

**POMME DE TERRE RIVER WATERSHED**  
**Public Open House and Summary of World Café Exercise**  
*Public Participation*  
*Dalton Community Center & Old No.1, Morris*  
*Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>*

**Purpose:** To consult with stakeholders and community members of the Pomme de Terre Watershed to

- Educate the public about the One watershed, One Plan Process
- Share Local knowledge of the Pomme de Terre Watershed
- Share personal perspective about lakes, streams, wetlands, rivers, and other natural areas within the watershed
- Identify concerns or vulnerabilities for the plan development process
- Connect stakeholders with one another

**Public Meeting Format:** Attendees were invited to explore the various stations set up within the room to learn more about the various aspects of our watershed and the work we do. Tables included: Soil health, macroinvertebrates, a watershed model, turbidity, and more. After the “Open House” aspect of the meeting, participants gathered for a short intro presentation and a World Café exercise.

**World Café:** Groups of 4 – 5 people tasked with answering a set of questions; each question session lasted approx. 15min. In answering the questions, each small-group recorded their ideas and discussion in a visual way and presented the results to the other groups. Questions posed were:

- How do you interact with water?
- What activities or behaviors are impacting or have the potential to impact our water resources?
- What do you think is most important to first address?

**Response Summary:** Responses are grouped by categories identified by the participants, with examples of common or unusual responses.

**Question 1: How do you interact with or use water?**

*Goal of this question is to help participants recognize the role / importance of water*

---

**Recreation** – Hunting, fishing, swimming, Boating

**Domestic** – Gardening, lawn care, cooking, washing, baptism

**Natural Resource** – Scenic beauty, taxes/property value, economic developer

**Agricultural Production** – Irrigation, livestock

**Industry** – Concrete, ethanol production

**Drinking Water**

**Question 2: What activities or behaviors are or have the potential to impact water resources?**

*Encourage participants to think about impacts – both positive & negative*

---

**Agriculture**- Tilling, pesticides, nitrates, erosion, ditching, alt. hydrology, aquifer depletion, insecticides, fertilizer application timing, livestock

**Socio-economic** - Awareness, owners vs. renters insures, legislation, politics, religious beliefs, being lazy, being better water quality stewards

**Development** – development of sensitive areas, road salt, septic’s, lawn irrigation, gravel pits, shoreline development, boat wake erosion, bank erosion, energy production, industry, water softener, more imperious surfaces, transportation, overuse

**Conservation Practices** – CRP, Conservation tillage, buffers, rain gardens, shoreline restoration

**Other** - AIS, greenhouse effect, torrential rain

**Question 3: What do you think is most important to *first* address**

*Each meeting developed a list of priorities, not as solutions but rather what is important to the participant*

---

**Dalton Public Meeting Responses**

- Agricultural and urban runoff
- Tilling and ditches
- Erosion Control
- Lake bank erosion
- Phosphorous: farms, septic, & livestock
- Potable water sources
- Urban irrigation

- Filter strips on all land that borders water
- Landfill runoff
- Improve water quality
- Ground source heat pumps
- Aquifer recharge and depletion
- Development pressures (shoreline)
- “Saint Paul” landscaping

---

**Morris Public Meeting Responses**

- Agricultural runoff / farming practices
- Hold more water on the land
- Safe, clean, sustainable drinking water
- Fall tillage
- Balance between quality of ag & urban water

- Conservation & water quality education
- Irrigation water management to address depleting groundwater supply
- Surface water runoff to lakes, streams, & rivers