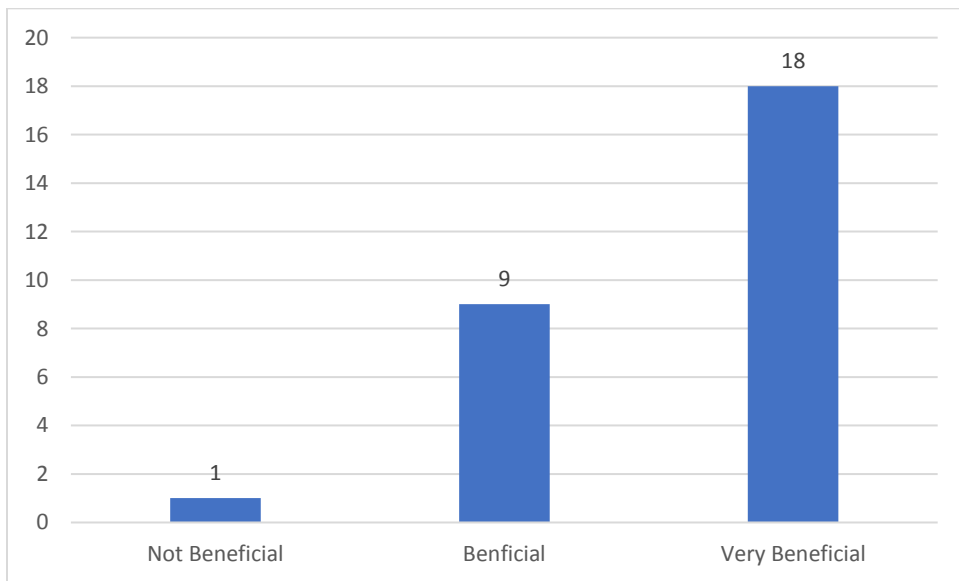


How beneficial are the following strategies to lake water quality and the lake in general:

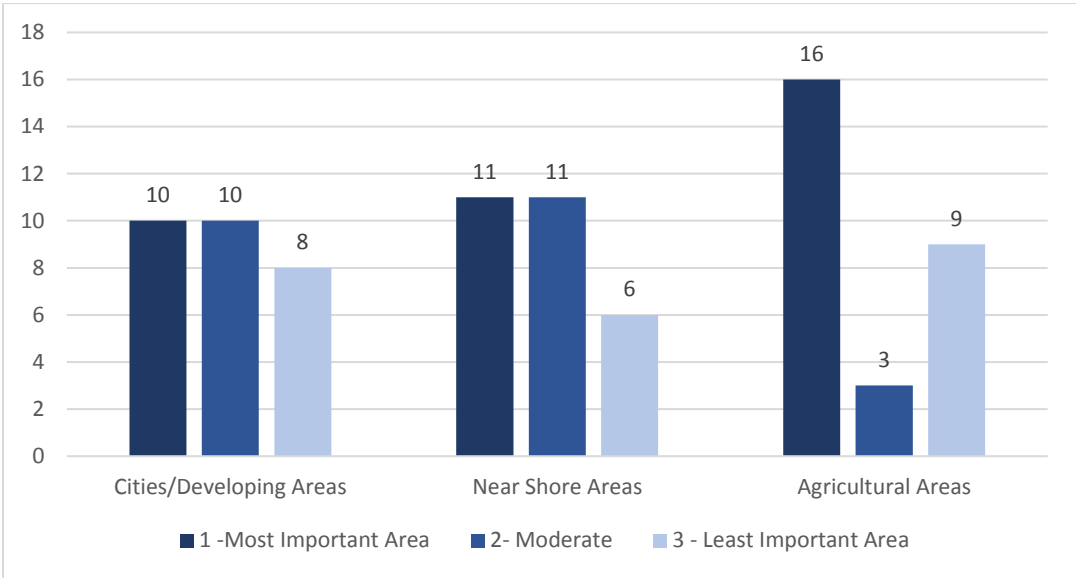
Enforcing Shoreland Regulations



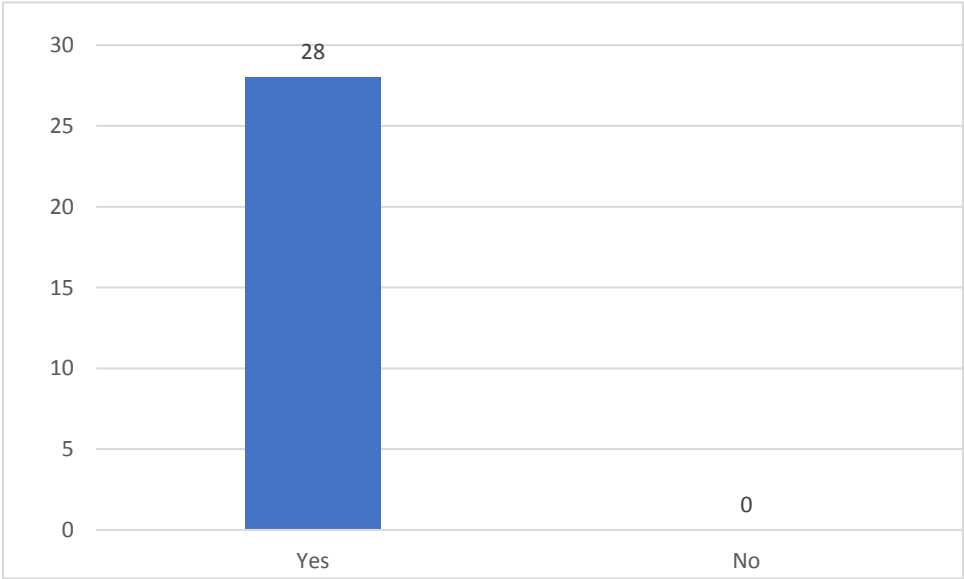
Educating Citizens About Lake Watersheds



Please rank from 1 to 3 the areas where you think efforts to protect lakes should be focused with 1 being the most important:



Did you find this seminar helpful?



Written Comments Summary

In the space below and on the back list any other strategies that you think may be beneficial for lakes:

- “Need more local enforcement, education, and local officials involved with permitting, and to do surveying of current conditions of shorelands. Let's do river education, bluff erosion, H2O earth charging, & erosive conditions also related to river recreation. Why can't we do river shore cleanup. There's so many dead trees falling into the river. Let's cut down shore area trees and plant more riparian grasses, bushes, etc. - not these huge willows, etc.”
- “Education of the public is essential in getting better results. Anyone applying for a building permit on a river or lake should see a DNR presentation. Slides on a website - good idea!”
- “I think educating residents of the shoreland & shoreland impact zones as well as ag. Producers are the key to making improvements across a broad spectrum of water issues. I would propose creating a shoreland property owners certification program. Implementation could be achieved through a series of online educational courses with session quizzes to establish competency with land use standards. This program could maximize participation (voluntary) through property tax reductions as incentives upon certification. This could be modeled similarly to the over "55" Drivers Education (refresher classes) to obtain discounts on auto insurance. A pilot program could be implemented at county level.”
- “1) Quick contact list on anything shoreline related. 2) Mandatory review of local building/land use permits - one week review permit. Note: I love local control, but this is an area in which local decision makers have little expertise and knowledge. Furthermore, local government is not recognized as an authority on this issue.”
- “Would like a meeting to help City establish more effective shoreline ordinance with enforcement.”
- “1) Funding and assistance to cities to design/redesign adequate stormwater systems. 2) County drainage systems should address creating wetlands in system before it enters a public water.”
- “Holding ponds, before run-off enters lakes.”
- “Pick a lake. Then inventory properties that are good, fair, poor and bad. Protect through education and acknowledging the good. Improve the others with education and guidance.”
- “Neighborhood meeting with landowners.”
- “Run off, preserve/add natural vegetation.”

Are there specific topics or areas related to tonight's topics on which you would like to learn more about (like stormwater, fisheries, shoreland rules, water quality results)?

- Stormwater, shoreland rules

- 1) Demonstrations held during our Lake Days events. 2) Funding opportunities. 3) Partnering on grants.

- Stormwater management

- 1) Milfoil 2) Educate owners, cities.

Lake Restoration and Protection Strategies – May 9, 2017 Survey

Please circle the jurisdiction or lakes you represent:

1. City of Lake Crystal - Crystal Waters Project, Crystal-Loon Recreation Association
2. City of Madison Lake – Ballantyne Lake Association, Duck Lake Preservation Association and Madison Lake Association
3. Blue Earth County – all lakes

Do you think your city/county has a role in protecting your lake water quality?

Yes No Not Sure

Please circle the value representing your opinion on how beneficial the following strategies are to lake water quality and the lake in general:

Strategy	Not Beneficial	Beneficial	Very Beneficial
Managing Construction Site Water Runoff	1	2	3
Managing Stormwater Runoff From Existing Development	1	2	3
Managing Stormwater Runoff From New Development	1	2	3
Restoring Vegetation In And Near The Lakeshore	1	2	3
Protecting Vegetation On Steep Slopes	1	2	3
Stabilizing Shorelines	1	2	3
Protecting Existing Wetlands	1	2	3
Restoring Wetlands Near Or In The Lake Watershed	1	2	3
Enforcing Shoreland Regulations	1	2	3
Educating Citizens About Lake Watersheds	1	2	3

Please rank from 1 to 3 the areas where you think efforts to protect lakes should be focused with 1 being the most important:

Cities/Developing Areas _____ Near-Shore Areas _____ Agricultural Areas _____

Did you find this seminar helpful?

Yes No Not Sure

In the space below and on the back list any other strategies that you think may be beneficial for lakes.

Are there specific topics or areas related to tonight's topics on which you would like to learn more about (like stormwater, fisheries, shoreland rules, water quality results)?