

State of Minnesota Water Reuse Phase 2

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After a long pause due to COVID response activities, state work on developing a path forward for promoting safe and sustainable water reuse is resuming. Over the last year a group of high-level leaders from MPCA, DNR, Met Council, DLI (Labor and Industry) and MDH met to design a process for prioritizing and implementing the recommendations from the first phase of water reuse. Phase One resulted in a [2018 report with eight recommendations](#). One recommendation was fulfilled by an MDH white paper on risk management options to protect public health in stormwater capture and reuse applications. That paper is available, along with the Phase One report, on MDH's website.

The Phase Two process to work on the remaining seven recommendations is being facilitated by a third-party contractor, Emmons and Olivier Resources, and began in September. The process includes a Steering Team with members from state agencies and stakeholders, a core engagement group of about 20 members, and two open meetings to solicit feedback more broadly. The core engagement group consists of representatives from local governments, designers, academia, and state agency staff. The role of this group will be to provide input and recommendations to the Steering Team on statewide guidance or policy on stormwater capture and use systems that ensure projects protect the public's health, environment, and eco-systems; balance risks and benefits; support water sustainability; are feasible; and reflect the realities of the industry. The recommendations from this process will then be submitted to the various agency Executive Offices for their review and further action. The process is expected to take about 10 months.