

Minnesota DIVISION - THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

- To strive for the purity of water, the clarity of air, and the wise stewardship of the land and its resources;
- To know the beauty and understanding of nature and value of wildlife, woodlands and open space;
- To the preservation of this heritage and to our sharing in it;

I pledge myself as a member of the Izaak Walton League of America.

Mission Statement: *“To conserve, maintain, protect and restore the soil, forest, water and other natural resources of the United States and other lands; to promote the means and opportunities for the education of the public with respect to such resources and their enjoyment and wholesome utilization.”*



Minnesota Environment and Energy Report Card

If our environment is to be a true reflection of our values, we must regularly assess its quality, prioritize our efforts and measure our progress. The Environment and Energy Report Card is an important step in that direction.



Water, Land, Air, Energy and Climate

It is our shared responsibility to be good stewards of Minnesota's natural resources; Consequently we must ask and answer: "What is my role?"



Water for drinking, fishing and swimming

- How will we meet the increasing demands for water as population rises and water-intensive industry continues to develop?
- How will we manage and use our precious groundwater supplies?
- How will we address the non-point sources of water pollution from farmlands and urban areas that contribute to our many impaired waters?
- Which water-quality issues deserve our highest priorities for research, funding and action?
- As climate change increases the frequency and severity of heavy rains, how will farms and cities deal with the storm —runoff?
- How will we adapt to the challenges of warmer water temperatures and their effects on lakes, rivers and streams?



Land for business, production, recreation and wildlife

Managing our cropland, wetlands and native prairies, forests, wildlife, communities, minerals and mines.



- How should we offset the loss of conservation lands once in land retirement programs?
- How can we protect and enhance tree cover in our cities and towns?
- How can we increase Minnesota's recycling rate?
- How should we be preparing to adapt to changes on our land brought about by climate change?

Clean Water Act 1972

Goal: "to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of our nation's waters."

Leverages a strong federal-state partnership: Federal government sets standards; states assume responsibility for implementing and enforcing those standards; Sets enforceable water quality standards, establishes a system to regulate pollution and fund sewage treatment infrastructure.



Weakening the Clean Water Act

1987: approved amendments to Clean Water Act to address nonpoint-source pollution from farms, factories and city streets. Also, it initiated comprehensive watershed programs to clean up the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay, **but the amendments largely exempt oil and gas exploration, production and processing.**

2001: Supreme Court **limited the scope of the CWA** and created uncertainty and confusion with regard to **geographically-isolated waters** such as prairie potholes based only on their use by migratory birds in the SWANCC decision (Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County).

2005: Congress expands the **oil and gas industry's exemptions to the CWA.**

2006: *Rapanos v US*: definition of "**waters of the United States**" went from confusing to absurd; decision split court into 3 different camps and yielded 5 different opinions. **The term "navigable" was given more weight than Congress had intended.**



Safe Drinking Water Act 1974

Protects the quality of drinking water and regulates the injection of waste into underground areas.



1995 Carol Browner, head of the E.P.A., writes that hydraulic fracturing is not regulated by the part of the law that pertains to the “underground injection” of waste.

1997 A federal court rules that hydraulic fracturing constitutes “underground injection” and falls under the regulation.

2004 An E.P.A. study focused on coalbed methane concludes that the injection of hydraulic fracturing fluids into underground wells does not present a threat to drinking water. An E.P.A. whistleblower later charges that the study’s conclusions were unsupported and that some members of the study’s peer review panel had conflicts of interest.

2005 Congress exempts hydraulic fracturing from regulation under the act unless diesel is used.