

2024 Strategic Planning Public Survey

What is your big, bold idea for protecting or enhancing Minnesota's environment, natural resources, and outdoor recreation?

Responses: 1,206

- Planting more trees for carbon sequestration. Also good for habitat, water quality, recreation.
- Creating a more circular system that not only helps individuals be accountable but also corporations and large entities.
- Funds should focus on durable outcomes that provide resilient and sustainable natural environments
- Removing salts from wastewater to prevent the "salting" of lakes and rivers.
- Prevent spread of new and existing Aquatic invasive species to protect our waters from the damaging impacts on our lakes and rivers, recreation and our economies of local communities that depend upon healthy waters for jobs and future generations.
- Restore the MPCA citizen board. Incentivize farm use of environmentally friendly products, processes and habitats.
- Government entities in general need to prioritize better managing the land they already control. It is shocking to me how few of these entities have management plans in place, or have the staff to do this work properly.
- Youth engagement on a large scale
- Fix the cease to address nonpoint source pollution
- Expand MCCC participation across all age groups.
- I think engaging more people in outdoor recreation will have the biggest long-term impact. Anything to recruit and retain natural resources user groups is great.
- Develop a plan to determine the best way to break up the DNR into standalone agencies so that one agency's mission doesn't require it to maximize revenue from natural resources and at the same time protect those resources. The agency's mission is an inherent conflict of interest that doesn't prioritize protecting and enhancing Minnesota's environment, natural resources and outdoor recreation.
- Every Minnesota kid gets an outdoor experience at every grade level
- Native Vegetation restoration establishment and ongoing maintenance and management of open spaces/public spaces.
- Team up with the utility companies so recycle rain and snow water and to have a better system of collecting as a mandatory vessel on each residential and commercial property to collect the water from the utility companies as a program of the city working with the utility companies.
- EHAP, Ecosystem Health Action Plan. No one environmental factor is most important. We need to look at solutions as a whole.
- More state land buy all tax forfeit land and make it available to citizens for recreation, hunting, etc. More CO's to enforce existing laws.
- Ban all plastics - Create native/natural landscapes
- Provide the UMN Remote Sensing realm the funds to get the data from the satellites to the application online so we can see the lakes that need help. This would increase the capacity for healthy lakes in MN. And be able to tie in the remote sensing of the forests, rivers, beaver dams blocking rivers / streams, all the things that lead to healthy lakes and a watershed approach

- Stop building unnecessary office buildings, so many sit vacant, and keep more green space, plant trees to help combat climate change. Protect lakes, land, wildlife, aquatic life from pollution and dangerous farm runoff. Everything we do matters, our main focus needs to be protecting the environment not the greed that is associated with “how much money can we make from exploiting outdoor recreation.”
- prairieland habitat
- Invest in research supporting the development of critical mineral resources that can support the green energy transition without needing to source metals from countries with poor environmental regulations. Let our strong environmental regulations make this the ideal place to consider producing critical minerals.
- Incentivize Agricultural stakeholders to diversify their crops to include more organic and various crops instead of the three crop rotation that's been done for years. Incentivize more buffer zones around their fields and farms and smaller, more diverse farms.
- Create/increase public demand for protecting and enhancing MN's environment, natural resources and outdoor recreation by increasing Minnesota place-based Environmental Literacy across all K-12 School programs.
- Permanently protect land and water from extractive and destructive commercial interests. Require mining and other companies to prove that they won't damage the environment and pollute the water before being allowed to proceed.
- Ban single-use plastics at public events and use LCCMR funds to assist communities with the transition to reusable and/or certified compostable products.
- Remonument all the Public Land Survey System Section corners in the state. These corners are the foundation for everything in Minnesota.
- Redesign compost/organics bins to increase capture and expand organics to Biochar as a resource
- Establish more new State Parks
- Punish those who knowingly and willingly transport invasive species to water bodies.
- Create more activities for kids to understand and interact with nature in order to continue to work on Minnesota's environment for future generations.
- Work with Native tribes to restore natural ecosystems using tribal customs
- Conservation easements that create habitat corridors. ATV trails.
- Buying land to protect the animals and environment to preserve it
 1. Buying land where oil pipelines are being built/rerouted and refusing to let them build the pipeline
 2. Building electric transmission lines along highways
 3. More pollinator habitat/milkweed along highways/roadsides!!!
- I don't have one; not a practical one. I would have us working globally on mad scientist-type approaches to cooling down the planet.
- Education and exposure, starting with children and young adults. Helping others understand consequences of impact, with a goal of giving appreciation for a healthy environment and properly managed resources.
- The government should stay active in global environment issues such as global warming and carbon emissions.

- Capturing CO2 to reduce global warming as the first step. Then, using the CO2 to regenerate useful industrial resources.
- Political powers need to take degradation of our natural resources more seriously. You can't get back what disappears.
- Eliminate carbon dioxide emissions
- Land protection especially prairie ecosystems.
- Acquire land and leave it alone. Keep it pristine and not impervious surface. Stop over development!
- Focus on our basic needs resources - fertile land, clean water, healthy air - for all
- Partner with the top landowners in the state to implement small, impactful, incremental changes.
- Find and tax or fine the causes (for example tax plastic use and subsidize the use of reusable bags or aluminum cans, more enforcements for fines for polluting or littering)
- 3-day Outdoor camps as part of a school's curriculum for all students.
- Allowing citizens to remove traditional lawns in favor of native plants. This would encourage water conservation, increase honey bee and bird populations, and decrease the amount of fertilizers washing into the storm sewers.
- Big campaign to reduce the use of deicing salt - chloride is a permanent pollutant to our fresh water and is of top concern!
- (Eliminate factory farms - but that should not come from these funds.)
Outdoor experiences totaling 180 hours (average 30 hours from grades 6-12) should be part of required curriculum to graduate. Can be an organized school event to Wolf Ridge, for example, outdoor camp experiences, working or volunteering in outdoor activities, such as playgrounds, river clean up activities, etc. Something that requires direct time outdoors.
- Preserve natural land areas throughout MN/ Dakota Co.
- Use more of the money on the actual projects themselves, and less on planning, studies, on bureaucracy.
- Stop the developers from buying up and developing all the land!
- Spend less time and money studying, planning and other bureaucratic stuff. Utilize the information that has been gathered previously and actually DO Something that makes a difference! Get kids and young adults, especially inner city, out into our natural spaces helping, learning, caring and building relationships with nature and the health of our planet/future. Do diversion projects/programs with the juvenile justice system to have offenders directed to these projects rather than simply released.
- Create a culture of care and protection in all Minnesotans, that we are all responsible for and part of nature.
- Continue and or add monitoring to assess changes in the environment. This includes establishing baselines and show the benefits of specific in ground projects. Look to purchasing additional land to increase access to lakes/wetlands and land for hunting/hiking etc.
- Remove Motor vehicles
- Eliminate the spread of invasive water plants and animals by only allowing a designated fleet of boats on lakes that are not already infected w/ invasive species. People would rent a boat from the fleet if they want to fish or recreate on that lake or river.
- Continue research to help preserve the lakes we have, and develop eco-friendly treatments to restore lakes, rivers, and land.

- Make industry, municipalities, agriculture and individuals responsible for their pollution and the clean-up. Actually enforce regulations that currently exist and DO NOT PERMIT mining anywhere near communities or the Boundary Waters and their watersheds.
- Good forestry practices including the appropriate silvicultural practices. Improvement of riparian area where needed to enhance our water quality. Take care of habitat and the critters will do well.
- It may be relatively simple, but I think that simply acquiring more lands to be conserved for wildlife would be of great benefit to the people of MN
- We need to protect 30% of Nature by 2030 per Montreal Treaty. 1 protect existing biomes & make them contiguous for migration. 2 Plant trees along ebike routes & 3 pocket parks within 5 min walk of city homes for urban cooling
- Invest in regional waste management plans like the Canyon landfill
- Turn off the lights, Encourage darker skies and minimize all night lighting
- Hands-on education focused on scarcity and value of drinking water, and how personal responsibility can help to protect and preserve that resource.
- We live adjacent to a pristine 440-acre bog (type 8 wetland). It is School District Trust Land, Parcel 16, in Isle Harbor Township, just East of Wahkon. The water from this bog is part of the Mille Lacs/Rum River and Knife River Watersheds. This ancient treasure is located in the middle of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation. The Soo Line Trail, which runs through the bog, has been designated as part of the Mille Lacs Scenic Byway. We feel the best way to protect this gift is to “Land Back” the 440 acres of public land to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Thank you for considering this option.
- Utilize farmers, landowners knowledge and use of their lands and waters through financial incentives and assistance of DNR, NRCS and Soil and Water conservation districts for long range beneficial and permanent projects even enhanced over a several year period if needed. Such enhancements among many could be stream bank stabilization, riparian strips, invasive species (ie. buck-thorn) removal and control, wildlife area improvement (ie food supplying shrubs, trees and grasses), etc.
- Regenerative Ag and promotion of planting a wide diversity of regionally native plants, including trees, shrubs, ground covers - woody and herbaceous.
- Preserve what we have, be thoughtful in future building to protect our environment, Minnesota is a jewel, and we have to work hard to keep it that way. Keep off road bikes out of city county parks, designate those type of parks away from natural environments.
- Keep funding research and on the ground projects that directly relate to wildlife and outdoor recreation.
- Improve existing county parks. They are a hidden treasure that would provide an appreciation for saving our environment.
- more government regulatory control over polluters and industry instead of the large patchwork of non-profits and coalitions trying to do the conservation work that the government isn't, subsidize regenerative ag practices instead of commercial ag (although that is probably federal), require local units of government to have climate action/adaptation/mitigation plans.
- Create a collaboration of MPCA, DNR, Tribes, EQB, and the Minnesota Legislature to develop laws and policy to protect the night sky.
- Using funds to mitigate brownfields and otherwise clean up pollution to create healthier places to live and recreate.
- 1. Purchase or set aside land for environmental protection (e.g., conservation easements)

2. Invest in County environmentalists who can work with cities and within their counties to help homeowners comply with the Shoreland Management Act

- A moratorium on sulfide ore mining until a well-funded independent evidentiary process proves this type of mining has been done elsewhere in a water-rich environment in the United States without resulting in pollution or impairment of surface water or groundwater.
- Funding a Regional Study of the cumulative environmental, social, cultural, and economic impacts of sulfide ore mining in the Tamarack Region.
- Maintain our parks
- More funding for metro projects where the vast amount of residents and where opportunities will most quickly be lost to development or cost pressures.
- Require renewable energy sources for all new developments
- Kayaking waters in southern Minnesota (whitewater/rapids and lower skill levels)
- Allow Permeable Synthetic Turf to be installed in residential settings in order to help reduce the waste of water.
- Ensure that resources are sustainable. Manage for health of resources such as prescribed burns, water retention through slow the flow of water and water storage, reduce pollution, etc.
- Research rewilding options for marginal agricultural land
- Agricultural Practices
- Prioritize the issues listed and fund accordingly
- Stop all plans to mine in the BWCAW watershed.
- Improve public access to lakes.
- Unsurprisingly bold- state agencies follow their missions, not bow to corporations, the governor, or lobbyists.
- Pass a law that protects wild rice like this
<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=House&f=HC0006&ssn=0&y=2023>
- Continue to do research and invest in our outdoor recreation opportunities. From trails and lakes and land use
- Invest in more youth education programs so they understand the importance of conservation.
- I think the long-term health of the environment requires a real connection to and time spent in nature in order to get people to value and protect our environment. We need to provide exposure, education and experience to children and young adults. My big bold idea is to require that education and those experiences to be provided in public schools - mandate that environmental science be taught, include nature in art and require field trips -every year. Funding will of course be essential.
- Cleaning infrastructure at boat launches to prevent the spread of Aquatic invasive species
- Prevent invasive species
- Education and private landowner funding. Only a tiny fraction of landowners understand how to protect and restore natural resources. We can't expect folks to do the right thing without the required knowledge and support!!
- Culling the deer herd so seeing one is a big deal. ATVs on designated trails only.
- help to develop sustainable, responsible, family usable uses of our resources. boating, fishing, motorized sports, non-motorized sports, hunting, with an environmentally friendly result. help the people of our state to use and enjoy our natural resources

- electronic waste recycling. we also have to get plastic recycling dealt with or stop using it.
- STOP THE GOVERNOR'S PUSH FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES
- Remove Invasive Species and Encourage natives
- Sue the fossil fuel industry for deceiving the public with the money to go to global warming adaptation and mitigation including distributed power generation.
- Enacting more regulation around agricultural practices, similar to the Buffer Law along water ways. Research could help inform how to do this in ways that are effective but minimally impactful on farm revenue.
- Education of all users, while getting new users who understand conservation
- Making sure we reach out to BIPOC communities and have great role models for underrepresented communities and groups. Making sure everyone has access to equal opportunities outdoors and increasing diversity in the environmental workspaces.
- I like the TV ads (Lottery) showing completed projects and uses. But we now need more TV/radio/print publicity on how citizens can help the env, along with funded agencies. Such as the no-lead ammo movement or proper application of herbicides and pesticides.
- Prohibit the use of pesticides which are contaminating our land, our food, our water and making pollinators, wildlife and people sick. Especially unnecessary agricultural pesticides such as coated seed. And certainly on public lands.
- Get rid of the false climate change agenda
- Stop funding the DNR and U of M and fund organizations and programs that promote access for excluded youth/ people. It's outrageous what percentage of the funds are going to these already wealthy white organizations
- Grant opportunities for youth and education to be part of the solution.
- Increased emphasis and funding on outdoor educational opportunities for school aged children that can foster a sense of stewardship for the environment.
- continue to use all of state education resources to focus on climate action at all levels. Improve /expand strategic plans for solid waste management. State park and public land users will be a great audience to get on board
- With our new ultra filtration MBR facility and a chloride compliance schedule and limit in our NPDES permit. The Detroit Lakes Public Utilities is excited to pilot a new water processor (molecular grinder) that neutralizes the water similar to a catalytic converter on a car. This water is then neutral and flows without resistance through a new 93% efficient reverse osmosis filter. With the success of this pilot, we will meet our permit requirements and this technology could be widely used throughout the country in multiple treatment applications.
- work with micro-agriculture to make it profitable to have small businesses that intertwine and support related businesses...ex: support ownership of small sustainable farms that work with farm to table restaurants or that are destinations for agro-tourism
- Educate the public about the importance of forest management, including eradication of invasive species, prevention of perception, programs to help private forest landowners, how forests prevent climate change and ensure clean water, etc. Our forests are a treasure, and we need to care for them, protect them, and educate our citizens about them.
- Move to solar and wind power.
- Protect our water

- Control the wolf population!
- Reduce the governmental intervention on many issues facing our wildlife and natural resources and our money will go a lot further in providing areas that are protected from destructive behaviors.
- Use tax dollars wisely. Say no to welfare type programs. We want people to come to MN to work, not freeload
- We need to 1st assess our water & air quality. Identify areas of concern and possible causes, then introduce a process to reduce contamination to reach a reasonable goal for quality.
- Create a model for restoration of land and water that can be adapted nationally and globally. Engage human communities in the restoration plans for their benefit as well as for the benefit of the natural ecosystems.
- Offer free access/licenses to parks for volunteers. Add Park garbage bag receptacle to pick up while utilizing park trails (s/a doggie bags). Offer lead fishing disposal receptacles at each fishing pier/ramp.
- Clean up lakes, rivers and ditches by encouraging private and community groups to participate. We could also utilize incarcerated individuals and people that must perform community work for these projects.
- Increase penalties and enforcement of waste and litter disposal laws, create and manage programs for citizen groups and corporate participation in cleanup, improvement, and maintenance projects.
- To not rely on solar as a way to replace some of our energy sources. The state needs to get out of having so much land to manage
- We currently drain much of our agricultural land via drain tile systems into our streams and tributaries. This practice is not only adding to our flooding problem of our waterways, but also pollution by siltation and eroding our stream-beds. My proposal is that we continue to drain our ag-land. However, we drain our fields into a collection pond. This practice will save our streams and allow our water to filter back into the ground thus recharging our groundwater. This practice will also provide habitat to local and migrating waterfowl. Additionally, adding buffer strips along these ponds we can strategically plant pollinator habitat that can also provide habitat for our upland game as well as many other species in the newly created ecosystem.
- Take action, not just researching and discussing. Hold polluting entities accountable.
- Don't allow mining companies to threaten the bwca or the quetico with pollution
- If agriculture is the problem and we've seen little progress based on plans from regulators, let's turn over the resources to the farmers and see what they can do.
- Clean water resources, farming & agriculture, environmental protection and education, access to land and healthy food supplies
- Funding a Regional Study of the cumulative environmental, social, cultural, and economic impacts of sulfide ore mining in the Tamarack Region. A moratorium on sulfide ore mining until a well-funded independent evidentiary process proves this type of mining has been done elsewhere in a water-rich environment in the United States without resulting in pollution or impairment of surface water or groundwater.
- Have the BWCA become a national park
- stop using my money to force government ideals and start trusting individuals to make the proper choices
- Privatize management of MN State Parks
- Enforcement of existing laws regarding water use and the environment.

- Require ALL high school students to demonstrate knowledge of the environment in order to graduate. Plus, require ALL candidates for the legislature to demonstrate knowledge of the environment.
- Increase funding for current parks and rec. areas. Accessibility for seniors and disabled. Recruit volunteers to help.
- Requiring cities and towns to preserve large chunks of land that are available to wildlife.
- Bring back the quality of our soil which will improve plant growth, improve air quality and reduce climate issues
- Everyone could be thinking of ways to get the kids thrilled with being outdoors!
- education
- Environmental justice as a guiding principle to restore habitat and cleanup the environment.
- I live on a lake and spend the majority of my day outside....EDUCATION OF ALL PEOPLE and consequences for those who don't follow the rules
- Get people in their own communities involved in preserving the land around them.
- Enforce the existing ordinances for the Tower, MN planning and Zoning
- Eliminate lead in fishing equipment and bullets
- Protecting as much land and shorelines as possible.
- Generate more revenue, even if via higher taxes
- Rewilding land in every community, connected across the state, requiring care and learning by every school student
- Get more school age kids into the natural settings. Not just one hour blocks...get them out for overnight field trips (or longer). Focus on interdependence between species and systems. Show them job opportunities and education paths needed to get them. Show them daily ways they can make a difference.
- Revise the tax code structure. Put conservation of critical land connected to drinking water at the forefront for protection rather than large agricultural and commercial tax benefits. Seasonal property that preserves the purity of lakes, streams, ponds, rivers should be the lowest rather than highest taxed land. Study nations like Costa Rica who prioritize healthy land, waters, species, people and thus attract like-minded industry rather than rewarding companies who destroy our aquifers and punish indigenous peoples who raise voices in protest to such destruction.
- Make it easier for moneys to get to local lakes and water sheds
- Money directly to Lake Associations to fight AIS
- Put a bounty on invasive carp
- Mass transit and walkable neighborhoods can reduce emissions, keep air clean, and make communities stronger.
- Preserve a minimum of 30% of MN wild lands in perpetuity through direct acquisition or conservation easements.
- Build preservation corridors for wildlife
- Keep the Legacy Grant and its many projects going.
- Support projects that get all children and adults outdoors, to experience natural setting and understand the need to protect the environment.

- Funding outdoor education initiatives in every public school in Minnesota. If we want adults to care about the environment, they need to get into nature when they are young. Schools can encourage students to build up a love for the environment by getting kids outside.
- Emphasis on projecting and preserving private land that has wildlife and climate change abatement potential. Public land is subject to the political winds, private land can be protected long-term.
- Educate the youth.
- Educate people on keeping our lakes and rivers clean - no polluting, stop fireworks over water, ensure ice fishers clean up their space so garbage doesn't go in the water, less pollution from boat motors.
- There are three main fish and wildlife funding pots in MN (ENRTF, OHF, and DNR's Game & Fish Fund). There needs to be coordination and vision for how all three of these SHOULD work together.
- Offer more jobs in the field of protecting or enhancing the environment, similar to the Works Progress Admin. during the Depression. More people will be educated about the problems and the solutions and they will teach others about them.
- Acquire distressed forest land and try to reverse the damage that climate change has wreaked on this land and other parcels nearby.
- More rewards for landowners that join land conservation projects
- Individuals and communities must be at the heart of any decisions. In order to make decisions that positively impact MN's environment, they need to have information and understanding of the environment. Embrace the idea of co-management which respects the knowledge, expertise, and responsibilities of communities and government agencies.
- Do projects that protect restore the lands and waters will ensure future generations will enjoy and benefit from a healthy landscape
- Work with farmers to reduce use of toxic chemicals that pollute ground water
- Strategic identification of currently 'open' parcels, whether privately or publicly owned, and approach Owners to educate the options for improvement for environment/recreation for betterment of environment preservation for all.
- designated public areas with staff to effectively manage visitors
- Better private partnerships. Groups like TPL and MLT have been working successfully with private land owners; use public dollars for long term restoration and management of habitat areas on private land that is in permanent conservation easement.
- Ecological restoration of landscapes with native plants.
- Programs to fund and push recycling and waste management in the school systems. Greenhouse to grow food, composting food waste, and converting school land to school forests and prairies would be affective. We are teaching the youth and the next generation. That is where the change starts.
- Minnesota's 26 million acres of agricultural land comprise half of the entire state's land area. Much of this land is committed to row crops, especially corn and soybeans, which means that much of it is bare ground most of the year. Rainfalls, the intensity of which are increasing, carry sediment and agricultural chemicals into Minnesota's waters, and wind erosion transports sediment even to Minnesota's most remote and pristine lakes, degrading their water quality and altering their ecologies. New markets and financial incentives need to be developed to help farmers overcome the risks of diversifying into new perennial and winter annual crops so that we can dramatically increase the amount of Minnesota's croplands that are resistant to wind and soil erosion. Doing so would yield significant improvements to Minnesota water quality.

- Keep Donald Trump out of office.
- Increase direct ADOS/BIPOC representation for funds distribution in climate and environmentally distressed communities
- Protect Minnesota's water and keep it clean
- Keeping bike, walking and other trails well-groomed. Providing free lessons for learning how to swim or boat. Also, more education on respectful interaction with the environment and one another
- Not sure this is big and bold, but I think it's time for us to evolve our thinking about restoration-- this idea of restoring a landscape to pre-colonial times isn't always the most appropriate course of action (the native tree list from the DNR is not a bible). Mitigating the effects of climate change should be the priority over pre-colonial conditions.
- Prioritize youth conservation education initiatives and public engagement. Current funds don't support education and awareness.
- We need to change our agriculture and educate the public on the importance of stabilizing and eventually reducing the human population.
- Reduce/eliminate the use of plastic packaging for things that do not need plastic packaging. Also, what is good for the environment and the soil, is good for the health and wellness of Minnesotans. More focus on growing organic produce, to provide inexpensive, local, healthy foods. How might we provide low or zero cost MN produce to Minnesotans, encourage healthy eating, encourage soil enrichment, and reduce the amount of fresh food that spoils before it is eaten?
- Deny permits for mining which will ultimately destroy our environment/natural resources
- Protection of the land and waters that are for the public, more money spent in rural areas
- I'd love to see the State buy back every road ditch and right of way to protect habitat for birds and pollinators, notably monarch butterflies. These Monarch Migration Zones would be better managed for native plant diversity, protected from roadside mowing, and signed to show the near-endangered status of this iconic species. Voluntary conservation is great in theory, but it simply do not work at the scale needed, so the State needs to take a more meaningful and disruptive effort to protect vulnerable wildlife, especially in ag country.
- Forbid sulfide mining in Our state and watersheds.
- promote Doug Tallamy's National Homegrown Park
- Eliminate natural gas and oil, rely only on renewable clean energy, and restore natural ecosystems by eliminating pesticides and fertilizer in lakes and rivers. Stop HOAs that mandate green lawns and increase taxes on golf resorts that pollute the water! Grow more edible trees in the community.
- Let each community decide for itself what it needs. By providing equitable distribution of resources throughout the state, even small communities will be able to make a difference.
- Streamline permitting to allow for responsible development.
- Get every young person into an environmental learning center experience in partnership with schools and youth serving agencies, annually, and increasing from five hours per school year for kindergarten to 25 hours per year for high schoolers.
- We should be spending substantial resources on corporate energy efficiency to address the worst carbon polluters and diminish climate change
- Reduce "area" available for "outdoor recreation " by 50%
- thoroughly crossing t's and dotting i's about mining so close to boundary waters.

- End this TOURISM-based approach and return the FOOD use of these resources to the working-class and POOR over the TROPHY takers Elitism we see being pushed now.
- Developing processes to clean sulfur out of water!
- A moratorium on sulfide ore mining until a well-funded independent evidentiary process proves this type of mining has been done elsewhere in a water-rich environment in the United States without resulting in pollution or impairment of surface water or groundwater.
- Include this as a major theme in a many of MN events that draw people into outdoor enjoyment. Asking questions, how would your life be different if we do not take care of our water and land resources? Education in any way possible. I am caught off guard and don't have a big, bold idea but - consider asking the kids, the students, Hamline students in environmental ed and other colleges. I think the question need to be asked at berry picking farms and farmers markets. The ideas brought up by the water Legacy Board are spot on! " Funding a Regional Study of the cumulative environmental, social, cultural, and economic impacts of sulfide ore mining in the Tamarack Region.
- A moratorium on sulfide ore mining until a well-funded independent evidentiary process proves this type of mining has been done elsewhere in a water-rich environment in the United States without resulting in pollution or impairment of surface water or groundwater.
- Don't give public lands to private or semi-private entities that could limit future public use of that land. MN needs more available public lands for all to use for outdoor recreation, not less.
- Do a wolf hunt to restore a more natural order to other habitats.
- An increased focus on habitat restoration, enhancement, and protection adjacent to and within our public lakes and streams. I have observed lots of habitat destruction both along the shores of our public waters and within the waters themselves. For the shorelines, I would like to see increased efforts made to restore degraded habitat and to permanently protect from development existing shorelines. Within public waters themselves, I would like to see increased efforts to restore or enhancement native plants communities for emergent and submergent plants. In terrestrial settings we enhance native plant communities and reestablish ones that have been lost. To the extent possible, I would like to see efforts make to establish aquatic vegetation in our lakes and streams where little remains. Areas that are not limited by private ownership.
- Stop giving our land away to the tribes
- "Reinstate the 10mg/l sulfate standard for mining effluent and ENFORCE it for once!
- Pass a "Prove it First" law for all sulfide ore mining. "
- Provide funding for outdoor recreational activities and facilities in all parts of Minnesota. Matching funds are optional.
- Investing in the resources we already have and constructing new outdoor recreation areas.
- Subsidize conservation practices on crop land. Especially those practices that reduce pesticides and nitrogen from entering groundwater
- Let citizens know the true cost of ethanol production since the businesses involved are only paying a SMALL annual fee for millions of gallons of water that they use per week. Compare that annual fee to what a resident pays for their home or retail business per month. We are ""giving away"" our clean water. ALSO: Give farmers a larger compensation per acre for land left as a filtering barrier along ANY creek, stream, river or lake as long as it is at least 250 feet wide. ALSO: Subsidize farmers for planting an off season crop in their fields so that the ground is held down preventing erosion."
- Hold off on sulphide mining until it is proven to be safe in areas of abundant water.
- More investment in the local economy on the east side of lake Mille Lacs

- Summer School Field Trip to Boundary Waters to educate and create awareness of Minnesota's environment. When I was young, I remembered my field trip to Eagle Bluff back in middle school and the experience helped me appreciate nature and environmental accountability. It was only after I graduated college, was when I finally was able to experience camping in the Boundary Waters.
- Broad based financial support for every middle school student to spend a week at an environmental learning center including a focus on careers, climate change, water quality...
- To help the northern economy, instead of mining let's build more camping facilities in the Superior National Forest and state lands. More people are into camping and the parks we have are full all the time. This would alleviate that and give a solid economy the the north land that will last, not a mine that will pollute and be done in 20 years.
- Plant more trees, maintain forested areas
- Preserve and protect the Boundary Waters, the Boundary Waters watershed and Lake Superior from Sulfide Mining. No Sulfide Mining near these environmental crown jewels of our state
- Ban cloud seeding and spraying chemicals in the skies. Remove the fluoride in our drinking water. Ban the use of 5G, smart meters and any EMF technology that harms humans and nature. Actually do something about reusing items and recycling. Educate people on better ways. Fixing things that are broken instead of throwing away. Ban the use of Monsanto's round up and other toxic chemicals that are poisoning the water, land and air that we breath. Crack down on littering. Bigger penalties for destroying the environment and throwing garbage everywhere. Hold people accountable for the damage and destruction. Don't allow people into the state to live here that don't respect the land and care about nature and other Minnesotans. Just to name a few ideas.
- Reduce all fish and game bag limits and ban wolf hunting
- Limit the size of pig and cow farms. Require that none of their waste products run into rivers, lakes or small streams.
- Get the communists out of our government
- A moratorium on sulfide ore mining until a well-funded independent evidentiary process proves this type of mining has been done elsewhere in a water-rich environment in the United States without resulting in pollution or impairment of surface water or groundwater
- Think small (Smaller homes. smaller yards, smaller farms, etc.) so natural landscapes - prairies, forests, wetlands - can be preserved.
- Funding a Regional Study of the cumulative environmental, social, cultural, and economic impacts of sulfide ore mining in the Tamarack Region. A moratorium on sulfide ore mining until a well-funded independent evidentiary process proves this type of mining has been done elsewhere in a water-rich environment in the United States without resulting in pollution or impairment of surface water or groundwater.
- Stop pretending electric vehicles will save the environment
- MASTER LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS, Apprenticeships, Mentor-ships, Education through the free public school systems and higher education collaboration creating a circle to innovate. utilize the admin like an engine to manage the adults teaching life skills to the new generation of workers in all 80 watersheds and in all school districts working with all higher edus to educate.
- More solar power
- Targeting planning and zoning requirements to move away from an autocentric design. Making green infrastructure a requirement of development rather than something "encouraged."

- We need communities to stop building new housing in open spaces and in/near wetlands. Blaine, and other outer ring suburbs, is particularly bad about this. Public campaigns to connect people, especially kids, to nature. If you know/experience it, you will be more likely to protect it. Stop pouring chemicals on lawns, programs to help people convert lawns to more sustainable alternatives.
- Tie more recreation areas together through trails useable by walking, biking and ATV/Snowmobiles
- Less highways and more communities where people can easily walk/bike to work and basic services.
- Get people into the outdoors. We need to invest in trails (hiking, biking, ATV, OHV, snowmobile, etc.), trailheads, campgrounds, boat landings, and more. LCCMR should not be afraid to invest in these projects. Less money for the U of M and state agencies.
- More accessible opportunities for wheelchair users.
- 50-year Moratorium on factory farms and copper/nickel sulfide mining
- Create a digital twin model to predict and monitor flood hazards.
- Restore MN's tree canopy. Boulevard trees to counteract the heat islands we create when we build streets; trees in parks to shade picnic areas & other seating areas, like along 1st & 3rd base lines at baseball fields; trees to buffer busy state highways and interstates from neighborhoods; trees to make more environments that will be walkable even in very hot summers. Prioritize tree planting in environmental justice neighborhoods. Prioritize tree planting to counteract urban heat island. Include plans to water & replace trees. Help homeowners add trees.
- Stop wasting money on windmills and solar panels! In the long run, they are more toxic to the environment than coal or nuclear generating plants.
- Increase food sovereignty, and move forward in a good way by incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)
- Mow only narrow strips along side highways, freeways and rural roads.
- Get corporations to stop using non-recyclable packaging materials. Use of plastic needs to be significantly reduced and eventually stop pollution, filling landfills, using petroleum...
- Recruit and activate citizen groups, especially youth, to help upkeep our state parks and natural lands. Offer college scholarships to students undertaking degrees related to preserving natural resources and who can prove they have invested time in related volunteer service.
- Keep sulfide ore mining out of Minnesota. There has never been a proven safe method of this type of mining.
- Make sure people are made aware through social media, TV news, newspapers, pamphlets, signs at various parks about the work that is being done in MN to protect the environment, natural resources, and encourage outdoor recreation.
- Kids should be exposed to the outdoors starting in grade school using field trips with environmental education embedded
- "Licensing/fun education projects" to help more people feel included and part of the solutions
- Connectivity of trails etc for outdoor recreation
- Purchase permanent easements for motorized trails so reroutes don't have to be built due to ownership changes.
- Look at what Wisconsin is doing and try to leap-frog that approach. Try to replicate what Lake Michigan has done for our Great Lake Superior. No DEI is needed to accomplish this task since we

are talking about animals, fish, and invasive species. If you follow my last point MN taxpayers will actually see benefits in a very short time.

- Come together! Support Indigenous/Native wisdom in Mother Earth stewardship. Statewide CTA to protect Gitchi Gami and force companies like Enbridge to rethink how they conduct themselves in the natural environment. Promote the movie Bad River throughout the state ---in schools, libraries, churches, festivals, etc! Without Gitchi Gami, MN will be lost, and so will the people and all the flora and fauna! Protect it before it's too late and we have a mess on our hands. Let's not be Kalamazoo, MI, let's be better because we know better (we are informed and Bad River helps us know how to make the changes we wish to see in the world!).
- Protect and enhance water quality; water is LIFE.
- Improving access for communities of color to experience, learn and enjoy outdoor recreation around the state.
- All stakeholders at the table, All organizations that work for fishing, hunting, bird watching, nature to work Together for what they do now.
- Ensure the wolf hunt isn't resumed in Minnesota
- Increase sustainable farming practices
- Make any committees out of normal people not politicians
- limit applications for research projects that submit applications every year. More oversight on research projects
- I don't have an answer but voting for Democrats would be helpful.
- Do not get caught up in the land back movement which has divided communities and created hostility and fear surrounding Red Lake. Do not allow legislators to hastily make decisions that will wipe out families and communities and have devastating economic impacts across Minnesota. People are now afraid that we are headed towards violence to protect owned land, cemeteries, and State forests which we count on for food. Keep public lands public for all to appreciate and protect, not just tribes.
- Stop buying up good farm land and taking it out of the tax base. Minnesota the land of 10,000 lakes, why are we spending millions to create more ponds along highways for the waterfowl ?
- Promote sustainable agriculture by supporting projects that help farmers with solutions to try new practices.
- Connect more bicycle trails throughout the state so people can experience more of our environment and natural resources
- Develop a network of micro-monitors to precisely pinpoint the sources of agricultural runoff pollution, and levy significant fines on every operation that violates state limits. No exceptions.
- increase funding , habitat, and economic viability for wild rice to thrive as an economic resource
- A moratorium on sulfide ore mining until a well-funded independent evidentiary process proves this type of mining has been done elsewhere in a water-rich environment in the United States without resulting in pollution or impairment of surface water or groundwater.
- Protect all our existing natural areas and add more! Create habitats for wildlife and connecting corridors throughout large metropolitan areas. Assist all communities in MN to have clean air, clean water, abundant green space, and good long range plans for reaching climate goals to reduce our carbon foot print. Save and protect the BWCA!
- Protect existing and acquire environmentally significant land and water resources for future generations.

- Embrace The Gift of Green Time (R) - a book series with fun ideas for getting families outdoors eg. Lake Mtka (author Bev Gillen)
- Shut down Prairie island & Monticello Nuclear Power Plants
- Less studies- More capital projects
- Not big but bold - do not focus on acquiring land for recreation -especially not for OHV trails
- Monitor water quality for drinking, swimming, and fishing. It is our. greatest resource, and becoming rarer
- More trails!
- Buy land that connects existing natural habitats and restore both to a natural resilient condition.
- Ensure mining does not take place near waterways.
- Build more hiking, biking, snowmobile, and ATV trails. Build more fishing piers, boat landings, and trailheads.
- Involve as many people as possible from all parts of Minnesota in sharing ideas and desires. Recognizing that as the climate changes, there will be more and different opportunities for achieving the above.
- Decrease pesticide use, do native plantings to increase pollinators, protect bird habitat and remove invasive species.
- There is no one idea, talk is cheap, just do it, we already know what needs to be done.
- Taxing row crop farming, which are increasingly like factories - sterile of nature, and polluting - the same as factories.
- Programs to promote use of native plants, invasive removal to support our natural ecosystem. Less emphasis on built infrastructure in parks and public land. More emphasis on natural restoration.
- Declare 20 feet of shore around lakes and next to rivers to be state land . Public access to shores would be controlled by the state. 2. No smoking of any kind on state property. No use of marijuana or other drugs on public property, in parks, on paths, In sidewalks, public buildings.
- I'd like the State to fund several significant agricultural pilot programs. The goal of these programs is to find many approaches to producing healthy food while offering significant habitat for wildlife, protecting our clean water, carbon sequestration and so on. Some ideas are to improve direct farm to market connections, biodiverse farming, mob-grazing for cattle, and incorporation of biochar into soils.
- Solar panels on all buildings.
- Vastly expand purchases of land for habitat/water protection/preservation.
- Legislation to protect and conserve
- Get nitrate polluters to accept responsibility for nitrate pollution.
- Focus on the land. Particularly soils. If soils are healthy the waters that flow over them and seep into them, will be clean. Eventually those waters get to lakes, rivers, reservoirs, and groundwater. We all need and enjoy those waters. Without clean waters we can't survive. A central focus of society and policy should be healthy soils. We need to educate policy makers and the public on how this one simple concept will help assure our future. It will also help put into proper perspective our decision making about projects and practices that not only don't protect lands in their present state, but--in increasingly large areas of Minnesota--are deteriorating. We need to reverse that trend. If we could take that focus, MUCH of our other issues related to environmental and recreational and natural resource issues would be naturally taken care of, or at least improve. We'd conserve more land.

Water quality would improve. Healthier lands would mean less invasive species would take hold. More effective accounting for impacts of proposed polluting projects would force them to either help improve water, air and land quality and health, or be put aside. Everyone in the state would benefit.

- More rustic campsites
- Education in all schools
- Strengthen the EPA
- Mandate that MPCA enforce the law and document all actions taken. No more under the table agreements and phone calls.
- Fund research!
- No sulfide mining in treaty territory that coups pollute areas that Anishinaabeg have rights to hunt fish and gather. Funding a Regional Study of the cumulative environmental, social, cultural, and economic impacts of sulfide ore mining in the Tamarack Region. A moratorium on sulfide ore mining until a well-funded independent evidentiary process proves this type of mining has been done elsewhere in a water-rich environment in the United States without resulting in pollution or impairment of surface water or groundwater.
- Ensure protection from human impact that harms our environment include mining, shoreline erosion, climate change, wastewater treatment, ground water pollution, and the spread of exotic species in our waters and our forests.
- We need to recognize that we are polluting the metropolitan area, and especially inner city urban areas, by failing to maintain aesthetically pleasing environments along roadsides and on sidewalks and in parks. We must recognize that aesthetic pollution from garbage and poorly maintained roadsides and public areas is very depleting to poor and otherwise-disadvantaged people who generally live in such areas.
- Hire committed workers to monitor policies already in place.
- Find a means of eliminating zebra mussels
- Preventing mining of any kind in the Boundary Waters, and the state.
- Legislate nitrite reductions for karst areas. And monitor and enforce.
- There needs to be an independent, detailed study of corporate influence on state regulators. The MPCA's mission is to protect and improve the environment and human health. It routinely fails its mission, bending to corporate interests. The state's environmental regulatory system in general is skewed to benefit businesses. It is true for the MPCA's decades-long residence to enforce the wild rice rule; it was true for Enbridge Line 3 permits (construction did significant damage to wetlands); nitrate pollution of well water in Southeastern Minnesota, (a failure of MPCA, MDH, and MDA); the failure of state regulators to address PFAS pollution sooner; the DNR's decision to use federal dollars for habitat creation to benefit timber interests, and the list goes on. Companies have more access to state leaders (and clout) than environmental groups and regular citizens do. We need sunshine on the problem. We will not protect and enhance Minnesota's environment and natural resources if industry continues to have undue influence on state decisions.
- Protect the environment from mining until research proves that it can be done without harming the water and all who depend upon it.
- Creating even more conservation and wildlife areas that are protected from development.

- Implement a moratorium on sulfide ore mining until a well-funded independent evidentiary process proves this type of mining has been done elsewhere in a water-rich environment in the United States without resulting in pollution or impairment of surface water or groundwater.
- no more salting our roads and contaminating our waterways with salt runoff
- Do not emphasize outdoor recreation that involves destroying nature, wildlife and the environment. Make some areas not available to any of the many dingdongs that want to ruin it with loud, noisy polluting motorized vehicles. Make quiet, green areas that enhance wildlife area and restoration of green spaces. Make more quiet, green areas that are conducive to wildlife and nature preservation. Don't cater to the idiots. Their ways are destroying the planet.
- For every acre of land enrolled in agriculture by farms using chemicals, they must offset that with finances for research and cleanup and/or conservation of untainted lands and waters. Natural alternatives for those chemicals and other chemicals used by other companies (eg. 3M) including mosquito spraying must be researched and required for the future health of our environment and food supply and wildlife protection. Why aren't we following EU practices and outlawing these practices?
- Assist communities failing on PFAS mitigation: <https://www.mprnews.org/episode/2024/04/11/pfas-health-department-says-22-minnesota-water-systems-above-federal-limits>
- Reduce logging in publicly managed forests so old forests can develop into old growth. Protect all remaining prairie and savanna habitat in the state.
- Enforcement of existing policies!
- Education /at schools/churches/Educate Farmers and get them to change their old farming practices. Conserve water by creating a catch/slue area in each section where tiled water can be filtered before it reaches the ditch leading to the Mississippi. The slues would also help put water back into our aquifers. Pay the farmers to put the slues and wet areas back in to the land they have tiled. Farmers should have to pay for the water used for irrigation.
- Continue to engage citizens with public events and opportunities at public lands.
- More ATV trails. This type of recreation allows people with physical limitations to ride a motorized vehicle and be able to enjoy Minnesota's nature!
- Treat our State lands as our own.
- Accountability
- Education - general public and students. Ensure concepts and basic responsible outdoor and conservation practices are introduced in elementary grades, emphasized in middle grades, and incorporated as specialties in science/biology studies in upper grades; offer AP options for juniors and seniors. In all curricula addressing environment, emphasize how agriculture and conservation programs work together to protect and enhance natural resources.
- MN supports a network of connecting habitats, especially for listed species. See the Wildlife Action Network in MN's State Wildlife Plan.
- Keep doing what they are doing g
- Increase cost through ""plastic tax"" of materials packaged excessively and or in plastic. Bottle water-\$10, plastic bags \$5. If there is not a severe economic disadvantage, people will not change their behavior.
- Connecting youth to the outdoors through schools, school forest programs and outdoor and environmental learning and conservation programs to take direct stewardship action.

- WATER!!! Not Government control but educating, demonstrating and providing incentives for constructive practices to enhance water quality and quantity.
- Stop spraying pesticides herbicides
- Invest the money in the “field” and not in the office.
- Put solar on CRP ground and landfills -- not on prime farmland.
- Restore power to the people
- Environmental Education
- Give all students a chance to experience outdoor environmental education.
- More camp sites
- My big, bold idea for protecting and enhancing Minnesota's environment involves leveraging design-build and full-delivery procurement methods for habitat restoration and water quality projects. By utilizing these approaches, we can streamline project delivery, foster innovation, and achieve better outcomes for our natural resources and outdoor recreation. This could involve creating a program that incentivizes companies to propose comprehensive solutions that integrate design, construction, and maintenance, ensuring long-term success and sustainability.
- stop burning stuff (aka electrify everything)
- Ban PFAs to protect our drinking water from contamination.
- Start to take measures to clean up the Minnesota River
- Give Farmers incentives for changing how they farm so the don't continue to pollute our rivers and streams.
- Provide more recycling and trash containers at all of our parks so trash does not accumulate in our waters and on our land.
- Sustainable Agriculture, reliance on local food systems, utilizing green spaces in cities, paying attention to what communities get the most pollution-bearing industries near them, focusing on quality and health of our resources... that's not one idea but things I have been thinking about :)
- Better education for all kids re nature and the outdoors education
- Exposing youth to the outdoors.
- I see 3 key areas for success: 1. More education on why it's important, 2. Research to identify the areas with greatest need, 3. Planning/implementation according to that research.
- Eliminate plastics!
- Make all Minnesota waters fishable, swimmable and drinkable.
- use common sense
- Landfills are filling up, yet we are shutting down waste to energy facilities. School kids need to tour a landfill and see where their garbage is disappearing to. More sorting, more recycling.
- Implement real habitat corridors, if there are corridors for wildlife, there would be more natural water filtration systems, more biodiversity, more plants and wildlife to clean water and soil, and more reservoirs to help us as climate change occurs.
- LESS government involvement
- Helping to restore or assist in both private and public places to enjoy the environment in MN
- ensure that every year there is more land available for both humans and wildlife.
- Don't have one.
- Require professional sports teams to adopt/support/fund our natural resources. They used our tax \$\$ for their playground, now they can fund ours

- Sustainable practices
- Eliminate the legislature
- Install a protective barrier to stop Asian Carp in the Miss. R. NOW!
- eliminate lake and river private homes that deny access to general public
- More exposure of all Minnesotans to our wondrous natural resources. Designate state funds that enable people with limited access to our parks, rivers and waterways. What about making some visit our natural resources holidays. Giving people time off from work to explore our state's wildlife and Wild natural areas .
- Education, starting with Kindergarten students.
- Change the predominant commodity cropping system away from corn & soybeans for the health of our water, the longevity of our soil, and the sustainability of our rural communities.
- With the development of the Outdoor Recreation office, the fact that participation in outdoor recreation is on the rise, and that many Minnesotan sites feature minimal development, Minnesota needs to take proactive steps to create infrastructure in recreational spaces to help protect the quality of the natural landscape. Where the natural spaces on the east and west coasts were highly impacted by increased traffic without enhanced services, staff, and/or infrastructure during the pandemic, we have an opportunity to learn from those experiences and take steps to protect our local land and waterscapes as out-of-state tourism is projected to continue to rise.
- Get past the politics and act.
- Tax and fine offenders and higher polluting/offending industries and individuals.
- It should be easy to access due to location (cities and outstate) but also affordable for all to access (no or low fees). People need to value our resources and recreation opportunities in order to value protecting them for future generations.
- Continue With My Total Commitment to Recycling Along With Using What's Considered the Safest Lawn Care Products.
- Develop programs that deal with land fill waste. We need to stop dumping everything in the ground. Reuse items like glass, plastic, wood waste, food waste. We need a better separation of items.
- All kids have access to outdoor education
- overhaul current DNR divisions or create a new division meant to oversee each one. they cannot properly check and balance themselves within divisions. or payments for environmental service pilot programs
- NOT micromanaging it. Allowing for people to use the resources but not abuse them. Minnesota is a great state to live in because it has so many options for outdoor activities for adults and families.
- Educate people on the importance of a healthy environment.
- Outdoor Education for All
- Fully fund environmental opportunities for 4th-6th grade students.
- People need to be invested and feel responsible before they protect things. Does our current infrastructure support this?
- Ownership of old mining land on Minnesota's Iron Range is transferred from private parties (often foreign corporations) to the communities who live there after the resources have been extracted. I've visited old mining lands that look like Mars. Think of all the potential this degraded landscape has...its carbon sequestration potential through tree plantings, potential to hold MWs and MWs of solar panels, potential to offer world class mountain biking all over the Range (not just in Cayuna and

Chisolm). But if that land is owned by profit motivated corporations, why should they do anything other than fence up the damaged land and persecute trespassers? Let the miners, their families, and area residents put that land back into use. Let it become a source of clean jobs. Of recreation. Of climate and community resilience. Not just a scar of red dirt.

- Waste materials of all kinds and our landfills. Try to educate folks about buying prepackaged items and the overbuying of new clothing type materials
- Educate young people by allowing them the opportunity to be out in our natural environment so they can understand it's importance to their lives, the part they play in the ecosystem, gain appreciation for all the connections we have with all living things, and take action to protect it in the future.
- Include, resource management and outdoor involvement in school curriculums.
- Spend the money judiciously with a long-term view. Spending money for short-term returns isn't a good use of the funds generally.
- Listen to local people about their concerns. Provide non-biased, common sense education to all Minnesotans to prevent false information from causing emotional reactions.
- Annual incentive of some kind (i.e. payment, reimbursement?) for each MN resident to hike a state trail, visit a state campground or park, volunteer for a non-profit
- Fund more programs that encourage, make accessible, and educate people to actively participate in restoring the natural environment where they live.
- Remove any funding for agricultural practice improvements from the Clean Water Fund. There are multitudes of other funding sources federal, state, private available and accessible for years. We do not need to keep funding polluters, but adopt the polluter pays model for all industries. Ag is no exception and funding them goes against the supplement requirement in statute.
- A lot of this has to do with properly educating the public on what is needed. Propose increasing out of state marketing to create a larger (non-mn) tax base to be able to create even more funding to preserve Minnesota natural resources. By directing folks to the right areas, we can create a cyclical and dynamic tax base to continue to invest in outdoor recreation while ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to experience Minnesota's world-class environment.
- focus on renewable energy
- Our outdoor recreation becomes a model of being in harmony with biodiversity, preservation, and conservation of our environment and natural resources, thus also addressing climate change.
- Decenter cars in our communities.
- Stop the amount of logging that has ruined hunting areas I once used, especially the slash that is left when logging takes place.
- Maximize waste reduction; implement beneficial ways to utilize waste. Elevate the value of all workers and all enterprises that manage waste.
- acquire land for more state parks
- Fund treatment of early detection invasive species. Fund ash removal on private property for low income residents.
- Remove all highway litter
- Restore and increase funding for wildlife habitats on terrestrial lands and aquatic ecosystems. Restorative species to their natural and historic ranges.

- People who have positive experiences in natural spaces are more apt to support and protect those spaces. Efforts should help increase involvement of community in environmental conservation and preserve access for all in a way that is not a detriment to the environment long term.
- Plant more trees in every area!
- Education and enforcement
- Carbon sequestration, groundwater management
- Funding should only be used to preserve and protect our natural resources.
- Developing a connected, comprehensive all-terrain vehicle (ATV) system by upgrading our state's amazing snowmobile trails to accommodate ATVs. Also provide camping experiences for ATVers.
- stop the mining!
- Limit pesticide use.
- Availability for handicap persons.
- Limited use of herbicides and pesticides so wildlife has a chance to survive
- All shoreline becomes a public good.
- Convincing legislators to invest in these resources from general funds. Very little at the moment. Didn't invest in fishing infrastructure for more than a decade. WTH.
- Look into larger city parks that are being destroyed by off road bikes that cause erosion and diminished wildlife in those areas due to growing population and no oversight.
- Keep on keeping on! So much has been accomplished already. We are on the right path.
- Ban people! More seriously, enforce existing laws and rules.
- Develop a conservation corps that includes youth and retired citizens.
- Some communities have new development such as Lake Elmo and Oakdale. It has been discussed to get fresh water from a river rather than wells due to a possible water shortage. This should be studied because it is cleaner water than from wells.
- promote awareness of how pesticides can harm the environment, promote better usage on agricultural and public/private land
- money funded to these goals
- protect aquifers for residential drinking water. Prevent commercial users from depleting the resource.
- permanent funding for s w c d
- Ban lead fishing equipment and lead shotgun pellets.
- state-wide cash redemption program for clean plastic waste
- I think there should be a push to do more controlled burning.
- We need more "natural" campsites
- Open up more campsites, hiking and biking trails.
- Promote sequestration and slow the use of natural resources
- Climate Change has become a big effect in this area. I would say the outdoor recreation is a most important part of Summer, Fall & Winter in Northern Minnesota. It affects the overall economy of the area as well.
- Solar panel assistance for homeowners
- Land back. Restore land rights to Minnesota Native American tribes. No more oil pipelines on Minnesota land, and no more shunting those pipelines onto Native reservations. These pipelines are leaky, pollute our air and water, and destroy our local land and wildlife.

- Utilizing the natural resources - minerals, timber, mining, etc - in a responsible manner to grow jobs and the State economy.
- protect minnesota's environment and natural resources before any new trails are planed
- Work with lake associations to address concerns. For being the land of 10k lakes, our DNR/governing agencies seem unwilling to think outside of the box and look at what other states are doing to research, understand and address water quality issues that affect people living on the lakes but also the many visitors whose tourism dollars support our communities when they visit the resorts in the area. Specifically SWIMMERS ITCH!!!! We are working with the below outfit out of MI but getting substantial pushback from folks at the MN state level to allow us to move forward with the solution and evaluate its impact. Doesn't it make sense to partner with others to enhance the water quality of our states lakes? www.swimmersitchsolutions.com
- Be the best state in the US for high quality, publicly accessible freshwater for all.
- Saying this as a settler descendant, we need to be listening more to Indigenous voices about practices that have worked in the past. With the 5% of land they occupy, they have 80% of the biodiversity because of their careful, informed, stewardship and, we should be learning from their examples more and providing help.
- Protect natural land simply to let it be natural. If incidental recreation is possible, great, but restore to its natural state and leave it be.
- Don't allow too many homes being built in the country maybe have a limit on how close they can't be together.
- Hold agriculture accountable when negligent on environmental laws, regulations. Currently it is economical for agriculture to break laws since the penalties are not severe enough
- Ensure education is provided in school and you our youth. Provide rationale to communities to ensure understanding and encourage participation
- Stop carp advancing into Minnesota rivers and lakes. Ending lead ammunition will I prove survival rates for bird and animal populations. The differential cost between lead and copper ammunition could be funded by the Legacy Fund.
- No more mining or oil pipelines.
- Fund projects that promote the reuse of recyclable materials. We need to create a market for the use of our trash. Our cardboard is not recycled because there is no one to buy it from our county. So it all goes to the landfill.
- Regulating and educating farmers on pollution
- Keep politics out of it. using DATA to make decisions is most important
- Enhance the outdoor recreation by letting more people know about the Voyageurs National Park in Minnesota. Protect the National Park from becoming a non motorized park. Do not restrict the usage of the National Park, keep facilities open and up to date. As you see times change and usage change be flexible with approved uses in the park. Such as more winter fishing opportunities, more private tours and guided trips. Encourage the surrounding communities to grow and attract people to the area. This part of the State is often overlooked and many people do not get to enjoy this water based National Park. The surrounding resort communities have much to offer and could use the support to start business or enhance the resorts in place.
- Keep fighting to protect our Northern MN Forests, Lakes, Rivers and Boundary Waters from Sulfide Mining!

- Collaborate with individuals - Programs like Lawns to Legumes that provide some funding and seek many pockets of participation. Many small projects add up.
- Assign a portion of cannabis tax revenue to support Minnesota's environment, natural resources and outdoor recreation
- If you want MN to have a sustainable environment you need to save the pieces. Currently we allow municipalities etc. to destroy small pieces of habitat that they deem wasted. A little patch of brush in the city is to some an eyesore but to a song bird, wild flower or small mammal is home. It may be the only time city kids see that type of habitat. Clearing it mowing it as a park doesn't provide much for the habitat
- The support or creation of truly sustainable communities: where communities are truly healthy, actively engaged, well resourced, and citizens work together with agencies etc to manage their own local natural resources in a way that makes sense for that community.
- Ensure that the impact of any development is assessed "downstream" -- both literally, and on a time scale. Short solutions for financial gain lead to future failure and abandonments.
- Push hard on clean energy. Climate change is going to trump all efforts of environmental progress and remediation if it isn't seriously addressed.
- Public awareness and protections regarding climate change
- Climate control
- Clearly define the element in the environment you are trying to protect or enhance. Define why you feel it's important, is it relevant and how much will it cost. Explain how protecting or enhancing this element fits into the environment overall. What is the improvement.
- Create a statewide network of youth-led conservation service organizations who can implement community-based conservation goals
- Try to imagine what your grandchildren wish you had done with the ENR trust fund.
- Have greater communication between stakeholder and the MN DNR. Have the DNR focus more specifically on what the user groups deem valuable rather than searching for new demographics to participate in a resource. Avoid focusing on who might possibly use the resource while ignoring the voice of the current users.
- To focus the ENTRF on projects that enhance outdoor recreation so people can get outside and enjoy our great outdoors!
- Put people in charge who are not political, can work together and have the best interest of our natural resources at top of mind.
- Working on how to find a way to clean up our waterways specifically removing (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) (PFAS) which would also include more transparency on sites that are heavily contaminated with PFAS in Minnesota.
- Acquisition and restoration
- Not particularly big or bold, but necessary - regulate pollution from farming practices. Just asking for cooperation hasn't moved the needle much.
- Support outdoor education through funding resources that provides immersive and experiential outdoor education for all students in Minnesota.
- Set aside land for conservation, restore that land as needed to recoup ecosystems and be prepared to protect it from overuse, misuse and pollution.

- Ensure that youth across MN have access to outdoor education and outdoor spaces to encourage the idea of sustainability. We need youth to have these values instilled early so that they may care about these issues when they're older
- Promoting and funding sustainable agriculture practices across the state to help protect both aquatic and terrestrial environments. Agriculture is a big industry in MN, and one that has been incredibly detrimental to the environment!
- No big ideas. Sorry! I just want to restore some of the prairie and keep the hardwoods up north.
- Elimination of large-scale farming
- Assist environmental k-8 schools in acquiring land (in place of renting facilities) that the schools would then work with professional environmental organizations in order to preserve and care for that land, while students have easy access to natural spaces within which to learn.
- Convert all unused land along roadways and in large grassy medians to natural grasses
- I think step one is actually increasing awareness about MN's environment, resources, and recreation options (especially in the winter).
- Stop wasting the citizens dollars
- Invest money with landowners who truly want to do the right thing; not just get check.
- Increased public awareness campaigns for Minnesota's outdoor recreation opportunities.
- These initiatives and cultural shifts are so big, that they need to start in our schools. Kids need to grow up with a greater understanding of and connection to our environment, natural resources, and outdoor recreation. Duluth is home to several incredible nature-based pre-schools, and the kids that come out of these programs have an incredible relationship with the natural spaces around them. The comfort and confidence they exude as they move through nature is amazing to see. If we can expand these opportunities to all preschool-age kids, and then continue that connection with natural spaces, we will really start to see a significant change in the next 10-15 years.
- Giving farmers the tools they need to both save them money and make their farming practices more sustainable (economic incentives for regenerative ag, no-till farming, etc.)
- Enforcing more policy and regulation.
- fix conflicting mission statements within DNR. Increasing outdoor activity may impact other efforts to preserve the natural resource.
- Bring everybody to the table to stop the infighting amongst different factions of the community
- Create a set of education benchmarks to be included directly in the K-12 standards for multiple disciplines.
- Focus attention on existing infrastructure corridors and drive required increases in biodiversity, habitat, and healthy native plant communities that are compatible with the corridor's primary use (DOT; electric; pipeline; rail; trails; etc.). Require land managers responsible for stewarding corridors that were established with a public need/public good to enhance Minnesota's environment, natural resources, and outdoor recreation through intentional vegetation management with increased habitat and vital native plant communities as IVM outcomes.
- Groundwater! Seems like we need to slow water in our ditches so more water filtrates down to replenish groundwater levels? With more irrigation systems both rural and urban we are pumping water to the Gulf of Mexico
- Educate and get people to do the right thing. People blow their yard waste into the streets, run their out door (and Christmas lights) all day, so many things that hurt our environment, and they don't seem to understand.

- Limit housing development across the Metro area.
- Educate others and open up more free events that can help teach people the importance of natural resources, outdoor recreation and environment.
- Protect all our waters from polluters and invasive species. Increase green space in lower income areas. Add renewable energy where possible. More Electric Car chargers in parks and green spaces.
- Finish the gitchee gammi trail and make it a showcase for getting people outside and active in nature. Have interactive destinations for education along the trail
- Fund educational opportunities/grants and create curriculum for all educational disciplines so educators are more inclined to bring students out into the environment, the natural world so they can spark an interest in our youth in order to recruit the next generation of environmental advocates who will write about, speak for and engineer the next generation of solutions to protect our natural resources.
- Land and habitat conservation
- No copper mining
- Open opportunities for volunteer and employment that supports and focuses on people with mental health issues, disabilities and those involved in the court system using a restorative justice model. Jobs for those on SSD that maybe long term or short term and the pay they receive does not impact their SSD income. Too much detail to unpack here.
- Protecting natural environments. Increased land trusts and conservation easements. More land protected from development.
- Access without damage to nature and habitats
- Connect with youth
- Companies should be responsible for their products. For example; a refrigerator company takes back their broken refrigerator or repair for the consumer. This would eliminate having refrigerators in our waste grounds. We need to make everyone responsible. companies and consumers.
- Encourage all Minnesota citizens to value, use, and protect Minnesota's natural environment.
- Give third graders and their families free admission to state parks.
- Connect people with nature from all ages and backgrounds. People with no connection to the land have less reasons to advocate and protect it. Help folks understand how to care for the environment and give them the tools to do so.
- Not big or bold, but continue to invest in outdoor recreation- trails, parks, SNAs, etc. Avoid development that destroys natural resources.
- Protect waters by limiting amount of fertilizers within a certain distance of lakes. Buy land that farmers can no longer use
- Increase funding to restore shorelines
- I spend a lot of time at backpacking sites in MN and frankly some of those areas need to have chunks fenced off to prevent further damage to trees and natural areas and allow small trees and native species to actually grow. They are heavily damaged from people and we are losing tree canopy (and future canopy) because of these jerks. I also wouldn't mind if the DNR required annual training in leave no trace before allowing backcountry/backpacking sites to be booked. The past 4 years I've seen more damage and trash than ever before.
- Develop strategy & plan for Minnesota to implement UN Convention on Biological Diversity and protect 30% of land, water, & biological resources by 2030 (i.e., 30% x 2030)

- Take a hike with the governor, Republican, and DFL legislative leaders.
- Increase use of the Mn. Land Trust by making it a more ethical organization through sharing appraisals with landowners.
- Focus on creating outdoor opportunities for Minnesota residents, as they are the ones that live near wilderness areas and will be the best stewards.
- Water Storage funding made available to landowners who want to restore drained lakes, wetlands and slow the flow of water and return to a more consistent flow of water to our lakes, streams and rivers, as well as recharge our groundwater.
- Keep ALL motorized vehicles (incl electric bikes) on paved roads and off of all trails which henceforth are designated protected. I find it incredible that there is legislation to increase the weight of so called off road vehicles which will quickly tear up the remaining wilderness in MN.
- Dramatic shift in farm practices so that habitats are created / maintained and water quality is enhanced.
- Mandate by law that municipalities and counties maintain certain water quality standards for lake, rivers, wetlands.
- Getting rid of invasive plants and critters
- Take better care of public lands we have
- Make polluters pay for water quality improvements
- let research drive decision making, not politics
- Make it real to all residents of MN
- Require that all waterways have a minimum of 30' to 50' border with plants to control erosion. Especially in agricultural fields.
- transfer the subsidies for food production to carbon sink production
- Reassess how marketing of our natural resources is done. Since COVID the push for public has been to get outdoors without any inclusion of Leave No Trace principles. I am on hiking and ATV trails often and see the destruction happening. Also consider closing trails during freeze/thaw to preserve them. (Duluth already does. Other states like Colorado do too.)
- Involve kids. Increase opportunities for kids to be in nature.
- Stressing the importance of what we have in creation and taking care of it as well as stiffer penalties for those that violate the laws to protect what we have.
- Put up signs for don't litter & offer more garbage cans
- Increase funding for DNR & MPCA
- Downgrade inputs from extractive and motoring industry.
- Acquire land that is marginal for farming, mining and other industry, and move it into the public sector to reduce the negative impact of that industry on air, land and water quality. For example, farming of land that requires irrigation from aquifers to be viable is depleting deep waters, and contributing to pollutant intrusion into well waters and ground waters.
- Develop knowledgeable strong leaders to make wise decisions beneficial to all, not specific interest groups
- Taking meaningful measures to address climate change. It's not stopping but there is too much "dithering" and not enough doing.
- Silviculture
- Require development to respect clean water, all sources

- Engage more people of all ages in volunteer projects that will connect them to our natural resources and result in the volunteers invested in the future of our natural resources.
- Properly manage forest lands to prevent spread of wildfires.
- More renewable energy
- Have free days at state parks and other natural areas with staff that can engage the local populations to use and develop ongoing activities.
- Enforce littering laws
- Introduce the Minnesota Great Green Challenge (MGGC), a revolutionary contest inspired by the XPRIZE model but tailored specifically to tackle environmental, natural resource, and outdoor recreation challenges in Minnesota. This large-scale, public-private partnership initiative would award significant prizes to teams and individuals who develop groundbreaking solutions in these areas. The Structure: The MGGC would be divided into three primary categories, each with its own set of challenges and corresponding prizes: Environmental Restoration: Solutions for cleaning polluted waters, restoring natural habitats, and revitalizing degraded lands. Innovations might include new bioremediation techniques, efficient pollutant removal technologies, or scalable models for habitat restoration. Sustainable Recreation: Designs for minimal-impact outdoor recreational activities, equipment, and infrastructure. This could range from zero-emission snowmobiles and boats to eco-friendly lodging and trail systems that protect natural habitats while providing exceptional outdoor experiences. Renewable Resource Management: Strategies and technologies for sustainable management of Minnesota's natural resources, including forestry, water, and mineral resources. Ideas could encompass advanced renewable energy utilization, sustainable mining practices, and innovative forestry management techniques that balance economic benefits with ecological health. The Impact: The goal of the MGGC would be multifaceted: to stimulate innovation, foster economic development, promote environmental stewardship, and position Minnesota as a global leader in sustainable living and natural resource management. The challenge would encourage participation from a broad spectrum of entities, including startups, research institutions, non-profit organizations, and community groups, leveraging the collective intelligence and creativity of people worldwide to solve pressing environmental issues. Prizes and Support: Winners of the MGGC would receive substantial financial prizes, along with opportunities for mentorship, business development support, and access to a network of investors and partners interested in scaling their solutions. The challenge would also include a youth innovation component, engaging Minnesota's schools and universities to inspire the next generation of environmental stewards and innovators. Through a mix of competition, collaboration, and community engagement, the Minnesota Great Green Challenge would not just search for solutions to today's environmental challenges but also ignite a statewide movement towards a more sustainable, resilient, and healthy future for all Minnesotans.
- Protect our waterways, lakes, ground water, and watersheds from pollution, both point and non-point. Make permitting for factory farms, mining, manufacturing, and others that pollute our water more difficult and perhaps not even possible in sensitive, fragile areas. Downstream is not away! Groundwater is not away! Requirements environmental impact investigations when the residues from their business affects our water!
- Seek more funding sources.
- LNT, it's not big but it helps.

- Keep it as wild and natural as possible. Don't oversell and overbuild. We don't want to change the environment and therefore, the climate, by getting the area too crowded. As I understand it, Arizona's climate has changed because many many people moved there and planted all the wrong things. So the pollen that was trying to be avoided by choosing that area went away.
- Work cooperatively with department of corrections to plant an alternative wet forest before loss of ash to emerald ash borer
- Hire more communicators to make our research less technical and more accessible to the public
- Funding continued biodiversity conservation work by supporting inventory and monitoring, especially in the face of climate change and increasing developmental pressures on the land and water.
- find a formula to put a cap on numbers of boats on any lake at one time
- Looking for innovative ways to engage individuals at all ages in the process - I used to live in Colorado and the work of GOCO was inspiring - things like nature walks for kids with the libraries.
- We need to move beyond talking and start doing things. We don't need another plan that sits on a shelf. I understand that some plans can change processes for generations, but they can also stymie progress and sit on a shelf indefinitely.
- Funds should be directed to on the ground projects that provide ongoing, permanent benefits
- continue promoting composting of food and food waste paper until towns/cities have pick-up like south MPLS does.
- Get rid of pond weed
- Odd/even driving days. Ban single use plastics
- stop the spread of invasive species in our lakes!
- Build a casino next to MOA and use funding for outdoors
- All stakeholders would find ways to work collaboratively to meet goals.
- Promote agricultural practices that reduce irrigation and soil loss. Charge farmers for, or somehow regulate, wasteful irrigation practices that are depleting our ground water.
- One of the initiatives I'm involved with is the Keep It Clean campaign (KeepItCleanMN.org). Our small team of volunteers passed a law that makes it illegal to place garbage and waste on any of Minnesota's lakes and rivers (effective July 1, 2023). This law will help address the growing problem of garbage and waste being left on the ice by ice anglers and winter campers/recreationist. Our state also needs to improve its infrastructure to include year-round (winterized) dump stations so that people who use wheel houses, RVs, etc aren't emptying their waste tanks and chemicals on/into lakes and in culverts along highways during the winter months (research this problem, it's big). The dump stations need to be conveniently located in high winter traffic areas so that they're easy and efficient to access. I'm also bringing Colin West and his team from Clean Up the Lake to Mille Lacs to identify the garbage hot spots and perform AIS research in the lake. I hope to raise funds to have them come back to remove the litter from the lake like they did at Lake Tahoe (they enlisted up to 300 volunteer scuba divers to remove over 25,000 tons of trash). In addition to cleaning up the lake, the initiative will provide educational opportunities by illustrating how what goes into a lake stays there for decades to come and may lead other lake associations and groups to perform the same type of cleanup on their own lakes.
- Dis-incentivize large agricultural land holdings through tiered property taxes, will remove some unsuitable land from ag and will create smaller, more diverse (with more habitat) farms.

- The majority of nutrient loading in Minnesota's lakes is from individual septic systems. I always thought the building and sewer setbacks from water bodies should be increased.
- Demonstrate the value of the lottery and sales tax programs to an improved environment
- Improve data accessibility for private well information.
- We need to have a program like Lawns to Legumes, but targeted toward rural landowners with larger landholdings and larger funding amounts. The federal programs are a great start, but they are often a BEAR to enroll in. The state-based L2L program is much more user friendly for the average homeowner/landowner. We also need to stop giving agriculture exemptions to water quality laws and hold them to the same standard as any other industry (SWPPs, etc) - but that's for another government body to deal with. :)
- Connect people to the resources so they learn to value them.
- Investments in MN Parks and Trails: acquire lands, provide public access to MN special places through which to create the next generation of conservation minded Minnesotans.
- Share stories across communities that emphasize the greater good.
- Let community decide what's needed and provide advice and support rather than dictating too much
- While I've started to see more of this, I think it would be great if we started to see more of MN's natural plants being planted as well as creating more green spaces and "third spaces" for children and adults to spend time outside instead of constantly being surrounded by concrete.
- Fix the conflicting goals that our DNR has will help. You can't protect the natural resource at the same time expand its usage.
- Stop the destruction of habit by plowing under tree lines for agricultural profit; stop draining of wetlands for agricultural profit; enforce penalties for shoreline destruction; develop a working system statewide to deal with recycling and garbage. Habit needs to be restored.
- Fund education centers like Long Lake Conservation Center in Aitkin County. We need to educate and expose our kids to environmental facts. This will help preserve the future
- Anishinabe, Dakota and BiPoC included in decision process
- Increase funding to fight invasive water and land species
- Education and get young people outside, outdoor courses in grade and middle school to outdoor camps. Science projects involving local lakes, rivers with students.
- Feature private land owners who are successfully restoring and conserving natural resources on their land. Showcasing success stories to inspire and educate others to do the same.
- Regulate agriculture
- More public lands owned by smaller governments in the Prairie Region of MN. A county owned property could be farmed, providing profit to the farmer and the county, while protecting sensitive features and providing public access. MN DNR and USFWS are too restrictive and don't provide enough revenue or flexibility to do this.
- Have highly respectable and believable Minnesotans promote the issue.
- Prove it first requirement for changes potentially impacting natural resources
- Do not allow dumping of salt, de-icers or other chemicals on roads that would pollute waterways or harm soil.
- There should be regional gathering across sectors to host a charette around collaboration and co-stewardship.

- The people of MN live close to the land, past, present and future. Most of us have a strong desire to manage the land well and a defined vision regarding how to do that. If we are really good at creating useful technical resources and accessible support systems for meaningful individual and community action, I believe that the people of MN will do a top notch job of managing our land, water and resources for a very bright future. The only way we can fail is if we don't figure out how to work together to provide, information, technical resources and support broadly to all of our communities and people. Let's not fail to do that when it is most needed.
- Empower Tribal Government to protect wild rice in Minnesota, including by providing them with the resources necessary to manage harvest licenses.
- Land back! Returning protected lands to tribal communities.
- Impact investing with the pool of financial resources that funds the LCCMR (Impact Finance Institute has ideas)
- Simply start with educating people on the negative visual and environmental effects of their nonchalant / habitual routine they have in regard to tossing out their cigarette butts. Most smokers have the attitude that they toss them where they know it won't cause a fire, and not with the mindset of how bad they are for children's playgrounds, beaches and the environment. Perhaps help lake foundations or cities to supply personal cigarette butt containers for boaters, hikers and people who park in parking lots etc.
- Trying to stop invasive species
- Maintain as much forested/vegetated land (not turf grass) as possible through educating private land owners on the importance the forest canopy provides society. This would include topics such as best management practices and insect/disease management. Education would largely focus on the ever fragmented forests due to urban sprawl and sub dividing of larger tracts for housing. New landowners would get an education course on managing their properties for the good of society. Benefits include: resilience to climate change, better management of insect/disease outbreaks, improved water and air quality, increased quality of life, a sense of belonging to the land. A lot of people want to live in the "woods" but when they get there can't tolerate the wood peckers, cleaning up leaves, or the myriad of other normal forest processes such as sticks in the woods. We need these essential natural phenomena to be understood and appreciated by these people.
- Take out politics and use experts in the field to make decisions on public water and land
- Find and fiercely nurture connections across divides, such as political, urban vs suburban vs rural, economic (income ranges), cultural, etc. We don't need to give primary focus on shiny new ""magic bullet"" solutions like technology. Those will be developed anyway. The key solution is already known. Build relationships, and build them at the speed of trust. Make space for them at every span of time (daily, weekly, monthly, yearly, etc.) and formality (social hours, meetings, retreats, community gatherings, cafe chats). This is not a new stance but is too often overlooked or, if recognized, severely lacking in resources (money, time, staff, etc.). When strong relationships unite us, many other solutions will not only come, but they will be more holistic, inclusive, and likely to survive and thrive long-term.
- Engage residents in local, town hall meetings. Address why we need to care now. Don't be a doomsday person. What can we accomplish as individuals, as communities and as larger entities. Focus on what can be changed, what's under our control or purview.

- Find a way to connect all the people working on conservation together so that things are more efficient and effective. Work from the ground up. Cities/townships/schools etc. Get people involved at the local level and connect with those on the county/ecoregion/watershed/state etc level
- Have nature in its natural way for a long time and for many generations to use safely.
- Maintain an emphasis on fighting invasive plants and species, especially carp.
- Make protecting our environment a top priority. Educate and provide information to the public, often. Focus on things people care most about (bodies of water, commonly frequented trails, etc..) then, once you have their attention, continue to educate people on those “lesser” concerned topics.
- Privatize
- Controlling AIS. Lakes with Starry Stonewort should be Quarantined. Just as you would a sick person. Why put the rest of MN in jeopardy! Come on MN WORK HARDER to protect our lakes and waterways
- More in-depth news coverage about all of the above
- More affordable community solar gardens with incentives or mine old dumps for waste electronics that have higher precious metals.
- Please help the smaller lakes with the invasive plant issues with some of the money. Long lake in grove city needs help to kill off invasive plants
- Implement legislation to protect the environment and reduce the impacts of climate change by requiring climate action in the form of energy use reduction, waste reduction, etc from large companies and businesses.
- Perennial agriculture
- Expand the CRP programs to increase the amount of natural prairie lands.
- Utilize research to its fullest extent.
- Do not allow the transfer of public lands and waters back to the tribes continue or it will become a highly divisive issue that will set back the relationships with the tribes which have been improving greatly. Instead focus on co-management of public lands as was recently done on the Superior National Forest.
- Protecting water quality of our lakes in rural areas. Including small lakes.
- Improve state parks, staff the beaches and reinvolve young students in active water, wildlife and nature projects.
- Empower and fund local owner associations, like lake boards
- Using invasive sea weed (clp) as fertilizer- incentivize smaller lakes with capital to team up together to purchase harvesters and provide technical assistance to get the weeds to farmers
- Reducing the trash we put on the earth! But I don’t have the answer on how to do this large scale.
- Start early and young to ensure our environment is valued by all!
- I do not have any big bold ideas - I wish we could implement some of the ideas already out there - All citizens to have a composting bin along with recycling and garbage. More information on what to recycle. I think those would be very helpful. (I also know people do not read or listen, I am a teacher.)
- Reframe public school funding to shift current focus of short-term resource extraction on School Trust Lands into a stewardship model that accounts for a broader range of public values, including ecosystem services.
- stop giving public lands to tribal governments

- Adopting a fundamental philosophy that plants and animals have a right to exist; that they do not exist merely as resources to serve human purposes.
- Acquiring more public property.
- To ban backyard firepits in residential areas. To offer more logging in the BWCA so the lakes are preserved and the air is by not having the heavy carcinogenic fires
- Restore hydrology water quality of Minn River Watershed
- Replace industrial agriculture with regenerative farming to enhance water quality and habitat.
- Continue to monitor items that are destroying our Lake water and the water table that we drink. Continue to monitor and stock the Lakes with fish as needed.
- Focus on light pollution
- Create metrics to monitor progress towards goals and develop a comprehensive scorecard. You can't control what you can't measure.
- Require pollinator plantings on 10% of all lawns.
- Develop explicit goals and plans for climate adaptation
- Wildlife habitat preservation, renovation and acquisition.
- Continue facilitating transfers of land back to indigenous nations across the state
- Value of our natural resources and appropriate uses in all of its complexities to the betterment of Minnesota's well being socially, economic and environmentally.
- Establish more SNAs. What little old growth hardwood forest that remains should be protected.
- I wish I had one, sorry
- Support large projects like the Forever Green Initiative as a driver of innovation
- Plant more trees
- Connect people to the outdoors when they are young, impressionable and open by funding multi-day immersion in programs at accredited environmental learning centers. Outdoor School For All (<https://www.outdoorschoolforallmn.org>) has momentum and is a solid way to support this big, collaborative idea.
- construct wider shoulders on state highways and paved county roads in rural areas so that biking would be more of an option as a means of transportation.
- As an agricultural state with a lot of soil and water resources to protect - both for recreation and economic utility - continuing to fund projects and programs that create markets for agricultural ingredients, encourage climate-adaptive and environmentally protective practices, and invest in needed infrastructure to successfully commercialize value-added ag innovations will be key to pairing these environmental and economic needs.
- Encourage everyone to at least reduce invasive species spread. Cut seed producing plants at a minimum.
- Purchase more state land to protect our resources and provide opportunities for the public to enjoy natural areas.
- Focus on ecological protection across landscapes to integrate federal, regional, county, local government, institutional, corporate and private lands by funding long-term collaborations
- Ensure long term maintenance is part of funding for all projects. We need to stop thinking short term!

- Involve local communities in brainstorming climate adaptation solutions and maintain relationship throughout process: ideation to completion. Communities can be involved in how to maintain and conserve access to high quality natural resources and spaces now and in the future.
- Working alongside traditionally partisan organizations like hunting clubs to promote initiatives, bring about public awareness, and drive legislative change! Many groups on either side are hesitant to engage in a respectful dialogue but crossing the aisle and giving everyone a seat at the table is necessary as conservation is a value that we all share.
- We need more conservation easements to protect land from being developed. If we don't have natural places to go to then people will become disconnected to their natural resources.
- I have no big, bold ideas. I just focus on what I can do as an individual.
- Use the best available science to make decisions, not the whims of politicians or the legislature. Minnesotans are exhausted by divisive politics, and when it threatens our natural resources it has gone too far. Believe in science. When future discoveries are made, adapt to them. This is how we move forward.
- Create a lesson series to show k-12 students on protecting our environment and natural resources what is available for outdoor recreation. Teach the population to care.
- Increase acquisition of conservation easements especially near waterbodies, and create incentive program for small parcel forest landowners.
- Expand regenerative agriculture and accelerate policy adoption that lowers the cost of organic food for equitable health outcomes for ALL Minnesotans. Educate all Minnesotans about Holistic Management to increase adoption of Holistic Management planning and monitoring procedures (Land Planning, Planned Grazing, Financial Planning, Ecologic Outcome Verification, and Research & Policy Development) to achieve positive social, economic, and ecologic outcomes.
- support for sustainability and access with agricultural communities.
- Citizen science! Minnesotans care a lot about their environment and their neighborhoods, create programs that they can participate in and maintain
- Adopt an indigenous relationship with MN's environment, natural resources, and outdoors that focuses on reciprocity, not consumption or ownership.
- Funding large scale moose habitat work in the northeast to boost/expand the population.
- Education and awareness- why it is important to them!
- Continue to fund multi county multi agency projects like the 1 Watershed 1Plan
- Understand everything is related, look at projects in the whole view and how they tie in.
- Pour money into climate adaptation research and action on Minnesota's lands. We need to take bold steps like planting climate adapted trees and more.
- Get rid of pesticides
- MN sees the value of "Up North", but we need a bigger push for protections for prairies, rivers, wetlands, etc. in the south of the state--clean water focus, new agriculture practices that protect soil and water, promotion of natural landscapes and grasses instead of green chemical lawns
- Invest in cross-cutting research that will enable the identification and evaluation of true, transformational adaptation solution pathways given climate and environmental impacts
- Create a statewide program that allows ANY landowner to put a conservation easement on their land of small acreage under certain circumstances that support good urban development; and/or

pay land owners for carbon credits of some sort for not developing their properties; again as part of thoughtful urban development. It's complicated.

- Similar to the Bird City and Tree City programs, I would love to see a Sustainable City initiative that encompasses multiple facets of environmental best practices. I believe this should include a variety of stakeholders including scientists, educators, farmers/ranchers, city planners, industry, and outdoor recreation including hunting and angling.
- Promote education of it (if kids grow up caring about it, you will soon have more adults who care about it too!)
- I'll leave that to the professionals!
- Requiring that ground water is used in a sustainable manner, do not allow the aquifers to suffer a net decrease on an annual basis
- Clean up the storm water runoff BEFORE it enters a water body. Quit funding recreation except to maintain - we have plenty of opportunities now. Enact a moratorium on concrete other than replacing existing because the concrete industry is 7% of emissions. Replace concrete with natural or organic pervious surfaces when feasible.
- Update less used state parks
- Require a section of every proposed bill before the legislature to include a section on how it will affect the environment. Require our state government agencies to consider the environment air quality water quality and other natural resources before corporate interests.
- More grants and tax write off for individuals and companies restore their land and keeping it minimally developed.
- As a teacher - and I know this is playing the long game - but these topics need to make repeated appearances in public schools, and not via a worksheet or a movie. Kids need to get out and EXPERIENCE the benefits of nature, and what happens if we lose/misuse it.
- Native gardens and pollinator gardens at all schools
- Acquire land to establish several new State Parks
- Land acquisition and control. If the state owns the land they can then control the outcomes through proper management for all. (I believe it is a mistake to return state parks to tribal control. This action only reduces land accessibility for all and makes a greater divide among communities that once shared the space.)
- Support tribes with priority funding for sustainable land management.
- Enhancing freshwater lakes by reducing run off and removing nitrates from the water.
- Educating our children about how to protect and enhance Minnesota's environment, natural resources and outdoor recreation so that they can understand the science and human impact on our state, and the world so that they have the knowledge and desire to promote them as productive adults. One way LCCMR can help with this is to fund teacher programs that help train and prepare educators in the environment and scientific principles so they can facilitate and encourage student sense-making from kindergarten to high school graduation and beyond.
- Defeat invasive insects like the shield bugs, wasps, Japanese beetles and others that cause harm and destroy land trees and crops
- Not sure seems overwhelming
- Deal with Minnesota's settler heritage so that all Minnesotans can work together for preservation and sustainability of our most precious land and water. Minnesota is Ojibwe, Dakota, and Ho-chunk land, and together we can all ensure all our children can enjoy it.

- Camper cabins in all state parks, especially those that are under- used
- Make sure there is adequate staffing, education, and funding to ensure research and development of strategies to reach goals. More money for individual homeowners to create environmentally, eco friendly improvements. We also need to be able to enforce environmental laws for all businesses, individuals and governmental agencies.
- Incentivize solar panels on all industrial/commercial building roofs over a certain square footage (e.g. Walmarts, parking garages). Stop building solar farms in open ag./undeveloped areas, which sequester carbon as they are.
- Measure overall progress success in how it mitigates global climate change.
- A marketing campaign to get community buy into adopting local parks/outdoor spaces.
- 1. We have to find a way to educate and inspire our youngest- so they grow up with a mindset; support efforts to make recycling in communities “worth it” for people to do, remove hurdles to do so, and use all marketing avenues to make it known!! Campaign-? - once an overall plan is in place. 2. Do NOT do the “every school” goes to a Residential outdoor learning experience- bad, bad, bad to put more on schools and teachers.... People have to do that because they want to!
- Focus on habitat continuity and wildlife corridors
- Move to a 4-day work week to increase the amount of time available for people to be in and enjoy the outdoors and get involved in community projects to protect the environment.
- More ways to use and enjoy the land we have. more snowmobile, 4 wheeler, better focus on getting kids into the sports. especially fishing
- Help people truly understand climate change
- Protect old growth forests from unsustainable logging practices like clear cutting.
- I think Minnesota will become a climate change refuge in the coming decades, from people fleeing areas that become environmentally intolerable. Minnesota should do everything possible to protect its most vulnerable natural resources—clean, cold water; healthy boreal forests, and threatened recreational activities related to those resources: fishing, camping, hiking, and hunting. I don't know how to stop climate change damage, but we need to either mitigate the effects, or adapt our resources to the new reality.
- If we keep emitting greenhouse gasses, any conservation work will be an uphill battle. This fund could be used to transition the state off carbon emitting energy sources, expand geothermal, solar, and wind energy, and protect our future.
- Bring back a balance in the predator-prey relationship. Too many white tailed deer and too few wolves
- I can't think of a magic bullet, but directing a great deal of resources into regenerative agriculture and agritourism could be a highly effective way to build momentum for the sustainable agriculture movement, which in turn is highly connected to environmental stewardship and natural resource consumption. This focus would hopefully build up Minnesotan's relationship to their land and serve as one of many recreational factors already inclining Minnesotans towards care for our natural resources
- Control farming near waterways and Control invasive species
- Focus on conservation and all wildlife, not just game species, so my kids can experience the MN I grew up in
- Educating Minnesotan's on the pollution of littering, dumping and not properly disposing of their garbage. Old tvs, dog poop, tires, clean up after themselves.

- Maintain large tracts of forest and use alternative methods of harvest instead of clear-cutting in order to maintain a more connected ecosystem and maintain Minnesota's unique habitats.
- outlaw plastic bags, other plastics that aren't needed, support more recycling, and composting, outlaw many types of fertilizers and weed killers that encourage algae growth in our lakes and ponds. Keep lebanon hills as rustic as possible. We have good walking paths don't pave them, let us have more wilderness in the suburbs.
- Provide wildlife corridors in the state.
- Protect water at all cost. Ensure the only thing ever mined in Minnesota is iron. If a farmer, cooperative, LLC --whoever plows the land -- pollutes, they will face 50 years in jail with no parole. Financial penalties also will be assessed beginning at \$1 million. Outlaw the growing g of sugar in Minnesota. Nuke all big ag monopolists. NOW. Transition the grid to solar and wind by 2028. That's a good start.
- Provide equitable access to nature and education
- More investment in voyageur national park gateway communities and the regional natural resource and recreation/assets: biking, trails, winter and dark sky tourism...
- A certification process for any new construction that must be met requiring that as little disruption possible is being done to habitat. I have seen woods clear cut for office buildings, housing projects. Requirements should be on place that trees need to be preserved, pollinator gardens installed rather than useless landscape shrubs, permeable parking lots to handle run off, etc. If we don't stop the incredible wasteful development of animal habitat, we are doomed.
- Develop economies that will use up our invasive species problems. Example: eating invasive fish in lake, harvesting emerald ash borer (carapace) for jewelry, utilize buckthorn for crafting. AND further push campaign that turns residential lawns into wildlife habitats! Minnesota has been great at this and I'd love to see it continue to combat species extinction and as a way to support climate change mitigation.
- Manage our lands with a priority for biodiversity and Climate resilience instead of economic profit.
- Shut down Canadian oil pipelines that threaten the most pristine lake country water in the state.
- Help farmers to stop using fertilizer and pesticide by intercropping. More solar, wind and geothermal
- Elect people who put the environment on the top for things that they want to accomplish.
- Identifying that climate change, land use change, and the biodiversity crisis all mostly stem from the same human-caused problems that need human-created solutions, are the focal point of the grand challenges of the 21st century. Recognition of this will require shifts in educational paradigms and cross-generational multidisciplinary collaboration and capacity building that seems largely missing from today's divided society. Youth education and involvement should be a foundational principle of this, since we will be leaving them with difficult choices (just as we deal with our own historical legacy and have our own difficult choices)
- work with legislature to make meaningful changes in agriculture to mitigate env impacts (primarily nitrates), and use trust funds to defray costs for those citizens that warrant some relief
- Increase the LCCMR / ENRTF annual allocation budget and continue to decrease the barriers for first-time applicants trying to access it.
- Encourage the switch and use of clean energy, such as solar and geothermal
- Get back to basics including environmental ramifications of any new building projects. Cut back building on wetlands

- Address agricultural pollution...don't be scared
- Reduce GHG emissions and better regulate use of pesticides and fertilizers for RESIDENTIAL/LAWN use.
- Prairie Preservation Ordinances or mandatory wild areas in all communities that connect to other wild areas.
- Put a bounty on wild pigs asap.
- More needs to be done to advance sustainable practices on working lands. The UofM's Forever Green Initiative is a prime example in the agriculture sector.
- Change the 60/40 revenue % between General fund and Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund in favor of the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund receiving at least 60% and the General Fund receiving at most 40% of the portion of proceeds from the State Lottery
- Just do it! This is so important--we need to quit talking about it and just do it!
- Create regional terrestrial invasive plant coordinators with ongoing funded positions to work with local communities on invasive plant issues. Additionally, they would bring new LCCMR supported research findings to their communities and facilitate implementation.
- Convince farmers, through education and incentives, to widely adopt use of cover crops to sequester carbon in the soil, reduce surface water runoff to improve waterway health, improve water infiltration to recharge groundwater resources, and reduce the amount of chemical fertilizers needed to produce economically viable yields of crops. The amount of privately owned and managed cropland in Minnesota could have a tremendous environmental effect either positive or negative depending on how it is managed. Using the people that farmers get their information from to make growing decisions to disseminate this information and these strategies such as private and co-op agronomists and certified crop advisors instead of the typical use of government organizational staff would likely have a much broader and faster impact. Many farmers have more trust in these people since they rely on the farmer having a good year based on their recommendations to get hired by the farmer again in future years, whereas extension and other governmental staff may be knowledgeable, but face no real consequences if the techniques they recommend don't work.
- Work within local communities. Make sure residents know that protecting Minnesota's environment is a concern for all of us.
- Leave MN. taxpayers alone so they might have enough money to enjoy the outdoors.
- Start with our youth. Funding for ALL schools to receive multiple environmental education opportunities (day and overnight).
- engage communities at the local level in projects (volunteers) to identify needs, brainstorm projects and plan to achieve needs identified with volunteers
- Maintain what you have and not purchase any more land.
- using smart controls that don't effect anyone's income
- All "unused" public land space should be filled with native plants (grasses, pollinator-encouraging flowers/orbs, native trees, etc). Every highway/freeway should be lined with pollinator/prairies, neighborhood spaces, yards to native grasses and fertilizers minimized.
- Educate
- Protect all public lands from pollution.
- Get people to care and make space for them to engage so they can care.
- Increase access to outdoor spaces for low-income communities

- Promote education in all grades, as they will one day be making decisions that affect all residents of Dakota County.
- Educating students about the environment - how what they do daily can affect what happens in the environment. Teaching them to respect their environment, to learn and to truly enjoy it
- wasting water and land pollution
- Clarify that natural ecosystems can be allowed on right-of-way. Build visible natural lawns and educate.
- Give more land back to the tribes.
- We must do everything to prevent Asian carp from reaching the Great Lakes. EVERY IDEA should be on the table.
- Continue to enhance and maintain all the amazing resources we already have, find innovative ways to connect people to the outdoors through public transit that takes people to popular state and regional parks. Help harmed and neglected communities get access to resources and opportunities to have power in connecting to and restoring land
- Increase equitable access to environmental education experiences for k-12 students but also people of all ages!
- More land-back initiatives
- Building and posting lessons that connect people with outdoors. Make legislation to get kids outside and away from smartphones/devices.
- The state should have lakes where people are prohibited access or certain types of use. We have land and wildlife reserves, but not enough water reserves.
- Restoration of large oak prairie savanna land tracts.
- enhancing the Minnesota experience statewide!
- reserve as much land as possible and protect it - and the species that live there - from urban and suburban sprawl
- Ensure that all Minnesotans feel knowledgeable and committed to protecting and enjoying our outdoor spaces so we can all work together to address climate change and other real environmental issues.
- Making sure that all K-12 students get an experience in an environmental learning center or other outdoors nature based programming. This will instill the value of protecting the environment and all that it has to offer us.
- Plant more native prairie patches around the Twin Cities within appropriate spots of public parks and along sidewalks.
- Ensure that the minerals that are needed for renewable energy, Ev's and power grids come from mining Minnesota minerals rather than overseas in Africa and Indonesia, and processed in China where there are little or no environmental regulations.
- The cities needs to work on crime so people won't be scared to come out to parks and recreation. There needs to be a police presence for our parks for safety.
- It is very important to utilize our outdoor resources to the fullest and enhance recreation. Rural communities in MN need this funding to be able to move any project forward. There is very limited funding for outdoor recreation, such as campgrounds, boat recreation and trails. Rural communities need these projects funded to enhance the experience for outdoor enthusiasts.

- Increase native biodiversity including marshlands, woodlands, and prairies in public lands. There are so many opportunities to increase diversity in existing public lands which could benefit air quality, water quality, and education of the public. Restoration efforts should also include a network of urban plots that require restoration, such as the New York Restoration Project.
- Prioritizing pollinator / native plants in the "unused" portions of land surrounding highways, roundabouts, etc. These are typically filled with non native grasses that are mowed, but are great opportunities for wildlife, carbon sequestration, and beautifying our cities.
- Build in ecosystem service costs into the prices of things
- Rewilding urban environments to provide continuous habitat paths for pollinators and other wildlife, that connect protected lands to cultivated wildscapes.
- Outdoor Education: Implement outdoor education programs for both residents and visitors, focusing on topics such as environmental learning. These programs could be offered through partnerships with schools, community organizations, and outdoor recreation centers, etc.
- I would like to see environmental laws enforced and with stiffer penalties. Go after big business that pollute and the common guy burning garbage.
- Microloans to support native species restoration after invasive species management. For example, small loans could be used to purchase seeds and bare-root native plants for restoring land and preventing reinvasion by invasives.
- Science! Utilize science and industry to control chemical runoff into drinking water and agricultural waste to produce renewable fuels like RNG.
- A lot of small scale projects that involve more people/property owners so they take ownership and propagate changes. Reduce consumption in as many ways as possible.
- City to plant native/pollinator plantings along all rails to trails corridors and parkways.
- Adapt agriculture so that there is continuous living cover on a high percentage of Minnesota fields.
- All new developments have management plans for climate change risk, native habitat support, & water protection.
- Provide farmers with incentives for no plow practices while helping with funding and practices for regenerative farming.
- Acquiring more public land. More enforcement for non motorized areas.
- 1. Recreation rail- extend the train (that will be going from the cities to duluth) from Duluth to Virginia and then Grand Rapids to Ely, on the latter section special train cars allow you to drive your atv or snowmobile right onto the train. 2. Develop a world class water research facility (or just bolster NRR) focused on a scalable solution to replace reverse osmosis which uses way to much energy to be an effective desalination solution. It will possibly be a solar assisted (passive and photovoltaic) evaporative system with geothermal condensing coils, but needs development for scalability. Billions if not trillions of dollars and the pride of saving ~half the world's population to whoever figures this out. Single most important pivot point in our species ability to adapt to climate change. (Not prevent it, adapt to the consequences)"
- Increase the number of acres dedicated to perennial crops.
- identify and protect wildlife habitat
- Make this opportunity less tied to political sway, clout, and favors
- Phytoremediation to reduce land and water contamination for sustainable agriculture.
- Conservation easements

- Utilizing continuous living cover in our agricultural systems to help return ecosystem services to the landscape.
- Significantly reduce nitrogen and other chemicals for growing corn. Nitrous oxide from crop agriculture is responsible for 12% of Minnesota's GHG emissions and its polluting our waters including drinking water.
- Diversification of crops and crop systems through applied research conducted in greater Minnesota.
- reparative urban agroecology -- we've been proposing this for years, because interactive greenspaces that are meaningful to people through what they eat and that also repair their historical and current relationships with land (i.e. by making food production something that doesn't poison people and land communities and water) meets SO many of the existing goals -- but it appears that both ""urban"" and ""agriculture"" have been looked down on by LCCMR for the 20 years I've been engaging. And it doesn't only have to be urban -- but integrated in the landscapes where people LIVE, not relegated to hinterlands where people don't directly get to interact with the implications of bad stewardship practices, like monoculture, pesticides, and chemical fertilizers
- Solar panels everywhere possible
- Preserving and restoring 30% of the land area of the state
- Helping people understand ecology, and our dependance on ecosystem services. And encouraging social norms that increase our desire, comfort and joy in reducing consumption
- Transforming agriculture to produce more and more diverse crops using continuous living cover strategies - see <https://greenlandsbluewaters.org/continuous-living-cover/>
- Preserve land as a resource and keep it out of large corporate farm ownership and development, in order to protect all of our resources.
- Emerald Ash Borer has recently been found in North Central MN Forests. While scientific research has already pointed out that these ash are likely doomed, massive work will need to be done to ensure the vast black ash lowland hardwood remain forested through assisted migration of other lowland species.
- Incentivize eco-friendly environmental practices. Erosion control, reduced leaching into water ways, cover cropping, etc.
- Helping to complete the North Country National Scenic Trail across the State of Minnesota
- Return state owned land to the tribes
- Severely restrict development. Decrease human population growth and spread.
- Drastically increase the number of afforested acres statewide on private/public lands.
- Protect what we already have. Cleanup problem areas. Allow people to enjoy the Natural Resources.
- Funding for agriculture cover crops, tile outlet bio reactors, controlled drainage systems & wetlands as filters.
- I want Minnesota to be a shining example of wild, natural and protected spaces where humans take up the smallest space and resources possible.
- Stop the out-of-control development that is occurring all over the state. This includes industrial and residential development and it is destroying habitat at an alarming rate. Stop allowing businesses to buy up land and build brand new facilities while old vacant buildings languish or are torn down.
- Increasing land area is being "reserved from management" but it still changes over time, e.g., forest grow and age, wetlands evolve, etc., often to the detriment of wildlife habitat, recreation, etc. Need

research and associated modeling to foster management that maintains specific and overall productivity and usefulness of lands

- Have every Minnesotan (5.7 million) plant at least one tree on private/public land in the next year. Along with this goes, how to steward the tree(s) for climate mitigation, wildlife habitat, ecosystem benefits.
- I think responding to Climate Change should be included in everything we do with the ENRTF. It should be integrated, because without addressing climate change, we're not truly protecting our natural resources.
- Defund Big AG
- The State needs to recognize that its publicly-held "natural and working lands" are uniquely situated to provide climate benefits.
- Expanding the markets for forest resources creates an economic incentive to keep forest lands in forest cover. It also supports and expands our ability to manage forests and create habitat without the need for additional funding thereby freeing up limited funding sources to be used in other conservation projects.
- We need to focus on reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions (mitigating climate change) and building resiliency for the impacts we are already seeing.
- Net zero loss of clean ground water measured per aquifer, averaged on a rolling 10-year basis.
- Restore habitat. Incentivize regenerative agriculture.
- Fund ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION for school districts
- Employ ecosystem services for climate protection and human population needs; for example solar and wind power, wetland buffers and soil infiltration for water quality and storage; planting more prairie again for carbon sequestration; and making outdoor spaces accessible for all.
- Establish priorities for protecting species and habitats and fund studies that will lead to implementation
- When we talk about "protecting and enhancing" - we need to prioritize active engagement in the care and stewardship of our lands. We need to stop just acquiring lands (through public purchase or easements on private lands) and inadequately caring for them so their ecological capacities and resilience diminishes (i.e., wetlands that are full of cattails and invasives, forests with high rates of tree mortality and wildfire risk, grasslands with limited biodiversity due to exclusion of grazing, parks with poorly maintained trails and facilities, etc). We need to be engaged in more active care of our resources, including embracing expanded use of local natural materials and bio-based products that come from careful management and support a transition away from fossil energy and fossil-based plastics and chemicals.
- More natural space in urban communities for children to play in - to get them in touch with nature.
- Protect as many lakes and rivers as possible by protecting their natural lakesheds/watersheds. You get a lot of multiple benefits for Minnesotans, including cleaner water, cold-water fish habitat, climate resiliency (such as reduced flooding), and carbon storage, among others.
- schools are short on time, BUT have all ____ graders in the state do lessons on Minnesota's environment -- just the way all Kinders get a library card, all 1st graders meet a dentist, etc.
- Clean it up (managing invasives, etc.) and keep it clean.
- STOP, just leave things in there natural state. Stop trying to be creative, nature is already perfect.
- Prioritize Indigenous Peoples knowledge to guide Minnesota's protection and guardianship of our sacred environment and natural resources.

- Listening to, respecting, and prioritizing the knowledge and perspectives of Indigenous tribes, bands, and communities. We must do this at all levels. They have the answers we so desperately need.
- Hire more staff to work for the DNR. Use these people to create a team that tackles issues of invasive species removal, prescribed fire, and other restoration activities. Include people that don't have a college degree on the DNR workforce.
- Utilizing unused mine pits
- Invest in recreation areas to drive retention and attraction in rural communities
- Create a MN Department of Water. There needs to be greater focus at the state level on water quality. Water in MN is under threat from CAFOs, mining, invasive species, climate change and loss of shoreline habitat.
- Reaching younger generations and fostering a next wave of aware and intentional adults who are committed to caring for the environment
- Widespread education focused on long term outcomes
- Teach the youth as much as we can about the environment so that they can take care of it in the future!
- Become a state in which every property owner is responsible for the water that falls on their property - storage ponds, rain gardens, rain barrels- to keep run off from entering waterways.
- Create partnerships with NGO's, Non-profits, local and county governments and private property owners to create and overlapping conveyance of ideas, purpose and implementation to achieve natural resource goals.
- designate no wake and no wakeboard lakes
- Return prescribed fire to fire-dependent ecosystems that have suffered and degraded due to suppression
- Educate the people, i.e. "the newcomers" and enforce the laws. People need to respect and revere our resources
- acquire land, and place the focus on protecting existing natural areas / habitat before resorting to restoration of lands that have been highly degraded
- Have an annual hunting season for wolves
- Educating, beginning with our youngest residents! Outdoor recess, School Forest visits for kids in metropolitan areas and exposure to the possibilities of all they can do outdoors. Hunt, fish, bird watch, hike, camp, etc..
- put a small tax on bird feeding & bird watching supplies, binoculars, spotting scopes as a source of revenue for non-game species protection staff. I say this as a longtime birder. Also, require bird-safe windows on all new buildings and renovations; we have a manufacturer right in MN.
- Trying to keep things clean and safe as to the best of my ability, while out doors and in doors.
- Pay model farms, those who are keeping their soil out of water bodies and keeping fertilizer on the land. Also, highlight best practices for lawns and alternative lawn vegetative. We don't need to spend resources on beautiful green lawns. We need to change the perception of what is beautiful for our lawns and fields. Also, penalize people who take down beautiful stands of old oak trees.
- Educate Minnesotans and visitors on best practices and develop and expand programs to engage youth with the outdoors through CCC type employment.
- Determining the value of Minnesota's water, stop giving it away for next to nothing so industry can make \$\$ - they should pay their fair share.

- Create a category in LCCMR for funding long-term projects (decades long types of projects) that don't have the same routine of having to go through repeated short-term proposals, etc. It is inefficient and the short-term project approach doesn't cover it all.
- MN MET Council and MN Local Gov. is one of MN greatest polluters of our waters and land destroyers. They are not held accountable. Restrict funding to those who take these fundings, fail to file proper yearly documents, and disband MET. Hold them accountable to highest standard, stop rewarding them.
- Environmental Education
- Improving agricultural practices and getting away from aggressive mono crops and synthetic pesticides and moving to smaller farms with more diversity. Also maintaining buffers about waterways to avoid destruction of wetlands and preserve water quality.
- Fund outdoor education program for K-12 schools!
- Re-connect people with nature to better understand and appreciate ecosystem services, sustainability and conservation and to encourage a stewardship ethic.
- Elimination / replacement of plastic bottles, bags, and related packaging. The majority of litter along our streets and highways is plastic consumables.
- Projects with partnerships with government agencies, tribes, NGOs, etc are crucial in making a difference for Minnesota's environment, natural resources, and outdoor recreation. Projects with these partnerships should be prioritized.
- Financing
- The minerals under our feet cannot be forgotten. We need to boldly move forward and support green energy by utilizing Minnesota's minerals, which are a vibrant natural resource. LCCMR funds once supported mineral evaluation work on State Lands, and this should once again be pursued.
- Acquire land, planning for connectivity to allow for shifting species ranges as the climate changes
- Make it cost/time effective for people to participate in programs to assist in these areas.
- Cooperation with neighboring states to solve issues that extend beyond borders.
- Fund non-profits who are already doing the work to educate the community about the importance of protecting our land and water areas while providing equitable access to outdoor areas. When we all know better, we do better!
- Enable private landowners to implement prescribed fire on private lands throughout Minnesota in order to improve wildlife habitat and improve agricultural outcomes.
- Clean air
- Get kids/families outside. We care for what we care about.
- Make it cheaper for people with MN ID to pay for state parks than those without MN ID. Also, we need landfills that people can safely dispose of household waste.
- Cutting taxes
- Clean air monitoring. Canadian fires have impacted the air quality in Northern Minnesota. Sanctions against Canada if this continues.
- The State of Minnesota needs to invest heavily in acquiring and managing more publicly-held lands to ensure their biological and ecological persistence for all future generations. Current economic and developmental pressures are causing habitat to be destroyed or degraded at a rapid pace, and the only guaranteed way to conserve biodiversity and prevent catastrophic ecological consequences is for the State to acquire large amounts of additional land, invest in sufficient numbers of new staff

to manage the habitat on these lands, and invest research into best management practices to manage and maintain biodiversity of our native plant communities and ecosystems for the long-term.

- People need science and environmental/ecological literacy from preschool ages to older adults. We need to be aware of where our water comes from and how to protect it. We need to know how our lifestyle impacts our environment and that we are part of the environment. How to lessen negative impacts. Listen to Tribal Environmental Knowledge of Elders and Indigenous folks that understand the long view of history and how we are a part of everything and all interconnected.
- Engage everyone...all ages, all socioeconomic backgrounds, all races, all communities
- There needs to be a priority for future ENRTF funded projects to be Indigenous-led. We are in a climate crisis, and Indigenous leadership needs to be at the forefront of land management, decision making and resource allocating when it comes to these important projects. I do believe there needs to be a focus on encouraging collaboration between non-Indigenous and Indigenous-led groups doing this work, because we need everybody to be a part of it.
- Environmental Education
- discounts/credits/other incentives for land owners to create more natural habitat and maintain it for x number of years?
- Make Minnesota THE PLACE for recycling and for creating environmentally friendly packaging.
- Get rid of democrats
- Incorporating Indigenous knowledge into the ecological planning and implementation. Also including Mushrooms in a push for restoring and supporting Native ecosystems.
- Require Farmers who get subsidies to install buffers, Prairies, Savannas, Basically return 1% of there land to a natural state
- Public engagement of younger generations through social media to create awareness and show why these resources are critical.
- Engaging the public of all ages and walks of life with the issue in a way that everyone sees themselves as connected to the environment, a part of the solution and welcome to participate.
- Minnesota land is almost 75% privately owned. For thorough conservation and restoration, new financial programs to incentivize private restoration. Conversion of agricultural row crop to historical plant communities is what I want to see more of through the entire state!
- Aggressively managed state lands for the future of climate change.
- Create opportunities for communities of color and for low income folks to benefit with transportation, scholarships for camps for entire families
- 100% Energy Independence - MN creates ALL energy it needs (facility and transportation). With no, non-renewable sources. Net Zero Energy State.
- Get kids out hunting and fishing. I loved the days of hunting with my grandparents. There are less deer in the north due to many factors one being the wolf population. We need to manage predators.
- Stop spending money building trails thru the woods. Too many paved trails in northern MN for little use... and shouldn't be there anyway.
- Land Back to Tribal Nations
- Improve habit by inducing more logging in northern MN to cleanup forest to prevent fire damage, improve habitat for a variety of species
- Stricter enforcement of environmental protection laws

- Invest in rural community-based projects at a much larger annual amount instead of research or university/DNR projects.
- Don't let any other state take our water.
- Money for local governments to operate and maintain local parks, closest to people (most cities has to cut parks funding during u allotment in 2003 and haven't returned funding fully; parks often seem as bonus thing when budgets get tight)
- Get citizens to implement small scale changes that together scale to have big effects (e.g., compost, create pollinator habitat, reduce waste, etc).
- Good storm support for private communities that can't invest in large upkeep, like Ash River watershed
- Educating people in a way that resonates about the importance of Minnesota's magnificence and the roles we play in her majesty
- Make it available for all and don't overuse it. Youth education.
- School forests!
- Smart use of funds
- Get kids outdoors! The more this happens, the more the public will continue to support environmental initiatives.
- Make use of outdoor areas and make them more openly available while bolstering volunteer groups who use the areas to maintain them.
- Ensure clean water. Encourage and support healthy agricultural practices and healthy organic animal husbandry.
- Investing the proper amount of money and resources to keep our water clean, our clear, our soils, healthy, and our public safe. Invest in wildlife habitat, restoration and expansion, mitigate the climate crisis in our aquatic habitat. Investing the proper amount of money and resources to keep our water clean, our clear, our soils, healthy, and our public safe. Invest in wildlife habitat, restoration and expansion, mitigate the climate crisis in our aquatic habitat.
- Address threats to safe drinking water as a bridge to engage Minnesotans about water quality challenges that are currently only the focus of a narrow group who are already engaged in environmental or conservations activities. But make it genuine and meaningful, so that people experience confidence in their drinking water, especially for those not on city water.
- Enable every youth in MN to experience Outdoor School, a multi-day total immersion learning experience, away from home, that is integrated into their school education.
- land back
- Co-management of all public land in MN with Indigenous communities and restore/manage land using Indigenous ways. We need to elevate the connection of all living things and the healing properties of the natural environment.
- State-wide parks prescription program
- Clean up and restore to get the land back to return to Dakota people.
- Land back to Indigenous people, either through co-management or giving the land back to tribes. Or, manage land without pesticides, herbicides, and allow for Indigenous thought to lead in how land is managed and stewarded. Don't fall back on old conservation methods that are racist and exclusive.
- We need to help fund and facilitate giving land back to tribal nations.

- A greater emphasis on forests as climate solutions, including outreach that educates the public so they aren't conflating sustainable forestry practices that follow Minnesota's Forest Management Guidelines with deforestation in the Amazon. We have about 18 million acres of forest which provide countless goods and services for communities statewide.
- Invest in more outdoor opportunities and education starting with children. It really will be the next generation that takes the leap forward.
- Ways for Minnesotans to "get it." I'd love greenways to evolve into "edible greenways" so Minnesotans can literally enjoy the fruits.
- Get EVERYONE outdoors and into parks, onto lakes, and experiencing all Minnesota's environment has to offer.
- Restore wetlands and prairie in the agricultural zone
- If more opportunities for MN to recreate are provided, citizens will discover for themselves the opportunities to protect and preserve the fragile environmental and ecological systems that exist. Providing the trail to get out, the shelter to spend an afternoon at, the fishing pier to access all will promote use and interest in the resource and similar resources in the area.
- Having projects having science and management partnerships to ensure that projects are going to be applicable and science based
- Get kids Outdoors!
- Connect more people to a shared mission. Hunters and backpackers run in different circles but are both conservationists. If they could align their efforts, so much more could be gained. Figure out a way to build that understanding between those two groups.
- reducing the amount of animal waste from farming operations
- Help the younger generations understand the impact that they have on the world around them! They are the next stewards of this land therefore we need to provide them with access to and education about public lands.
- Re-establish environmental/outdoor education as a foundational element of K-12 education in Minnesota; the next generation needs to be better prepared for the challenges ahead.
- Since agriculture accounts for over 10% of greenhouse gas emissions and contributes significantly to water pollution, require that farmers switch to regenerative agriculture including no till, cover crop, diversifying crops etc. This will also sequester carbon in the soil, mitigating climate change and making farms more able to adapt to climate change.
- Convert all road ditches to native prairie or native plantings. Use rain gardens or storm drain capture in all new construction so that storm water ponds are not in effect pollution ponds for aquatic mammals and water fowl. Electric vehicles drop debris that ends up in the water system.
- Continuing my work in Environmental Education
- Provide incentives for local governments (appointed/elected officials and staff) by educating and updating them on best practices necessary for developing climate adaptation strategies including how to build into their budgets funds to take advantage of Regional, State, and Federal cost sharing and collaborative opportunities for their communities.
- Providing funds for community-led efforts to protect local farms, parks, and natural areas. There is so much work already happening on the ground that needs financially backing and support.
- Identify rare habits & protect them.
- Converting a majority of minnesota to nuclear or other renewable energy sources in the next 2 decades

- Not having the government in charge of it.
- Ev charging at campgrounds
- putting a cost on dirty energy with refund to lowest income house holds
- Help communities learn how to measure, analyze, and improve their local environment (air, water, land). I call it local scale empowerment.
- Self cleaning AIS signs with tools at all boat accesses. This offers education and a reminder to keep the AIS out of lakes. It also supports all users of the lakes.
- Invest in the next generation of environmental stewards: kids in K-12 schools. Kids need frequent experiences in NEARBY nature. Schools are a natural place for that, since the kids are already there. However, schools need ""outdoor nature spaces/classrooms"" on the school grounds and teachers who know how to teach regular academic subjects (math, reading, science, etc.) outdoors. Multiple studies show that kids who have frequent positive experiences outdoors with an adult who models care for the natural world grow up to be adults who will care for the environment. The DNR's School Forest Program is a great idea that needs more investment.
- More funding for water storage and flood mitigation and an ecosystem services trading program for multipurpose water storage/flood mitigation - both largescale and small scale.
- Providing funding for education and construction of reuse and recycling facilities for the small communities that make up Greater Minnesota.
- Not everything is about climate change. Celebrate what is working well more than focusing so much on negativity.
- Decrease amount of water allowed to be drawn for ag permits
- Cleaning up the creeks and having more hiking trails.
- Prevent conversion of existing lands to development, agriculture, or industrial uses.
- Keep funding research to lead the way; use watershed, county, SWCD's and local entities to plan and implement; educate and incent individuals to do the right things.
- Habitat enhancement and resiliency.
- Reduce VMTs. Transportation is the biggest polluter and use of land. Fund passenger rail, tax the shit out of large personal vehicles which take up more space on the road, parking, create more tire and brake dust, deteriorate road surfaces quicker and kill more passengers of other vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists and wildlife.
- Provide protection for natural areas including parks to eliminate encroachment. Ensure that business pay their fair share in taxes to support environmental causes.
- Managing and reducing waste from individuals and industries. These create PFAS, smog, pollute water, greenhouse gases, etc.
- The majority of lands and waters in the state (75%) are in private ownership. We cannot achieve success for wildlife species, clear air and water and recreational opportunities without investment to private land owners. Big idea - Incentivize participation in conservation among Minnesota's private landowners, protection programs, habitat restoration AND celebrate it. That's the big idea: market and communicate the successes of improvements made to both the wildlife and people that call this place home.
- Moratorium on copper-nickel mining
- OUTDOOR EDUCATION FOR ALL SCHOOL CHILDREN

- Allocate funds based on the impact on preserving and restoring the state's highest quality natural areas, not on increasing the number of visits to parks and greenways. Building more facilities that attract more visits very likely will have a detrimental effect on the quality of the natural environment. Playing fields, paved trails, mountain bike trails, splash pads and other non-nature-based activities do not belong in our regional parks!
- We have lost too many grasslands and we are losing wildlife at an alarming rate. We should make a major push to protect a large area of grassland and work with tribes to put bison and other prairie species back on it.
- Set a goal of helping farmers put some amount of tillable acres into pasture or continuous living cover — sequester carbon through restoring grasslands that historically covered much of our state.
- Develop a think tank focused on Minnesota's environment, natural resources and outdoor recreation. Recruit an array of experts from the public sector, private sector and colleges/institutions. Leverage this group to tackle policy issues and pressing environmental problems facing Minnesota.
- Regenerative agriculture.
- Some combination or subset of solar, wind, and batteries for every public facility
- Engage the next generation of leaders thru educational opportunities
- Legislation and policy, sustainable consumption, and promoting equal tourism.
- Save the Mississippi Dunes in Cottage Grove from having 377 single family homes built on property that houses incredibly ecologically important and rare habitat on the Mississippi riverfront.
- Back to basics - More resources on clown water and clean air
- Force the ag industry to adopt conservation measures to protect land and water quality.
- Ensuring all kids get outdoors, make renewable energy affordable to install.
- Eliminating all lead from fishing tackle etc and ammunitions
- Encourage private landowners to restore native habitat on their land no matter how big or small and help landowners obtain conservation easements - read Nature's Best Hope by Douglas Tallamy
- incentivize suburban yard usage to preserve Minnesota native plants and insect - planting milkweed, composting, etc
- Continue to make everything better and the accessibility to reap the benefits thereof.
- Make outdoor education and recreation a requirement in schools from K through college level, not just an elective but a requirement! Young people are the stewards for the next generation and for our environment, so if they learn at an earlier age, they can be the catalyst for change.
- Ban ATVs and UTVs from public lands
- Many older Minnesotans are inheriting land and might be induced to set this aside for re-wilding. Develop ways of funding this and educating people on support for doing this.
- Investing in bird-safe building solutions, incentivizing bike riding through various programs and investing in safer bike infrastructure, more volunteer opportunities for habitat restoration
- Continue with this basic plan
- To maintain and restore factors of the current environment to original natural state without removing private lands and properties from the taxable status.
- Focus more on youth starting and birth and up. If we want future generations of nature enthusiasts, we need to get more kids outside at the earliest ages.

- Put money back into the communities hands to make decisions for themselves on capital projects. They know their city best and what will work in their city. Reduce the amount of money spent on research. Fund capital projects.
- Promote changing lawns into vegetable or pollinator. gardens
- ensure equitable general outdoor education for K-12
- LCCMR funds for invasive species work should include money for control activity, not just planning, mapping, and education.
- Resources for small land owners
- Campaign for specific local projects for visibility and participation
- Addressing/preventing habitat loss from land development. One idea is to incentive land developers to focus on re-developing certain areas versus destroying natural undisturbed habitat.
- Sadly, I don't have one - keep on tracking changes in the natural environment and continue to provide opportunities for Minnesotans to interact with the natural world so that we are happy to continue the funding - I prefer to do all of this without gambling money :(
- Minnesotans like outdoor recreation but preservation of the natural environment is equally important
- Make sure that all laws, conservation goals, EPA goals, are observed and enforced.
- Establish regulations on farming practices to reduce water pollution, groundwater depletion, herbicide and pesticide use, and increase habitat for birds and wildlife.
- More education
- Every home has to have a forest around it! Plant trees. And recycling education needs to be part of school curriculum, including raising awareness
- Oh how wish I had the answer. Controlling phosphorus is the key to reducing eutrophication.
- Continue and enhance access to Minnesota outdoor environment for all minnesotans
- Fund outdoor ambassadors to help connect communities to outdoor recreation
- get kids outdoors in nature. Children today are spending less time outside than ever, with the average US child spending only 7 minutes per day, versus 7-10 hours on a screen. A new survey conducted by the Association of Metro School Districts found that more than 70% of school districts in the Twin Cities region, Rochester and Duluth are expecting budget shortfalls in the upcoming 2024-25 school year. These budget deficits mean field trips like ones to accredited outdoor schools are often the first thing cut, resulting in less children getting these immersive outdoor experiences. LCCMR funds are critical to providing financial support so that more children have the opportunity to experience a multi-day outdoor learning experience at an accredited outdoor school (environmental learning center). Only 30% of all MN K-12 students currently participate in outdoor schools programming. That means roughly 50,000 K-12 students every year will not get this impactful learning experience at some point during their time in school. Please make funding these kinds of life-changing experiences a priority for the next LCCMR funding cycle.
- Incorporate climate change resilience into its land acquisitions.
- Go after polluters and prosecute them to the fullest extent
- Limit wakeboat and other large watercraft use on lakes less than 2500 acres
- Have outdoor recreation and environmental education be a part of school curriculum so that all Minnesotans can grow up to appreciate and continue to be good stewards of our natural resources

- Children today are spending less time outside than ever, with the average US child spending only 7 minutes per day, versus 7-10 hours on a screen. A new survey conducted by the Association of Metro School Districts found that more than 70% of school districts in the Twin Cities region, Rochester and Duluth are expecting budget shortfalls in the upcoming 2024-25 school year. These budget deficits mean field trips like ones to accredited outdoor schools are often the first thing cut, resulting in less children getting these immersive outdoor experiences. LCCMR funds are critical to providing financial support so that more children have the opportunity to experience a multi-day outdoor learning experience at an accredited outdoor school (environmental learning center). Only 30% of all MN K-12 students currently participate in outdoor schools programming. That means roughly 50,000 K-12 students every year will not get this impactful learning experience at some point during their time in school. Please make funding these kinds of life-changing experiences a priority for the next LCCMR funding cycle.
- Anything and everything that stops climate change
- The majority of farms using regenerative ag practices
- More funding for conservation. Have the ski pass apply to all trails that get funding from the lottery.
- I think education is the key. Working with communities to educate on climate change and invasive species.
- Treat all water coming from agriculture land the same a hardscape stormwater...keep the silt and chemicals from getting to our lakes and rivers
- Preserve or restore at least 1/3 of MN lands to support biodiversity. Consider paying landowners to preserve or restore their lands.
- Better fund the local governments that know what their individual needs are to understand, protect and govern local resources. One watershed One Plan is a big step in the right direction.
- Reform property tax system to increase incentives to protect, preserve and restore lands and waters while decreasing incentives to develop in ways that harm environment
- Requiring climate change considerations when planning activities/projects across a wider variety of sectors. Key word is Requiring. If we don't take adaptation action now we are hindering ourselves in the future.
- Dedicate resources to understanding the microbial communities in lakes!
- What if Minnesota communities and the Dakota nations in Minnesota worked together to restore prairies and bring back bison along the Minnesota River? This would restore a good chunk of prairie biome, help get pollutants out of the heavily-polluted Minnesota River, and be a step toward justice for Dakota people (if people in the Dakota communities liked this idea).
- Continue efforts addressing threats to Minnesota's resources through long term research and interdisciplinary efforts to educate the public on how to best use and protect these resources.
- We empower Minnesotans - from businesses to community members who want to volunteer - to contribute meaningfully to protecting our environment and natural resources. Resilience is seen as a critical priority across the state and one in which people can meaningfully contribute (as opposed to feeling hopeless in the face of climate change).
- People cannot Do things differently if they do not truly understand the threats that invasive plants, loss of bees/pollinators , excessive chemical and fertilizers have . In my dream land people would start to Understand all this and then behave differently by reducing pesticide/herbicide use, planting natives plants, especially bushes and trees (especially our local governments) , and removing invasive plants and trees from our yards and landscapes.

- Prohibit large corporations from purchasing any more farm land and instead further prioritize selling agricultural land to small businesses owned by women and people of color.
- work cooperatively, think long-term, connect people with natural/cultural resources
- Fund the science, not the political whims.
- Amazon boxes. The Amazon economy has put significant strain on the way we process recycling in the state. We need to collect data, monetize this process, and find a way Amazon can be part of the solution through environmental efforts.
- Integrating environmental education into Minnesota's standards for K-12 curriculum.
- Protect and restore remnant native grassland prairies and forests. Eliminate invasive species of plants, etc. Reintroduce native species.
- Meaningfully engage communities in the hard work of restoration of habitat, removing invasive species and protecting natural areas.
- Utilizing money to support research on BOLD bioengineering ideas to stop Invasive Species. Cutting, treating, etc. hasn't worked, and won't work. We need to preserve water and soil quality and the invasive species are too aggressive for our current methods.
- Planting short-growing native plants instead of lawn grasses wherever possible.
- Educating the public, quit paving all the trails. Leaving areas Natural.
- initiatives for private landowners. Tax credits for installing solar, free native plants for your biome.
- The people expect our government to embody the shared environmental values that the people of Minnesota believe to be reasonable, sensible, and urgently needed. These values include the sustainable use, enjoyment, and stewardship of our natural resources and preserving the health of our environment for future generations. To enhance the people's confidence in our government it is essential that our public agencies demonstrate integrity and implement ethical policies and rules, which fully comply with federal and state statutes.
- More prescribed fire on public lands.
- Fertilizer and water limits for golf courses
- Increase opportunities for all children to be and learn outside... in nature... they need to know about it before they will care about it.
- Spend wisely. Keep people informed especially in where the funding is coming from. People may not realize the funding is coming from lottery funds. Get youth involved!
- Making more people aware of the value of the resources in Minnesota and care about preserving it for the future. So media awareness.
- Green roofs & walls -- on bus shelters, Giant Warehouses, picnic shelters, publicly owned buildings. Native clematis is one example of a climbing vine that helps with pollinators and with carbon sequestration.
- Legislative protection for high quality habitats, measured by biodiversity metrics. Let's listen to our scientists and write policies that act on their recommendations. Sometimes this means thinking larger in scope compared to short term economic gains.
- Listen to the wisdom of native tribes. Include native people in preservation decisions. Give back sacred land.
- Tighten up agricultural practices to reduce the bad effects on the environment
- Strive for connectedness and stop fragmentation. Protect existing corridors and develop a plan to guide decisions for providing enough space for healthy ecosystems in all communities.

- 1. Policies & systems (strict guidelines for agricultural run off, incentives for farmers practicing eco agricultural practices, etc); 2. Public access and education to natural areas; 3. Biking and trail running infrastructure; 4. Funding to eradicate invasive species (buckthorn, leafy spurge, wild parsnip)
- Green infrastructure utilizing environmental services to mitigate and minimize industrial and agricultural impacts to land and water such as providing native vegetation (reconstructing/restoring native plant communities) to reduce water quality issues, increase native habitat acreage and other benefits. Work needs to be done to change the paradigm of how land is used so that stewardship is emphasized, not maximum productivity.
- Eliminating inefficient heat and cooling systems in public housing
- Children environmental education so that they have the ability to learn and apply good environmental practices.
- Provide more funding through taxing polluters
- Buy and protect land from development. Too much land is being destroyed by development at unprecedented rates. Offer more incentives for private landowners. We don't need big ideas we just need more incentives and funds to permanently protect land and manage it for ecological purposes.
- Tax credits and/or payments to farmers for cover foliage for pollinators and soil erosion protection.
- It's not big or bold but plan and seek the parcels of land that best preserve and protect our natural resources. This designation is in perpetuity
- Allow 5-10 year grant cycles for long-term projects.
- No islands in the Mississippi River or Minnesota River should be in private hands. Local jurisdictions should have ownership, and if they decline, the islands should become the property of the State.
- To offset all the drainage being done, there should be a tax on current and future land drainage with the money used in the same watershed to buy existing un-protected wetlands and for buying parcels with drained wetlands to be permanently restored.
- We need to invest in sustainable forms of energy, such as nuclear, and continue to transition away from fossil fuels. Pushing for more infill and dense development in cities will help preserve farmland and natural spaces from sprawl. We also need to prioritize other modes of transportation (bus, rail, etc.) so as to reduce the reliance of fossil fuel vehicles and reduce the wear and tear on our roadways.
- We need more support for education at all levels.
- We need water storage on Agricultural lands in the Upper MN River. We need to reduce runoff and we will need Federal Funding to get this done. We also need to protect against invasive Carp. We will need Federal funding to create a barrier so they don't enter the Minnesota or the Mississippi
- Encourage use of no fence grazing technologies on public lands to help restore ecosystem function and improve wildlife habitat
- Restrict farmland applications of manure, commercial fertilizer and pesticides to levels that do not pollute water or air.
- Update the decades old MN SHORELAND ORDINANCE and make it mandatory across the state. The "model" ordinance is not widely adopted and in lake-rich areas of the State. The lakes are getting "loved to death" with large homes and lawn to lake landscaping. Also review wake boats and shoreline erosion. We are losing ground folks!
- Targeted programming geared at private landowners to manage their lands for multiple benefits to protect water quality and quantity and climate resilient landscapes
- Lessen the paperwork!!

- Our children our the future of our environment; we need to spend more dollars to get them outside to better appreciate nature ... in addition to the social, emotional, physical, cognitive, sensual development they are missing today by spending too much time on tablets
- Recognize fire as an abiotic ecological community member in many communities and adjust MN liability laws related to prescribed fire to enable the ability of prescribed fire professionals to do their work and reduce barriers.
- fund research to better understand how climate change is going to impact Minnesota, and begin preparing for these changes
- A comprehensive, implementable statewide plan for invasive species management.
- We don't need a "big, bold idea." That's the problem with government these days, thinking it's their job to be the agent of change. Let people live their lives.
- Supporting emerging farmers with resources, including land access and sustainable farming education, to allow them to be better stewards of Minnesota's land.
- Instead of giving lands to Indian Tribes, create more/larger state parks for ALL Minnesotans, Native and non-Native alike to enjoy and see protected.
- Remove the legislature from decision making. Use science and leverage state wide rather than localized opinion. LCCMR funds should NOT replace general funds. Local communities and business should be held accountable.
- More and diverse citizens and less politicians on the LCCMR.
- Use the ENRTF \$ to pay revenue bonds for accelerated investments
- Require all cities to use the same trash/recycle/compost pick-up; and where possible only work with companies that offer compost pickup. Require vehicles to be checked for emissions and get rid of vehicles that emit high. I live on a busy street and worry about the amount of air pollution I ingest; California has a very successful practice with this. Our population is growing so fast in Minnesota and we need to take action to reduce the amount of pollution we create.
- Invest in discerning if AI could be utilized to monitor waste of water...in city systems, by farmers, etc....
- Somehow get agriculture producers to value wetlands, conservation, and soil health.
- The state should aggressively partner with agricultural producers in the western part of the state to push forward development of a connected network of restored prairie, private working lands (devoted to haying and grazing), and protected areas owned and managed by local, state and federal agencies, as well as The Nature Conservancy, etc. The DOT and county road managers could also be enlisted to promote planting and proper management of native species in roadside vegetation. Increased connectivity of existing prairie remnants is necessary to the health of prairie plant communities, as well as the animal communities (such as pollinators and songbirds) that depend upon them. This isn't a new idea but one that needs to move ahead more swiftly than it has in the past.
- Get agriculture runoff out of our water. Put resources to work to wipe out asian carp and feral hogs .
- Increasing education and awareness. Go to schools, rec centers, parks, anywhere to interact with the public and teach them about the importance of the resources. When people know about something they are more likely to care about it. We need the Minnesotan public to become environmental stewards. Things will follow when we can achieve this.

- FUNDING FOR PRIVATE LANDOWNERS TO IMPROVE FORREST LANDS AND IMPROVE FIRE PROTECTIVE MEASURES
- If people need to water lawns, then use grey water rather than drinking water for that practice. Require data be submitted for amount/location of fertilizer applications (rather than voluntary reporting) in order to understand impact of agricultural practices on groundwater -- support this financially as needed. There can be no reasonable enforcement without data and monitoring to show trends and impact of actions over time.
- Heavily subsidize individual purchase of electric cars!
- Better electric grid and solar panels on all public buildings
- Get rid of lead tackle and neonicotinoids. Subsidize transitions to sustainable and wildlife-friendly agricultural practices, including native plant corridors in pastures and crop fields, pasture rotation, diversifying and rotating crops, native plant buffer zones for fertilizer runoff, heavy regulation and enforcement of fertilizers for lawn and crop use. Regulate and enforce outdoor and feral cat populations. Work toward solutions that decrease light pollution.
- Improving the location and siting of green energy infrastructure thru better planning and coordination with MNDNR and USFWS to avoid placement of solar and wind projects adjacent to and near existing public wildlife lands and properties with high wildlife habitat restoration priority and potential (i.e., areas with many drained prairie pothole wetlands near existing state WMAs and federal WPAs/NWRs). Currently, it is the Wild West and little pre-project siting and coordination occurs with MNDNR and USFWS in SW MN.
- Set aside the lands or space 1/2 of each major biome of MN to be acquired and depopulated in the model of E O Wilson's book, "Half Earth", helping return and restore the prairie, riparian, and northern lakes/pine/aspen biomes to a pristine state which humans may visit and enjoy but not own or occupy.
- I believe we still need to educate people on the importance of climate change and global warming and protecting our environment.
- It's impossible to separate the need for public education from environmental justice in my mind. We must bring nature to the people where they are to educate them about it on whatever scale and begin to instill a love of nature and a desire to protect it. The interface with agriculture is also inextricable. Too many people have little to no understanding of where their food comes from, and yet agricultural practices have massive impacts on climate (CO2 sequestration), water quality, water quantity, biodiversity, and so on. Connecting people to food production hyper-locally through community garden and pollinator conservation dual-focus projects would help people to understand the role of insect pollination in the food they eat, as well as to help address food desert issues for urban dwellers.
- Modernize MN Statute Sec. 84.97 to maintain and enhance environmental resources with prescribed fire and paired restoration treatments across all ownerships. Mandate and fund MN DNR to fully utilize statute 84.97 and provide prescribed fire technical assistance across jurisdictions and ownerships. See the Minnesota Fire Needs Assessment at <https://www.mnprescribedfire.org/mnfireneedsassessment>. Establish an interagency prescribed fire training center in Minnesota similar to the MN Wildfire Academy held in Grand Rapids, MN each year. Enable prescribed fire across all ownerships by modernizing prescribed fire liability law. Minnesota is currently a strict liability state. Increased prescribed fire use will occur with a simple negligence or gross negligence liability standard.

- removal/reduction of farm tiles and increasing natural filters. this would result in increased wetlands/habitat and support threatened species. And the reduction of inflow of phosphorous and nitrogen into lakes and groundwater would be significant.
- Research and its application
- Increase appropriation timeframes from 2-3 years to 5-7 years (or longer). This gives applicants a longer time to enact and follow-through on projects, work around challenges, and spend less time on asking for funding.
- Agency & organizations collaboration
- Make Clean Water a Priority!
- Mandatory Minnesota environmental education in elementary school...like Minnesota history. Because education is the key to successful conservation.
- A lot of goals fall under land protection and restoration. We have to make sure it is being done equitably and not just paying landowners for easements. Need to solve issue of Renewable Energy leasing all the land that prevents land protection as well.
- Long term monitoring of water and land to determine any drastic climate change in the future
- Determine the impact of agricultural tile drainage on stream channel stabilization, stream flows and shallow aquifer recharge.
- Making sure the public can access. Restore native species and take out invasives
- Remove complicated application barriers for grants for smaller communities that do not have engineers and planning departments. Small communities struggle competing against larger communities in this way. Thanks!!
- Provide sufficient funding for long-term research to optimize technologies, designs and management strategies. Convert the research results to the actual applications. Educate the general public to raise awareness
- Engage and empower conservation organizations to get actual boots on the ground projects done. Provide the funding, similar to Conservation Partners Legacy grants the Lessard Sams council gives out for smaller projects. Streamline the application process for small organizations that are not professional grant writers, but do great habitat work.
- Protect and conserve.
- My big, bold idea is old, multiple use of our natural resources. Share the resource.
- First, do no harm. Prohibit further logging/development of any virgin/old-growth timber or habitats. Tighten regulations on other development, especially mining and commercial/luxury real estate.
- Funding projects that actively work to restore and protect Minnesota's natural areas, both aquatic and terrestrial
- Create a sophisticated, extensive public education campaign around the ecological and cultural significance of manoomin/psin (wild rice) as one of Minnesota's most important and precious species. In addition, I would like to see extensive, dedicated financial support for research and action to protect wild rice waters and restore impaired wild rice waters. A comprehensive plan and action to protect wild rice will also protect water quality, wildlife habitat and abundance, and environmental justice. Minnesota is the only place in the world with this abundance of manoomin, but it is at risk from climate change, pollution, shoreline degradation, and more. To protect its future in Minnesota, it needs to be centered in the public attention through education and restoration efforts.

- Create an office of State Hydrologist to coordinate and simplify issues relating to clean water access and long-term availability
- Mitigate and adapt to climate change with all possible speed doing as much as possible. We are running out of time to slow climate change so we must also help ecosystems adapt (and learn to adapt ourselves).
- Increase forest management practices including increases timber harvesting and reforestation
- Purchase all land within 250' either side of the banks of the MN River, cut drain tile, allow it to go back to a natural state and reconnect the floodplain. Exclude areas going through cities and towns unless it made sense somewhere. Get rid of the MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program to help enhance our natural resources.
- Continue to work on finding funding in order to fill gaps in getting high quality habitat across the landscape. Policy change for the better in regards to state seeding specifications and standards are another great place for MN to start taking a closer look at.
- Ensure the next generation understands our environmental challenges and remedies.
- Ban neonicotinoids and lead tackle. Regulate and enforce outdoor and feral cat populations, responsible for absurd numbers of bird and small mammal mortality. Subsidize transitions to sustainable and wildlife-friendly agricultural practices, including native plant corridors in pastures and crop fields, pasture rotation, diversifying and rotating crops, native plant buffer zones for fertilizer runoff, heavy regulation and enforcement of fertilizers for lawn and crop use. Develop and incentivize solutions to light pollution that harms birds and insects.
- Get people excited! Make it hit home in their home (aka. neighborhood). Have more town hall style meetings where people can come, learn about what's going on big picture, and tell us what they see are issues they would like to tackle. Have accessing money easier for communities and groups.
- One needs to counter balance the increasing use of i phones and similar devices with greater educational time in the outdoors for children grades 4-8 especially. These ages are greatly influenced by outdoor training and activities and funding for getting kids outdoors and learning about their role in our environment builds the foundation for future responsible people. Fund Residential Environmental Learning Center fully to better reach the 50,000 plus kids who are not able to attend .
- Establish green corridors/urban growth boundaries around growing metropolitan areas and target those areas for permanent land protection that supports wildlife habitat, clean water, and outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Create climate-resilient and permanent farmers market locations that are in areas of high food insecurity. Ensure these sites have shade structures, water access, solar/electric access, restrooms, and storage and ample space for farm and food vendors with parking for their vehicles and for visitors.
- Promote opportunities for outdoor recreation which in turn educates people about the natural world.
- Expand opportunities for low-income Minnesotans to access energy-saving and money-saving options like home weatherization, as well as opportunities to make the outdoor spaces in their communities greener (access to native plants and tree canopy)
- Protect undisturbed lands and say no to new development on undeveloped land
- For conservation, we need to research the affect and/or benefits of non-target species to balance the ecosystem and provide sustainable populations of target species. For example, reduction of

zebra mussels and bolstering native mussel stocks may alter planktonic communities back to what was present prior to zebra mussel introduction. The system may be more resilient to die-offs since it wouldn't be just one species (zebra mussels) dominating, and the fish that rely on diverse planktonic communities would be better off too.

- Working with private landowners to help them restore or better manage their properties for natural resources.
- Providing quality, equitable outdoor nature learning experiences is developing our future environmental leaders
- Through education and outreach, achieve 50% of the state's farmland implementing soil health and biodiversity enhancing practices.
- Children today are spending less time outside than ever, with the average US child spending only 7 minutes per day, versus 7-10 hours on a screen. These budget deficits mean field trips like ones to accredited outdoor schools are often the first thing cut, resulting in less children getting these immersive outdoor experiences. LCCMR funds are critical to providing financial support so that more children have the opportunity to experience a multi-day outdoor learning experience at an accredited outdoor school (environmental learning center).
- Education, education, education
- Conducting better agricultural practices to conserve water. Give farmers incentives to use different methods of producing crops ie. aquaponics. The current agricultural practices are unsustainable. We need to work on preserving water and not pollute it with excessive nutrients like nitrogen that run off to the gulf and create massive algae blooms. We need to look into natural pesticides such as fungus and beneficial insects that are more effective and less hazardous to consumers and communities. We need to encourage homeowners to plant less grass in their lawns and plant native pollinators. We could encourage people to grow small gardens and give tax rebates to people that choose to grow plants that produce. Just with those few steps, I believe that outdoor recreation such as hunting and fishing would be enhanced tremendously. Nature balances itself out. We just need to help bring nature back to help speed itself up.
- Funding every Minnesota K-12 student a multi-day outdoor learning experience, so we are building a future of connected stewards to the environment
- Property tax credits for private lands conservation (hold back water, grasslands, etc), property tax assessments for land practices that result in offsite damages (traditional agriculture practices, impervious surfaces)
- What it really looks like is reaching out to marginalized communities and using their input, historically natural resources work has been old white male-dominated, and its time that the unheard and underrepresented have a seat at the table to begin making decisions that have also historically harmed them.
- Partnering artists and scientists for a large, coordinated invasive species information campaign, WPA style. Billboards, murals, tv spots, school partnerships! Painting the boat launches at infested lakes with flashy murals that people can't miss! The public has grown immune to the tiny, standardized DNR signage. They really don't seem to care until a lake they love gets hit with a new invasion or their own garden gets hit with jumping worms. Time for a new strategy to really amp up enthusiasm for preventing spread.
- Climate change is the problem that needs to be immediately addressed. We need wind & solar asap. This will also help eliminate ethanol which is one of the biggest environmental disasters ever.

Nitrogen and pesticides are decimating our environment and wildlife and causing health problems in humans, especially children. More wind & solar will reduce ethanol.

- We need more funding to survey, map, control, and eradicate terrestrial invasive species. We also need to focus on restoration after removal as well.
- Elect representatives that embrace environmental issues.
- All children should have the opportunity to experience safe opportunities to explore outside. This can also be enhanced by teacher professional development.
- Purchase natural lands with fee title or conservation easements
- Carbon banking on School Trust lands
- Link all the state biking/hiking trails -- essentially a state-wide biking highway system.
- An emphasis on community urban agriculture spaces - increase green space in urban areas, connect and educate people about their food sources, increase food accessibility in low income areas
- Land acquisition, habitat restoration, public access
- Support projects that center climate change, water, and prioritize access to the outdoors.
- Stop leaving logging roads open to public use
- Find effective methods of managing invasive vegetation, in particular woody plants encroaching on prairies and invading native woodlands. More research is needed to find innovative and effective means of combating invasive trees and shrubs.
- Return more of the lottery proceeds back to protecting MN environment, i.e., 50% to MN environment
- Help create endowment accounts for permanently protected high quality lands to ensure lifetime enhancement and management.
- Billboard ads showing one drop of contamination and someone making a face not to taste it. Out of sight out of mind.
- Education on the importance of prescription burning for habitats that have evolved to require some form of fire.
- Outdoor education starters on highway signs.
- Recreation: Advocate and educate about the incredible laws Minnesota has that allow default recreational access to private non-ag lands (MN Statute 97B.001) while protecting landowners (MN 604A.20). Enhancing Env/Natural Resources: Act now on climate change issues, start winning hearts and minds on small battles like ditching paper towels and flying less.
- A public engagement campaign along the lines of Tallamy's Nature's Best Hope that encourages citizen conservationists, educating and inspiring them to not only do their part in their own backyard, but to provide opportunities to participate in public/community initiatives (like seed gathering) AND supporting conservation organizations (volunteering, donating). Similar to the way citizens were rallied during WWII to do their part (through conserving, planting "victory gardens" etc.), we need a similar outreach campaign (and funds available to citizens) to both "do their part" and contribute to the greater good, because when it comes to climate change and ecological solutions (clean air and water), even though some communities are more seriously impacted, we're all in this together in the end.
- Deliberately complement the heavy lifting capacity of OHF funding by enabling the planning, design and human use components of larger conservation projects

- Identify spaces with culturally valuable species, at-risk resources, and that are accessible to traditionally underserved communities and make them community hubs— recreation spaces, research sites, and protected from development. A lot of the categories from the last questions aren't mutually exclusive. We can educate while performing research and recreating. We can incorporate renewable energy into agricultural practices. But we can't do that if we develop housing (even if it is dense and (relatively) affordable).
- Abolish private schools? Meaningful change requires getting the masses to unite on an issue, which itself requires education. Our system of education is a mess, with kids coming out of public school ignorant of important issues. Getting rid of private schools would allow funding to be more equivalently distributed, resulting in better education for all rather than the privileged few. Or, you know, we could just increase school programs focusing on environmental issues, I suppose.
- Give private landowners more options to protect their land
- Aquatic Preserves, protected lake ecosystems resilient to invasive species and climate change, with proactively managed watersheds
- More conservation/protection of private lands to enhance habitats and water quality. More resources for more affordable renewable energy in homes.
- Education regarding how development impacts natural resources.
- There needs to be increased funding for addressing and removing terrestrial invasive species and replacing them with native species in areas of priority first. And restoring all the public lands that have been acquired. There are a lot of public lands that were meant to protect special features that are overrun with invasive species which threatens the biodiversity and what makes the sites special. There needs to be funding to encourage people to work in the field since there is a shortage of labor to carry the activities out even now.
- Send funding to the Minnesota Initiative Foundations so they can disperse funds throughout Greater Minnesota.
- Invasive species prevention education should be on every television set, every radio, and every phone in the state. A broad scale outreach campaign can influence behavior change and protect our biodiversity, our lands and waters, and the legacy of recreation in Minnesota.
- We need fund actual enforcement of invasive species prohibitions and beef up prevention substantially.
- Changing land use from private to public and incorporating more large scale grazing/ controlled burns to increase food sovereignty
- Develop Minnesota outdoors to become a pollinator sanctuary
- A tax on plastic bags whose revenues go toward LCMMR funds
- I appreciate and like the direction you are taking. Collecting general public information and developing a 6 year strategic plan. Please stay the course... You are doing great work!
- Provide consistent funding to Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) to support their formation across the state and enable those partnerships to manage local invasive species issues.
- What LCCMR/ENRTF is currently doing, funding projects across Minnesota, is a great way to figure out the status of different issues in Minnesota and to help remediate any issues that are found.
- Creating the Minnesota forest that is adaptable to climate change and resistant to fire!
- Triple the size of public land in Minnesota
- Funding for incentives for young people to obtain education at tech schools to obtain a career environmental and natural resources fields.

- Stop destroying our natural areas with “outdoor recreation.”
- Stop building outdoor recreation facilities. Use money to protect natural resources.
- Stop over fishing, especially lake of the woods. There's nothing left! I'm terribly worried about the chemicals (and known dangerous chemicals in general) that planes that fly over my house are spraying into my air. We live in farm land. Since moving here 7 years ago, I've developed severe autoimmune issues.
- Support Sturgeon Research Projects
- More research for adapting to climate change; resilience.
- Reintroducing fire into more ecosystems; restoring to fire-dependent target plant communities, not forested systems to create better carbon sinks and overall biodiversity. Planting trees everywhere, particularly in degraded natural habitats, is not an effective strategy.
- Grow the economics of conservation by valuing biodiversity conservation and further incentivizing land holders to preserve it.
- drought has rendered the miss river lock and dam system useless, panama canal too, for shipping grain, etc., co's are using rail now...so develop big rail and restore the miss river
- Agricultural Conservation Easements combined with management plans to require conservation practices.
- Create a “Mn National Pinelands Preserve” similar to New Jersey’s in the Central/Pinelands areas. The outwash plains are not good farm ground and contamination of groundwater grows as fast as the crops with irrigation flushing the ag chemicals into the shallow water tables. Proposal follows. Minnesota Pineland National Preserve Proposal updated 10-20-23 Northern Minnesota has a complex history and geology that began its current iteration after glaciers last scraped through the area about 10,000 years ago. With water flowing in three directions away from the continental divide, the area was originally blessed with abundant clean and clear water and this is still so today, relatively speaking. The Pineland Sands is a subset of Northern Minnesota geology that developed atop a glacial outwash plain. The surface and groundwaters are intimately connected, with groundwater often less than 10 feet from the ground’s surface. The ground itself, as one might expect after repeated glacial bulldozing, is a mixture of all possible soil types, a commingled array of sand, rocks, clay, silt, and loam. The soils are often nearly devoid (>2%) of organic matter other than the scant development of top soil by vegetation over the centuries since glaciation. The ecology that arose contained pine barrens that were heavily dependent on wildfires of varying frequency and intensity. A varied canopy resulted along with openings and these factors allowed for the great diversity present at the inception of logging in the late 1800s. The Pineland Sands has long served as a half-million acre ecotone - a transition area between the forest and prairie ecologies. Human habitation of the Pineland Sands since glaciation doubtless includes many native peoples long forgotten. In more recent history, the inhabitants have mainly been composed of Sioux and Ojibwe (or Anishinaabe) tribes, and lately of European immigrants. Almost the entirety of the Pineland Sands is contained within the 1855 Treaty Territory negotiated between the US Government and the Ojibwe, before Minnesota statehood. The treaty reserved usufruct rights to the Ojibwe - the rights to hunt, fish, and gather on the entire treaty area. During the initial logging of the Pineland Sands, farms sprang up as the trees came down. The sandy soils could support little in the way of crops though so many farms were soon deserted, and these farms usually redeveloped into forests from the seed bank endemic to the soil. This logging-farming-regrowth cycle in some ways mimicked forest fires in its effect, a cycle that has repeated in much of the area three times, with the most

current version of farming being conducted with the use of heavy equipment, chemicals, and irrigation, beginning in the 1970s. Currently, the Pineland Sands area, like much of the midwest, is between the farming and regrowth phases of the cycle. As part of chemical agriculture's downfall locally, it has proven consistently disastrous to water resources of all types, and especially egregious in the arenas of groundwater pollution and depletion. The naturally high water tables and porous soils receive the influx of chemicals aided by irrigation flushes almost immediately, commonly causing domestic and municipal water use woes. Taxpayers find chemical ag costs are being both heavily subsidized and externalized, only to be internalized publicly, both financially and through polluted water and produce. In response to the slow return to the regrowth phase of the cycle, an uptick in a return of the most marginal and vulnerable lands to public land inventories has been undertaken (generally to redevelop forests), along with regenerative agricultural initiatives and a renewed interest in home gardening, hunting, fishing, and gathering. The Heritage Conservation Project, for example, is underway to transfer remnant Potlatch lands (and some unpermitted irrigation projects) to state or local government management. The Pineland Sands have long been of the most rural character, widely used, and sometimes abused, by the public for a wide range of outdoor activities. Large contiguous blocks of public land are being reformed creating opportunities not seen for over a century. One of the opportunities that has become possible at this moment is the formation of a Minnesota Pinelands National Preserve, a concept that can help consolidate and protect public lands with the intent of preserving or improving water quality, pine barren ecology, and a healthy way of life. The following page details some of the important aspects of the Minnesota Pinelands National Preserve concept, most of which has been modeled and used to good effect in protecting the New Jersey Pinelands since 1980. The beginning of this process involves aggregating the many voices that can see the long range wisdom of more proactive management of areas with high resource value and high vulnerability. Mediation between the many groups and governments (local, state, tribal and federal) will be needed, legislation authoring, comprehensive management planning, funding and recruiting Preserve management staff and offices, and public outreach. Care must be taken in oversight to avoid regulatory capture. Would you like to be part of this endeavor?

Minnesota Pinelands National Preserve: Returns taxes to taxpayers in the form of public land holdings. Stabilizes the tax base. "Payment in Lieu of Taxes" may actually increase tax base, much of the land is currently taxed at .55/.65 rate, PILT=.75 Anchors the timber industry, regenerative ag, and tourism by using good forest management plans and soil health principles. Solidifying forestry and regenerative ag practices will increase recreational opportunities for tourism. Protects surface and groundwater quantity and quality, possibly using ""clean water credits"" to value water resources over development. Increases tree canopy and living cover, stabilizes local climates, combats global climate change. Consolidates large contiguous blocks of protected land sufficient for habitat management to assist threatened/endangered/reintroduced species (i.e. bison, elk, moose), develops wildlife corridors to reduce isolation. Increases public access to land for hunting, gathering and grazing. Intensive, sporadic grazing by large herbivores has been absent for over a century. Promotes true valuations for ecosystem services such as: Improved air and water quality for residents and those downstream; Food forests and native medicines; Intact soil microbiome; Healthy wild rice waters; Retires poor farm ground and compensates retiring farmers, especially important in areas where row-cropping chemicals have contaminated water; Reduces aerial overspray and traumatic chemical events; Reduces domestic well, surface water, and stream flow interferences from irrigation; Focuses development in already developed areas or areas that are most

compatible/least vulnerable; Likely to be widely supported by tribal interests, state agencies, conservation groups, and the voting public; Promotes environmental justice in rural and native communities; Creates opportunities to demonstrate bioremediation/mycoremediation of contaminated soil and water; Opens cleared land near municipalities to solar development. If a municipal solar fund is set up to return a portion of the proceeds to clean energy production the fund will be self-propagating.

- Work with private industry, land owners and small businesses and reduce government bureaucracy.
- Repeal Executive Order 19-35 and eliminate the ethanol requirement in gasoline. Ethanol is a net contributor to GHG emissions when land use is included (see Lark), contaminates surface water and ground water with nitrates, and the expansion of row crops is contributing to a mass extinction of native species.
- Engage young people in sustainability, health, equity and kindness to overcome the hopelessness and eco-anxiety by taking action. Also, institute product stewardship, carbon tax and polluter pays so that anything that's made or grown must pay the full costs of its impacts and then pass them on so people pay the real price for everything (with a subsidy for low-income and fixed income people) and thus know the real value to avoid waste and become more efficient in use.
- Get absentee land owners to be aware of the news and needs of their property. In my area most land is owned by long gone absentee inheritance owners around the US
- Increased regenerative grazing on public lands.
- Use trail infrastructure & native plantings along most polluted rivers.
- Strong effort to educate people on the importance of diffusing the population bomb. There's way too many people on this planet, regardless of their level of consuming natural resources. This should be highest priority in the environmental movement.
- By 2050, it is expected that nearly 90% of the US population will live in cities/urban areas. Our urban green spaces are shrinking, density is increasing, new parks are not created. We need to focus on authentic natural places in our urban areas--not water parks and sport courts. We need MORE LAND to be acquired and dedicated to creating natural areas in our urban communities. The vast majority of people don't have a cabin up north, can't afford to travel, don't have the means to "get away." We need this where we live.
- Trees...carbon capture...sustainable forests
- Incorporating renewable energy sources into the natural environment and throughout cities in rural communities.
- Encouraging non-motorized recreation, electric UTV/ATVs,
- Incorporating the outdoors into elementary school programs
- I do not know
- Find a way to get farmers at the table--learn what they see as threats, challenges, and get to the root of their reasons for resisting buffers and other interventions. Engage them as full partners. If you can get them on board, many others will follow. Whether they believe in climate change, they have a vested interest in clean air, land, and water.
- save the wildlife, with its diversity, recognize animals including invertebrates, and the smallest, like bees' rights plus plants' rights,(like the Indians do).
- Put natural resources and conservation first...ahead of recreation. Elicit feedback and collaborate with native American tribes and their proven methods for conservative of natural environments.

- Require local, regional and state government to actually make decisions based on a MEANINGFUL public process. The current system is broken and decisions are being made behind closed doors which is harming our environment. Also, stop using "outdoor recreation" when discussing the environment. "Nature-based recreation" would be appropriate.
- Proper management of wild life. Controlling predator population like Wolves and Coyotes. Protecting natural lake shore. Keeping a balance in our woods and allowing old growth trees to grow, ensuring diversity in our woods and grass lands,
- MDA and the state in general is doing nothing to restore pollinator habitat that had made a difference and a reversal in pollinator habitat and number. The state needs to simply make a big statement supporting habitat restoration and set goals and provide resources for rural landowners. Let's be real MN has NO credible plan to restore habitat for native pollinators. Every other environmental cause has been funded but can you name anything remarkable that's come from the pittance given pollinator habitat.
- Call neonicotinoid coated seeds the pesticides that they are so they can be registered, monitored, tracked, properly stored and disposed. Ban all neonics in urban gardens and settings
- Ensure all regions have a voice. No need for bold ideas, follow other successful models in land management. Vermont, Colorado, etc.. Create your own version of the best examples. Research
- Expand SNA acquisitions and maintenance
- Enforce consequences for polluters- hold them accountable
- Increases in prairie and wetland conservation efforts and less on motorized recreation.
- Make agricultural polluters pay to clean up their mess. The headwaters to Lake Pepin is filling in 10x faster since industrial Ag started ditching and draining. Farming is a privilege - it doesn't give anyone the right to pollute and force downstream folks to pay.
- Develop plans for ecosystem restoration. Old growth forests, mixed age forests, prairie restoration, ecologically friendly agriculture (if that's possible)!
- Focus on the human dimension-this is absolutely essential to getting to a better place-pure research is always of value-that said we now have the tools-we've yet to convince the right people we need to act.
- Require the mpca to robustly monitor, investigate, and hold accountable all major industrial polluters such as 3m.
- Provide funding for farmers who practice climate smart agriculture, protecting the soil and enhancing water quality
- Community projects that provide benefits across multiple dimensions
- Clean up ag
- Build on AmeriCorps, 4H, scouts, Habitat for Humanity, community parks and rec, other existing programs for kids, youth, young adults with student stipends for a compulsory minimum hours to be completed during summers, after school, year before college etc. Offer a variety of experiences so young people can sample and see what they like.
- Educate Legislators that this is to supplement not supplant - even Bonding Chairs don't understand this.
- Stop giving money to the DNR
- Land back to Tribes!

- I think focusing on ecosystem resilience through funding projects that increase biodiversity (especially understory plants), manage invasive species, and reduce climate stresses to ecosystems (ie erosion)
- Let's get more of Minnesota's youth connecting with the outdoors. Every Minnesota student should attend a multi day/night outdoor adventure and education trip with the goal of promoting positive outdoor experiences. People don't protect things they don't care about. Let's get MN youth to care about the outdoors at a formative age. There is already an initiative trying to do this called Outdoor School for All MN. Outdoorschoolforallmn.org
- Education and information for the public. Money to research our air and water problems.
- A moratorium on building anywhere but bare land.
- Make Minnesota really famous for a natural nature as well as cool urban scenes
- Put the natural world and the species who are losing their habitat because of us first.
- Link our environment to community and public health and promote the outdoors as a health lifestyle
- Increase Forest Carbon through Forest Management and harvested wood products. Otherwise our forests will burn up, climate will keep heating, and there will be nothing left to conserve.
- Plant as many pocket prairies and rain gardens as possible
- Integrate as much natural habitat as possible into our living spaces and acquire and conjoin more land.
- Endowments for research and conservation easements
- Create a state-level department of environmental protection. Make protection of water (particularly water), land and forests/plants/wildlife the top level concern for all decisions having an effect on our natural resources. Force all county ordinances and land-use decisions to come into compliance with state-level environmental protection laws. Why a new department? Because the DNR is charged with management of natural resources to the benefit of humans - even for exploitation by humans - not the PROTECTION of those resources. The DNR often makes choices that benefit humans to the detriment of our natural resources. We wouldn't have the AIS problems we have if the DNR had taken a much more aggressive enforcement posture. And discussions about mining near the BWCAW should have stopped at "No." Management of the white tail deer population is another example - it's all about hunting, not the health of the deer or the habitat.
- Reinvigorate & broaden private land conservation program that includes conservation for sustainable biodiversity, species in greatest conservation need, game species, landscape connectivity, land & watershed health. That goes beyond Farm Bill. Competitive innovative incentives for targeted conservation, technical guidance, outreach, landowner/public engagement, field demo days training (conservation grazing, prescribed burning etc)
- Ban coal for electricity generation
- Continue social media outreach to teach the public how to respect and care for wild nature.
- Buy as much land as possible, restore it as best as possible as best you can and then keep it undeveloped. I'd also restrict the use of off road recreational vehicles on public land.
- Restoration of degraded streams and rivers.
- Fund projects that are strategically placed, backed by scientific targeting studies and supported with real monitoring data. Prioritize those projects that ensure multiple benefits.
- Have a state wide goal of preserving at least 30% of our last remaining natural areas in the state. Restore other degraded/abandoned land to get there.

- Provide a network that helps share properties up for sale with significant natural heritage. Creating an easy grant application for funding invasive species removal utilizing contractors. This would help municipalities be able to tackle more without having road blocks due to lack of staff time and funding.
- Split DNR into multiple agencies so that regulatory branches are not housed under the same agency as forestry, lands and minerals, game management, and parks and trails.
- Environmental education - inspiring the next generation of Minnesotans to care for our environment.
- Change car culture, invest in neighborhoods so people don't have to travel to get to amenities