

Charge to the Water Policy Study Committee

Water is a fluid resource, flowing across multiple jurisdictions and used by people for everything from drinking to manufacturing. Yet our approach to managing this vital resource is fragmented and disconnected from the ways that people think about and use water. There is no comprehensive approach to water policy in Minnesota. Consequently, our tendency is to react to water-related problems after they have been identified with restrictions and mandates, which often meet resistance from water users.

In order to effectively manage our water resources **today and for future generations**, the Citizens League Water Policy Study Committee is charged with answering the following questions:

1. What are the appropriate roles and responsibilities of the **various units of government that manage water in Minnesota, communities, businesses, nonprofits, and individuals?**
2. Based on these findings:
 - a. What changes should be made to our system of water governance?
 - b. What core principles should guide collaborative water use and management in Minnesota?

To answer these questions, the committee will examine policy challenges in the areas of water supply/sustainability and nonpoint source pollution. The committee will not attempt to make recommendations to manage these challenges; rather, it will use them as case studies to illuminate the ways in which water governance must be improved.