Minnesota Department of Health

# Source Water Protection Story Template & SWP Award Nomination Form

source water protection (sWP) unit

## Why stories?

Stories can help us communicate effectively about the work we are doing and its local impact. Storytelling is a powerful tool that conveys information in a more memorable, relevant, and accessible way to our audience.

We use these stories to show the impact of our work when communicating with policymakers, legislators, and other state and local partners. They are helpful for our various Clean Water Fund reporting.

These stories could be activities related to plan implementation, surface water planning, Groundwater and Restoration Protection Strategies, or climate resiliency, for example. They do not need to be ‘success stories’ – they could simply be anecdotes or examples that show the impact of SWP implementation.

As you develop your SWP story, keep in mind the *audience* – informed but not technical – and the *take-aways* you want the audience to have. If you need assistance, reach out to a Communicator for guidance.

## What are the SWP Awards?

Every year the Minnesota Department of Health and Minnesota Rural Water Association jointly recognize public water systems that have made a significant difference or contribution in the field of Source Water Protection. The winner and finalists are recognized each year at the Minnesota Rural Water Association Conference in March and are presented a certificate in their hometowns.

Complete this form to nominate a public water supply system for excellence in protecting their source of drinking water. Nominees must have an approved source water protection plan or be working cooperatively with those who have an approved source water protection plan to be eligible for an award.

## Basic Information

**Please download a copy of this template and save this completed form in O:\DwpSwp\PLANNERS\SWP Stories at least a day before the Planner meeting**. **If this is a SWP Award nomination, please send to health.drinkingwater@state.mn.us.**

1. Are you submitting this form for a SWP story, SWP award, or both?
2. Your name:
   1. Your phone number/email:
3. Public water system name and PWSID:
   1. SWP Awards nominee contact first & last name:
   2. SWP Awards nominee contact phone number/email:
4. What is the name of the Watershed in [1 Watershed, 1 Plan](https://bwsr.state.mn.us/one-watershed-one-plan-participating-watersheds) and what is the DWSMA vulnerability?
5. Funding source(s) of activity  
   *(E.g. SWP Grant, Accelerated Implementation Grant, Drinking Water Subgrant, BWSR grant, CWF program, Farm Bill or NRCS funding, local government or PWS funding, etc.)*
6. Location of photo(s) or image(s):   
   *Save in a new folder in O:\DwpSwp\PLANNERS\SWP Stories along with this form, or paste photos below.*  
   *If there are any identifiable people in the photos, have them sign the* [*photograph, video and audio release form*](https://mn365.sharepoint.com/teams/MDH/permanent/pp/Forms%202/Photograph%20Video%20and%20Audio%20Release%20Form%20Fillable.pdf) *and save it in the same folder*

## Questions

Please answer the following questions (be specific!):

* **Basics of the problem**  
  *What* was the problem? *Where/when* did it take place? *Who* was involved or affected?
* **SWP staff action or role**  
  *How* did SWP staff help? *E.g.* consulted, gave recommendations, analyzed the situation, provided assistance or resources, etc.
* **Interagency Collaboration**

*Which* agencies were involved? How did they collaborate?

* **Describe the action/solution***What* did the people involved do?
* **Describe the initiative**

*What* extra effort was undertaken to achieve drinking water protection?

* **Description of impact**  
  *What* was the outcome? Were there any unexpected/multiple benefits? *E.g*. the raingarden treated stormwater in a vulnerable DWSMA while providing pollinator habitat, etc.
* **Health equity**Is there a link to health equity? *E.g.* small public water system, community below median household income level, particular health risks, private wells, environmental justice issues. You can also look up local demographic information using the following tools:
  1. [U.S. Census QuickFacts](https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/) –search for demographics of city, county, or other local unit with population over 5,000
  2. [CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/index.html) – composite index of [social vulnerability](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/fact_sheet/fact_sheet.html), available on the interactive map linked on the page
  3. [CDC/ATSDR Environmental Justice Index](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/eji/index.html#:~:text=The%20Environmental%20Justice%20Index%20uses,health%20for%20every%20census%20tract.) - index of environmental, social, and health factors available on their interactive map
  4. [EPA EJScreen](https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen) – environmental justice screening and mapping tool for public health and the environment
* **Conclusion**  
  *How* did the action contribute to protection of drinking water and/or public health? This can also include future plans or expected outcomes. Quotes are always helpful.
* **Is there anything else you would like to add?**

**Thank you for taking the time to share your story! This helps us recognize and share   
the impactful work that you and our partners do to protect drinking water every day.**

Minnesota Department of Health  
PO Box 64975  
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975  
651-201-4700  
[health.drinkingwater@state.mn.us](mailto:health.drinkingwater@state.mn.us)  
[www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us/)

11/2024

To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-4700. Printed on recycled paper.