

## Duane Wirt

All citizens want clean water. We all want to be good stewards to keep our water safe for future generations. We also want to treat everyone the same and not target people.

To do this we need grassroots input from farmers, cities, businesses and homeowners. Top-down government is less effective. We need government officials to have meetings in each county so that hard-working people can fit the meetings into their schedule and with a lot of notice so that planting and other busy times will still allow input.

People want to blame others for water issues but that only leads to resentment.

We would like information on our water that isn't biased. Are we focusing on nitrates but not considering arsenic, lead, and manganese? Have we considered the risks of each problem? What causes have we considered- well-casings, local sewer systems, old filled in cisterns, improperly managed well closures or sink holes, city sewer sludge spreading on farm land?

How would only Spring manure application work with rains every 2-3 days which happened this year? Even if weather forecasters were always correct (which they aren't) we could not prevent some issues. Strips, tillage, cover crops are helpful but won't work in every situation. Consider the financial aspect. Farmers work with a very small margin. Large expensive demands like pits need to be supported by tax dollars or the farmer will sell the cows. Perhaps encourage more or bigger dairies because there is very little erosion when growing alfalfa and small grains that cattle need instead of row crops.

Slow down please, be respectful and get more input from all stakeholders. With more input maybe better ideas will surface.

The permitting process is challenging and intimidating. We need more transparency and to abide by the laws we have.