

**RED ROCK RURAK WATER SYSTEM
ST. JAMES AREA EXPANSION PROJECT
TALKING POINTS – March 2, 2023**

1) Red Rock Existing System

- a) Started with 300 members in 1985 and has expanded to over 2,500 members w/ 14 communities and a population served over 10,000 in 9 Counties.

2) Project Development: Phase 1 - Core Facilities

- a) Develop a new 250 million gallon per year (MGY) water source to supplement the water purchased from City of St. James.
- b) Working in cooperation with MN DNR on well exploration, pump testing, land purchase & wellhead protection.
- c) Construction includes a new wellfield, a new 1,000 gpm water treatment plant and 20 miles of large diameter watermain.
- d) Initially will provide water to over 1,200 people in rural Watonwan County and the communities of La Salle, Butterfield, and Lewisville.
- e) Total project cost for Phase 1 of \$9.9M (**\$8.9M Bonding Bill**, \$1.0M Local Match)

3) Project Development: Phase 2 – Rural Distribution

- a) Expand project to 500 new rural homes and businesses in Brown and Watonwan Counties by constructing an additional 200 miles of waterline.
- b) Benefitting population of 7,500 people including the municipalities of Hanska & Truman.
- c) Total project cost for Phase 2 of \$11.1M (\$10.2M USDA, \$0.9M Local Match)

4) Water Quality

- a) MN DOH found 20% (74 out of 379) of private wells tested in Watonwan & Brown Counties exceeded the Primary Drinking Water Standard for Arsenic.
 - Arsenic causes increased risk of cancer and circulatory problems
 - City of La Salle’s only water source has tested at or above the drinking water limit for Arsenic.

- b) Other common water quality issues in private wells include exceedances of the Primary Drinking Water Standard for Nitrates-Nitrogen and Coliform Bacteria.
 - Nitrates can cause illness or shortness of breath in infants (Blue Baby Syndrome)
 - Coliform Bacteria is an indicator the presence of potentially harmful bacteria such as E Coli or Fecal Coliform

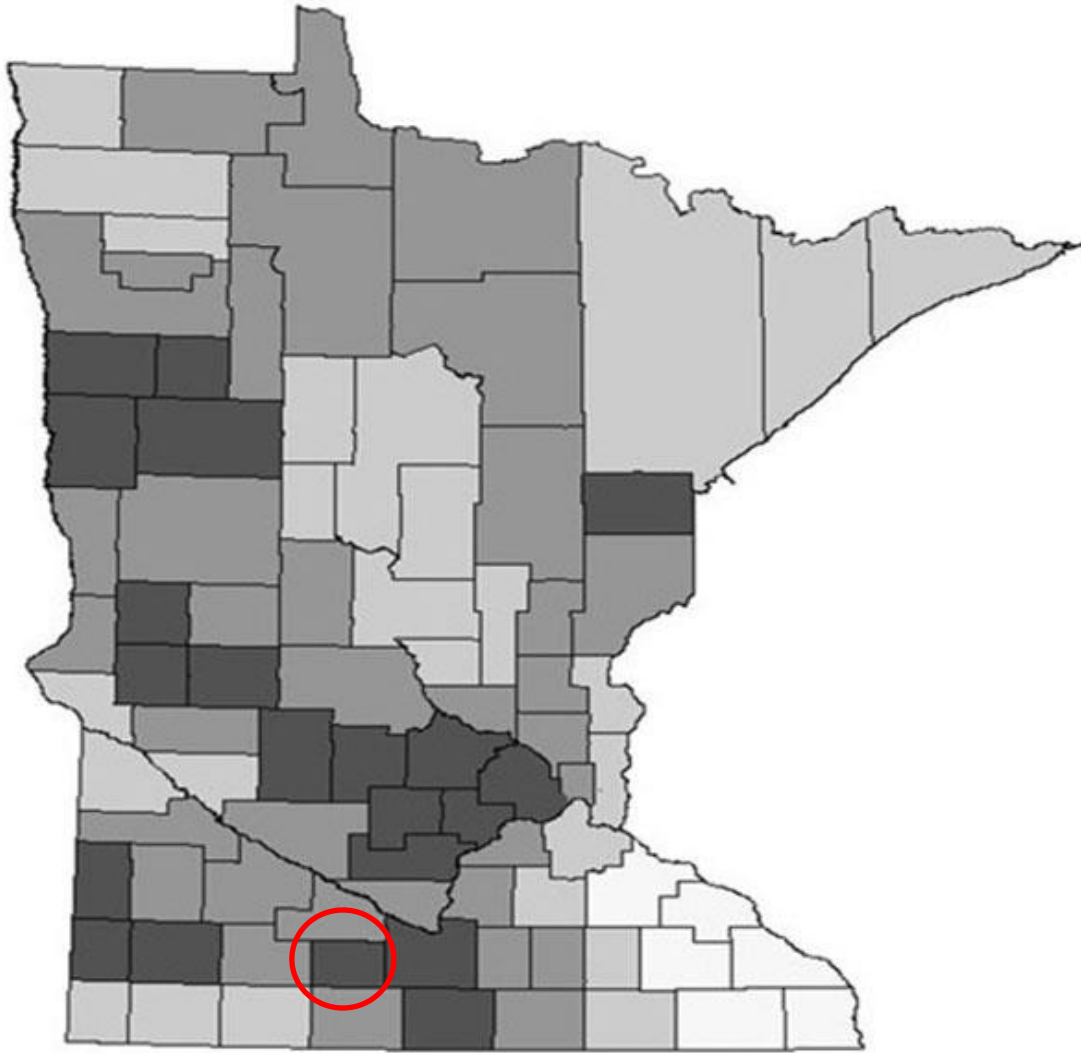
Protect your health!
Test your well water for:



- Coliform Bacteria (Every year)
- Nitrate (Every other year)
- Arsenic (At least once)
- Lead (At least once)
- Manganese (Before a baby drinks the water)

Testing is even more important if young children drink the water.

- c) Secondary Drinking Water Standards for Sulfates, Total Dissolved Solids, Hardness, Iron and Manganese are often exceeded in private wells throughout SW Minnesota.
 - Sulfate gives the water a salty taste and can be a laxative for people not used to the water
 - High Dissolved Solids and other Secondary contaminants lead to colored water that can stain fixtures and give the water a salty taste



Percent of New Wells with Arsenic Detections



5) Partners/Support Letters

- a) Watonwan & Brown County – Economic Development/Water Quality
- b) City of LaSalle – Better Quality to Replace Well w/ High Arsenic/Reliable Source
- c) DNR, DOH, Township Boards, Businesses, & Rural Land Owners