In 2018, 414 stream-side landowners in the Sand Creek Watershed of Scott County MN completed a survey exploring their values, attitudes, and behaviors related to their local water resources and conservation practices. The survey was part of a larger study designed to assist water resource professionals in land use planning and water program evaluation. The survey also replicated a 2011 survey of Sand Creek Watershed landowners, thus helping to track how landowner beliefs and behaviors related to local water resources have changed over time.

### Which consequences of water pollution concern you most?

- **Impact on future generations**: 92% somewhat to strongly agree
- **Wildlife and aquatic health**: 89% somewhat to strongly agree
- **My own health**: 82% somewhat to strongly agree
- **The health of people in their community**: 80% somewhat to strongly agree

### Who should be responsible for protecting local water resources?

- **90%** say landowners/property owners should be responsible.
- **77%** say local government should be responsible.
- **73%** say state government should be responsible.
- **80%** agree that stream-side buffers help to improve water quality for people living downstream.
- **91%** agree that it is their responsibility to make sure what they do on their land does not contribute to water resource problems.
- **78%** consider themselves "very concerned with environmental issues."

This study was led by the University of Minnesota Center for Changing Landscapes, in cooperation with the Scott County Watershed Management Organization. Funding was provided by the Board of Water and Soil Resources through the Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment. This work was supported by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. For more information about this study, contact Mae Davenport at mdaven@umn.edu or 612-624-2721.
How obligated do you feel to take actions for water quality?

- **Use conservation practices on my land/property**: 92%
- **Do whatever I can to prevent water pollution**: 90%
- **Take actions to stop the loss of wildlife habitat**: 80%
- **Maintain a stream-side buffer on my land/property**: 74%
- **Work with other community members to protect the environment**: 51%
- **Talk to others about conservation practices**: 49%

How have landowners' views changed over time*?

- **2018 landowners express less skepticism about climate change and its impacts than 2011 landowners.**
- **2018 landowners rate the water quality in their nearest stream/ditch as higher than those in 2011.**
- **2018 landowners place more responsibility for protecting local water quality on landowners, local, state, and federal governments.**

Landowners in 2018, compared to those in 2011, feel a much higher sense of personal obligation to use conservation practices. For example, nearly 3/4 of 2018 landowners feel a personal obligation to maintain a stream-side buffer on their land.

In 2011, attending a community workshop was more of a motivator for buffer adoption than it is in 2018. Landowners in 2018 are more motivated by having physical help with planting and buffer maintenance.

Landowners in 2018 have less confidence than those in 2011 that coordinating land use planning and engaging citizens in decision making would help to protect water resources in Minnesota.

*comparing between the 2011 and 2018 survey results?