



Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.
Minutes.

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September 2000

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**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
SUPERIOR SHORES CONFERENCE CENTER
1521 SUPERIOR SHORES DRIVE
TWO HARBORS, MINNESOTA 55616
SEPTEMBER 28, 2000**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jim Dahlvang, Jerome Deal, Darrell Bruggman, Allan Oehlke, Char Kahler, Dan Wilson, Jack Frost, Dan Wilson-MDH, Jim Anderson-MES, Ginny Imholte, Clair Nelson, Paul Krabbenhoft, Mark Dittrich-MDA, Lee Coe

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kathleen Roer, Wayne Edgerton-DNR, Dwain Otte, Rod Massey-MPCA

STAFF PRESENT:

Ron Harnack, Jim Birkholz, Ron Shelito, Tom Fischer, Doug Thomas, Tammy McGlone, Mary Jo Anderson, Al Kean

OTHERS PRESENT:

Joe Oschwald, DNR

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Vice-Chair Jim Dahlvang called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Jim thanked everyone involved with planning the tour, Clair Nelson, Ron Shelito, Wayne Seidel, Mary Jo Flemming and Mary Jo Anderson. The Board enjoyed the tour and the opportunity to visit northeastern Minnesota. It helps to visualize the real diversity that exists in Minnesota and the challenge we have in adapting implementation policies and programs that acknowledge that diversity.

Darrell Bruggman invited the board to central Minnesota next year, possibly staying at Long Lake Conservation Center.

**** 00-70 Adopt Agenda** - Moved by Char Kahler, seconded by Jack Frost, to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion passed on a voice vote.

**** 00-71 Minutes of August 23, 2000** – Moved by Jack Frost, seconded by Ginny Imholte, to approve the minutes of August 23, 2000, as circulated. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Reports

Executive Director - Ron Harnack reported that there are significant issues regarding the budget that are different this year. There is a challenge pool for budget change items and reallocations. The concept of the challenge pool requires that agencies demonstrate significant reallocation and put 2.5% of their base budget into the pool in order to be considered for new funding. The Board has endorsed the recommendation of staff not to participate in the challenge pool, as this would significantly detract from our programs, the risk is too great to compete for the pool dollars. Ron stated that staff have been meeting with an interagency group, MDA and PCA, regarding elements of a feedlot initiative and legislative report. Ron stated that it will be an interesting next few months as the Administration reviews budget issues of the agencies and considers their issues and initiatives. Ron will keep the BWSR's Administrative Advisory Committee apprised and look to this committee for guidance as the process moves forward. It is Ron's understanding the DNR is not in the challenge pool, they are addressing issues within their agency. PCA is rumored not participating in the challenge pool. MDA and MDH are believed to be in the competitive pool at this time.

Ron distributed the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) information received from the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Congress will make a decision in a few weeks that could allow for additional natural resources funding. Jerome Deal stated that the State of Minnesota could receive \$38.5M if CARA is fully funded.

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Cost-Share/Soil Conservation Committee - Ron Harnack reported that the Cost-Share/Soil Conservation Committee will be meeting to review NRI information as part of the discussion on cost-share allocation and will be discussing policy issues relating to funding of NPEA.

Administrative Advisory Committee - Ron Harnack reported that the Administrative Advisory Committee met via conference call regarding the budget issue. The committee reviewed the budget issues and endorsed not participating in the challenge pool at this time. If the guidance changed to set a side a base amount for a competitive challenge among the environment and natural resources agencies we would look at participation differently. Under the current situation BWSR would be putting existing programs at significant risk as natural resources are not currently a priority issue identified for the coming biennium.

Agency Reports

Mark Dittrich, Department of Agriculture, thanked those involved in putting together an enjoyable tour. Mark reported that MDA is in the challenge pool for \$1.6M. Mark stated that MDA is involved in the interagency group, hopeful that there will be a good feedlot package. Mark had material available regarding pesticide management in schools, a guide developed for teachers' information.

Dan Wilson, Department of Health, reported that MDH is participating in the challenge pool for \$2.5M. Dan stated that the perception from each agency commissioner may be different. Dan stated that the National Rural Water Association recently rated Minnesota as #1 in the country for water quality. Dan reported that he's initiating a proposal for systematic statistical testing of 2500 private drinking wells, randomly selected throughout the state for the 2004-2005 biennium, total cost of \$4M. He would try to leverage federal dollars for assistance. Dan stated that this would be the first testing and data collection survey of this kind ever done, which could be useful for the next two decades.

Ron Harnack reported on behalf of Wayne Edgerton, Department of Natural Resources. DNR is dealing with internal reallocations; and concon is moving forward.

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Jim Anderson, Minnesota Extension Service, reported that the U of M is not involved in the competitive pool. Jim reported that the College of Agriculture, Food, Science, and MES, submitted to the U of M's President, a water resource piece for a bioengineering faculty position to establish and enhance educational partnerships around the state. MES and BWSR have three partnership education positions, Kamal Alsharif in Duluth, Derek Fisher in New Ulm, and Ron Struss in St. Paul. Jim views this as a very positive issue.

Consent Agenda

- Benton County Request for Comprehensive Local Water Plan Extension
- Kittson County Request for Comprehensive Local Water Plan Extension
- St. Louis County Request for Comprehensive Local Water Plan Extension
- High Island Watershed District Watershed Management Plan Extension

St. Louis County was encouraged to work with and become involved with townships and the cities, particularly the City of Duluth and adjoining cities. Ron Harnack reported that it's BWSR's policy for cities to become involved with counties in the water plan process. Doug Thomas stated that a formal set of updates and guidance has been available and is being delivered to counties as they move into the third generation water plans.

00-72 ** Moved by Jack Frost, seconded by Lee Coe, to approve the requests for extension of the Comprehensive Local Water Plans for Benton County, Kittson County, and St. Louis County, and to approve the request for extension of the High Island Watershed District Watershed Management Plan. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Committee Recommendations

00-73 ** Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization Boundary Change - Jack Frost reported that the Metro Subcommittee approved the boundary change. Moved by Jack Frost, seconded by Jerome Deal, to accept the committee recommendation to approve the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization boundary change. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Old Business

Review of Retreat – Update of BWSR's Strategic Plan - Ron Harnack encouraged board members to review the informational material distributed from the BWSR retreat. Ron suggested moving forward on Marybeth Block's proposal to update the BWSR Strategic Plan. Ginny Imholte stated that we need to recognize that BWSR is a service agency, electronic outgoing information needs to be provided as well as incoming electronically from clientele. Ron stated that some units of government are not able to be at the level of capacity as others and this will be considered as we move forward on the strategic plan. Ginny complimented Marybeth on her facilitation skills. Ginny felt that it was most

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appropriate for Marybeth to facilitate the retreat as she has been working on the strategic plan and knows the agency, which make the strategic planning process move in the direction needed.

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Draft Program Guidelines for the Red River Valley Set-Aside Program - Ron Shelito stated that the 2000 Minnesota Legislature appropriated \$2,650,000 to BWSR to establish an agricultural land set-aside and related cost-share program to provide short-term economic assistance to landowners as well as providing durable conservation practices on 5% of the land enrolled. BWSR will allocate the funds to SWCDs in northwestern Minnesota designated primary disaster counties in the 1999 Presidential Disaster Declaration; the counties are Clay, Polk, Red Lake, Pennington, Marshall, Kittson, and Roseau. Ron reviewed the proposed guidelines, the grant allocation, landowner contract and eligibility, plan requirements, payment rates, local criteria, and grant timelines.

Discussion followed. Ron Harnack stated that this proposal is targeted as a pilot disaster recovery program for economic assistance. The SWCD will make the determination on application approval based on the guidance. Ron Shelito stated that if MDA provides information on crop disease, BWSR will provide that information to SWCDs for consideration in their allocation decision. Ron Harnack clarified that cost-share assistance at a rate of 75% for the establishment of vegetative cover is available only if the landowner agrees to maintain the cost-shared practices for a minimum of ten years as per M.S. 103C.501, and if the landowner agrees to sign a cost-share contract with the SWCD. Cost-share for tree plantings may include establishment costs for windbreaks for up to three years.

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00-74 Moved by Jerome Deal, seconded by Paul Krabbenhoft to approve the draft program guidelines for the Red River Valley set-aside program. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Vice-Chair Dahlvang called for a break in the meeting at 10:15 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

Jim Anderson reported that MES currently has partnerships with the following agencies: MPCA feedlot structures person; MDA has two manure educators; federal NRCS EQIP has two shared education positions; and AMC has an educator position.

Biennial Budget - Ron Harnack commented on the list of significant issues (CREP; local water base grant issue; general RIM statewide; feedlots; disaster recovery; road replacement; soil survey updates; Red River Basin Board participation; and information management) of reallocation options for the biennial budget. Ron stated if BWSR is

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Jerome Deal asked that Ron Harnack stay abreast on the CARA funds. There are some real opportunities there for the State of Minnesota.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Respectfully submitted,



Jim Dahlvang
Vice-Chair

From: <GBotzek@aol.com>
To: <anderrka@maxminn.com>, <cm Andresen@uswest.net>, <pbachman@mncenter.org>, <tim.bremicker@dnr.state.mn.us>, Charlotte Brooker <browns@wavefront.com>, <RicCarlsonaxe@chartermi.net>, Brown, Chuck <cbrown@fedtel.net>, John Curry <john_curry@hotmail.com>, <Jeff.Deehler@co.anoka.mn.us>, <Lisadoerr@aol.com>, <OutdrNews@aol.com>, <jduggan@pheasantsforever.org>, <dunnpete@fishnet.com>, Judith Erickson <jlerickson@tcinternet.net>, <AEFARMES@aol.com>, <nelson_french@hotmail.com>, <SamGarst@aol.com>, Bill Grant <billgrant@iwla.org>, <dgrilley@mnptc.org>, <ronald.harnack@bwsr.state.mn.us>, <holmin@delnet.com>, <ghorner@tnc.org>, Diane Jensen <djensen@mnproject.org>, <Trjester@aol.com>, <jimk@trademarkcom.com>, <LWKNUDSON@aol.com>, <steve_kufrin@fws.gov>, Mike Lafleur <lafleur@usinternet.com>, <tlandwehr@ducks.org>, <robert.larson@gpmlaw.com>, <greg.mack@co.ramsey.mn.us>, <GMeyer9330@aol.com>, Cheryl Miller <cmiller@audubon.org>, <davemorán-pl@worldnet.att.net>, <lnorr@uswest.net>, <ray.norrgard@dnr.state.mn.us>, George Orning <orning002@tc.umn.edu>, <Dave.A.Overland@cummins.com>, <david.pauly@dnr.state.mn.us>, <don.pereira@dnr.state.mn.us>, <dvp@eot.com>, <paul.radomski@dnr.state.mn.us>, <direg_ebfire@msn.com>, <Conrad.Rossow@minnesotamutual.com>, Judy Sawyer <jlsawyer@info-link.net>, Susan Schmidt <susan.schmidt@tpl.org>, <russ.schultz@dnr.state.mn.us>, <enviroco@mlecmm.net>, <al.singer@dnr.state.mn.us>, <stewartship@visi.com>, <mteneck@mncenter.org>, <Sfalcrest@aol.com>, <quality@servicequality.com>, <tuckers@cris.com>, <bcv@fw.umn.edu>, <brweske@lcp2.net>, <westcom@emily.net>, <robert.j.whiting@mvp02.usace.army.mil>, <Jon.Witt@bestbuy.com>, <phil.zins@nspco.com>
Date: 9/26/00 11:54AM
Subject: CARA ALERT!

PLEASE CIRCULATE

To: Friends of the Conservation & Reinvestment Act and Teaming with Wildlife

From: International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

CARA Call-In and Fax Alert!
 PLEASE UNDERTAKE THESE 3 ACTIONS TODAY
 WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 26^(superscript: th)

Thanks to the unprecedented coalition of more than 5,000 organizations nationwide, including the nation's governors and mayors, national to local conservation organizations, wildlife and parks directors, sportsman's groups, civic groups, the sporting goods and outdoor recreation industries, historic preservationists, and the youth sports community, INCLUDING YOU, the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) has been elevated from an issue that was once a "nonstarter" to one that is in the heart of the debate during last-minute negotiations in the 106th Congress.

In fact, because of our very success, detractors on both sides of the political aisle are working quickly behind the scenes on substitutions to CARA that would diminish the integrity of permanent, comprehensive conservation funding, including funding for state level wildlife conservation, recreation and education. They're trying to create a watered-down version of CARA - trying to throw us crumbs rather than the cake we have been hard at work baking for SO many years. These

negotiations are moving fast and it is imperative that we stand firm in our efforts to achieve landmark conservation funding legislation THAT INCLUDES WILDLIFE FUNDING. THIS IS IT!!! WE NEED TO ROAR LIKE THE TEAMING TIGERS WE ARE!!!

What you can do:

1. Call your Senators today! You can reach them via the US Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121. Make the following points: · CARA Reflects American Values: Four out of five Americans, 5,000+ organizations, 50 governors, 1,100 mayors, 315 representatives, 63+ senators, and one president support comprehensive conservation funding through CARA. Follow America's lead and pass CARA now! · CARA is a Program that Returns Conservation Funds to States and Local Communities: Eighty percent of the money in the bill will be provided to states for conservation and restoration projects that reflect local concern and needs. This includes \$350 million for state level wildlife conservation, recreation and education aimed at preventing species from becoming endangered. · CARA Can't Wait: Do not leave Washington this year without passing legislation that would make timely investments in conservation that will pay great dividends for future generations. Indeed, CARA addresses the concern shared by 88 percent of the public that "we must act now or we will lose many special places, and if we wait, what is lost or destroyed cannot be replaced." We already have over 1000 species on the federal endangered species list; an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure! 2. Fill out the attached form and fax it to your senators after you make your call. You don't need a cover sheet, just fill out the bottom portion of the fax form and send it immediately after your call. This will give your message twice the power of just one call. Also, please send the fax form to others so they can fax their senators, too. Visual reminders help keep Members of Congress and their staffs focused on the issue at hand.

3. Make two quick calls to the Senate Leadership (Senate Majority leader Trent Lott (202-224-6253) and Minority Leader Tom Daschle (202-224-2321). Ask them to use their leadership positions to move CARA through Congress this year.

We don't have much time. Congress will make their decision soon. Please act TODAY before they act without your voice.

With the support of over 5000 organizations nationwide, confirmed strong public support for CARA values throughout the country, broad bipartisan support in Congress and the White House, there is no question CARA -- the greatest conservation funding program in over half a century -- should be signed into law this year! For more information on the Conservation and Reinvestment Act, please visit www.teaming.com

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

September 28, 2000

- Letter from Steve Morse, DNR Deputy Commissioner, to Ron Harnack, regarding DNR's draft strategic plan, *Directions for Natural Resources*
- Memo of August 29, 2000, regarding Todd County Comprehensive Local Water Plan Update
- Letter to Ms. Borchardt, Pine County SWCD Chair, regarding Ronald Wimberly appeal and the Pine SWCD's desire to continue with the appeal process.

SEP 20 2000 *Thm*



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4037

Board Packet FYI
cc: Jim Daug

September 6, 2000

Ron Harnack, Executive Director
Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources
One West Water Street
Suite 200
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107

Dear Ron:

Thank you for your comments on behalf of the MN Board of Water & Soil Resources regarding the DNR's draft strategic plan, *Directions for Natural Resources*. We appreciate the time BWSR staff gave to this review and the constructive suggestions you had to offer.

The final copy for our plan has been revised to reflect specific opportunities for DNR and BWSR to coordinate and cooperate in managing water resources and in working together in the agricultural areas of the state. We added specific references to working with local entities such as soil and water conservation districts and county governments to accomplish our objectives. The reference to ditches and tile lines becoming tributaries has been modified to reflect the desired result of holding water on the landscape. References to best management practices have been modified to reflect our intent of advocating BMP's and encouraging their adoption by farmers and other land managers.

We concur with your concern about local capacity to manage and protect natural resources. A prominent theme in our plan is to coordinate with local entities in our resource management responsibilities and to support their responsibility for local land use decisions. To achieve our objectives, it is most important that lines of communication are open. We have added to our principle of partnerships to evaluate our cooperative efforts and to work to continue to build local capacity for natural resource management.

Thank you again for your comments. Once our final plan is printed, we will forward a copy to you. We look forward to our continuing working relationship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Steven Morse".

Steven Morse
Deputy Commissioner

cc Doug Thomas, Assistant Director

DNR INFORMATION: 651-296-6157, 1-888-646-6367 (TTY: 651-296-5484, 1-800-657-3929) FAX: 651-296-4799

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WHO VALUES DIVERSITY



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER CONTAINING A
MINIMUM OF 10% POST-CONSUMER WASTE



Board
Packet
FYI

August 28, 2000

Billie Jean Borchardt, Chair
Pine SWCD
P.O. Box 276
Hinckley, MN 55037

One West Water Street
Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55107
(651) 296-3767
Fax (651) 297-5615

Field Offices

Northern Region:

394 S. Lake Avenue
Room 403
Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 723-4752
Fax (218) 723-4794

3217 Bemidji Avenue N.
Bemidji, MN 56601
(218) 755-4235
Fax (218) 755-4201

217 S. 7th Street
Suite 202
Brainerd, MN 56401-3660
(218) 828-2383
Fax (218) 828-6036

Southern Region:

261 Highway 15 S.
New Ulm, MN 56073-8915
(507) 359-6074
Fax (507) 359-6018

40--16th Street SE
Suite A
Rochester, MN 55904
(507) 285-7458
Fax (507) 280-2875

Box 267
1400 E. Lyon Street
Marshall, MN 56258
(507) 537-6060
Fax (507) 537-6368

Metro Region:

One West Water Street
Suite 250
St. Paul, MN 55107
(651) 282-9969
Fax (651) 297-5615

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RE: Pine County Wildlife Exemption Appeal

Dear Ms. Borchardt:

This letter is in response to your August 23, 2000 letter regarding the Ronald Wimberly appeal and the Pine SWCD Board's desire to continue with the appeal process and advance the appeal to the BWSR Board.

As you are aware, BWSR has accepted the appeal. The appeal was considered timely since the appeal was filed within 15 working days of the date of mailing of the notice of decision. Please note that the appeal period counts working days, not calendar days. (See Minn. Rules Chapter 8420.0110, Subp. 12)

While it is understood that the Pine SWCD Board desires the appeal process to continue, such decision is mainly up to the appellant. If the DNR withdraws the appeal, the appeal will not be heard by BWSR.

Further, if the applicant submits a new exemption request, it could make the appeal meritless if the new exemption were granted. Since air photos show that a path or road was present on some of the subject site before the recent activities, it is possible the de minimis exemption would apply. If the de minimis exemption were granted by the Pine SWCD, it would be futile to pursue the appeal process on the wildlife exemption. Also, it is my understanding guidance on the use of the wildlife exemption will be finalized and distributed by the end of September in time for the WCA administrative training this fall.

Please feel free to contact me at (651) 297-2906 if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jim Haertel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J".

Jim Haertel
Water Management Specialist

cc: John Carlson, Pine County Attorney
Dick Noyes, Pine SWCD Administrator
BWSR: Ron Harnack, John Jaschke, Keith Grow

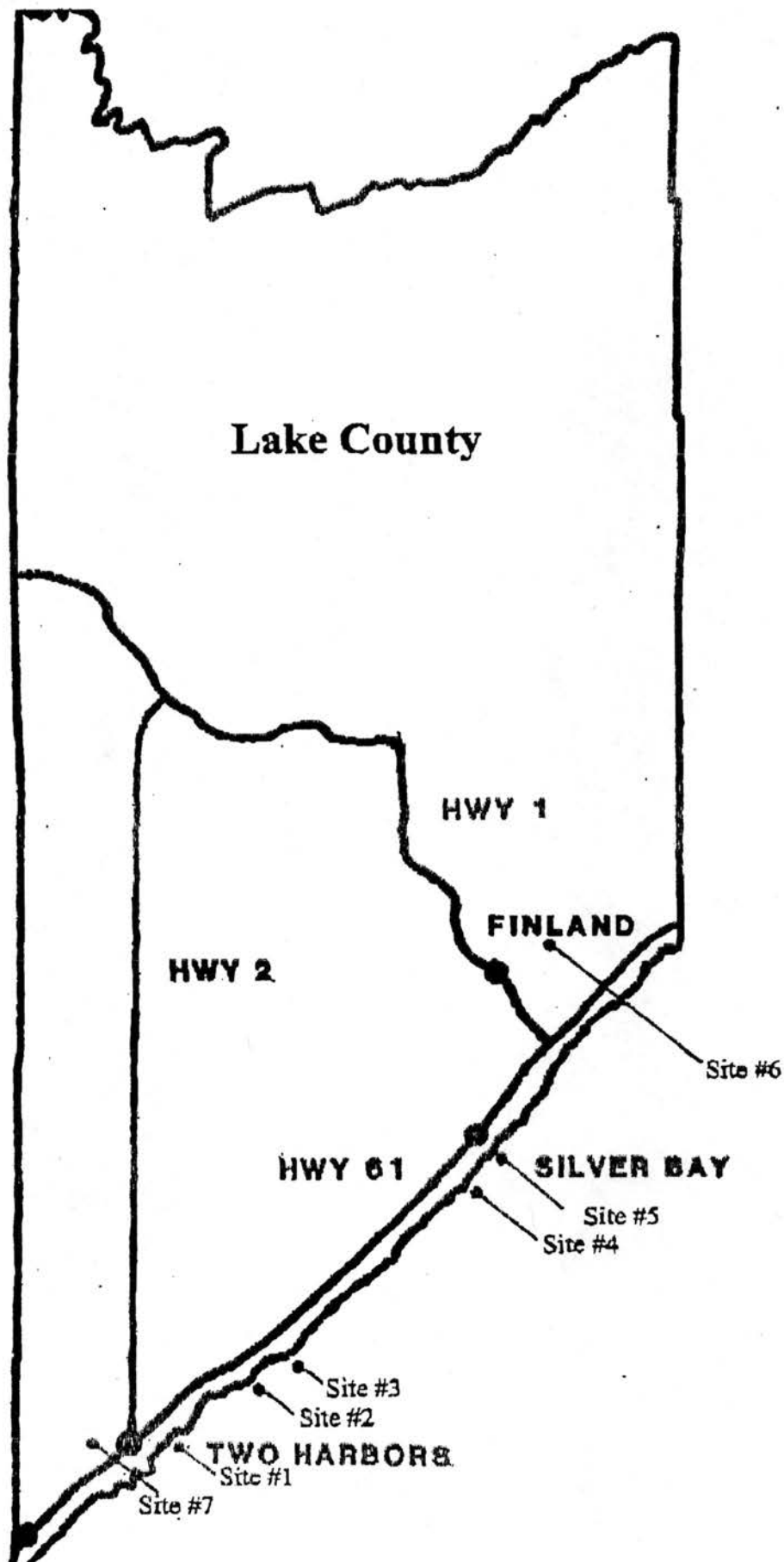
Board of Water & Soil Resources Tour

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

Hosted by: Lake County SWCD & Lake County Board of Commissioners

Tour Itinerary

- 8:00 a.m. Welcome: Mayor Wayne Sletten, City of Two Harbors
Chairman Clair Nelson, Lake County Board
- 8:15 - 8:30 Local Orientation to Lake County - Resources, Issues & Needs
- 8:30 Load Bus
- 8:45 - 9:30 Site #1:
City of Two Harbors Storm Water Management Planning - Wayne Seidel
Shoreline Stabilization Project at Two Harbors Campground - Gene Clark
- 9:35 Site #2:
Shoreline Stabilization Project at Flood Bay Wayside Rest - Wayne Seidel
- 9:50 Site #3:
Shoreline Stabilization Project at Silver Creek Cliff - Wayne Seidel
- 10:35 Site #4: Split Rock Lighthouse State Park
■ Movie "Tribute to the Age of Steel"
■ Tour Lighthouse and Lighthouse Keeper's Home
- 12:00 Lunch at Split Rock Lighthouse - Trail Center Building
- 12:30 Local Forum: "Increased Development - What are the Challenges for
Local Units of Government?" - Ron Shelito
Panel of Local Citizens & Officials
- 1:30 Load Bus
- 1:40 - 2:10 Site #5:
Silver Bay Marina - Mike Baker
North Shore Mining Company - Jim Kelly
- 2:35 - 3:10 Site #6:
Lookout Mountain Village - Water Quality Issue - Jeff Dickson
- 3:50 - 4:35 Site #7:
On-Site Wetlands Determination - Mark Nelson/Tim Peterson
- 4:45 Return to Superior Shores Lodge



DATE: September 15, 2000

TO: Board of Water and Soil Resources Members, Advisors, and Staff

FROM: Ronald D. Harnack, Executive Director

SUBJECT: BWSR Tour and Meeting, September 27-28, 2000

The Board of Water and Soil Resources will hold their fall tour in ~~Lake~~ County on Wednesday, September 27. See the attached tour itinerary and map.

The Board of Water and Soil Resources will meet on Thursday, September 28, at 9:00 a.m. in the Gooseberry Room at the Superior Shores Conference Center in Two Harbors (see attached directions).

The following information pertains to the agenda items:

Consent Agenda

1. Benton County Request for Comprehensive Local Water Plan Extension
– see attached information. DECISION
2. Kittson County Request for Comprehensive Local Water Plan Extension
– see attached information. DECISION
3. St. Louis County Request for Comprehensive Local Water Plan Extension – see attached information. DECISION
4. High Island Watershed District Watershed Management Plan Extension
– see attached information. DECISION

Committee Recommendations

1. The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and the Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization submitted a boundary change petition on June 19, 2000. All of the petitioned area lies within the City of Richfield. The City of Richfield concurs in the petition. On July 26, 2000, the Board ordered publishing a notice of filing of the boundary change as non-controversial. Since no request for hearing was received in the specified time period, no public hearing was held. No comments were received during the notice period, except for the Metro Region staff report which recommended approval. The Metro Water Planning Subcommittee met on September 6, 2000, and recommends approval of the boundary change per the attached draft Order. DECISION

Old Business

1. Proposal to Update BWSR's Strategic Plan – see attached information. DECISION

*Thurs - breakfast/lunch
breakfast on own*

draft
New Business

1. Program Guidelines for the Red River Valley Set-Aside Program – see attached information. DECISION
2. Biennial Budget - INFORMATION

Room reservations have been made for the nights of September 26 and 27 at the Superior Shores Conference Center in Two Harbors (see attached list). The rooms have been direct billed (which means you do not pay for the room). If you do not need a room reservation, please contact Mary Jo Anderson immediately at 651-297-4290 to cancel your room.

Wednesday, September 27

A continental breakfast will be served from 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. in the Gooseberry Room at Superior Shores. A preview of the tour will begin at 8:00 a.m. The coach bus will promptly depart from the Superior Shores Conference Center at 8:30 a.m. for a tour of northeastern Minnesota (see attached itinerary). The coach bus will return to Superior Shores about 3:30 p.m. A fish boil dinner will be served lakeside at 6:30 p.m.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call. Travel safely, I look forward to seeing you in Two Harbors!

Carrie 1-800-242-1988

Wed.

(7:00 - 8:00)

- * continental breakfast (45)
- * boxed lunches (coolers?) Superior Shores
- * fish boil dinner 6:30

Thurs.

- * coffee in AM

~~dpo - rooms~~
~~cost~~

17 - LGUs

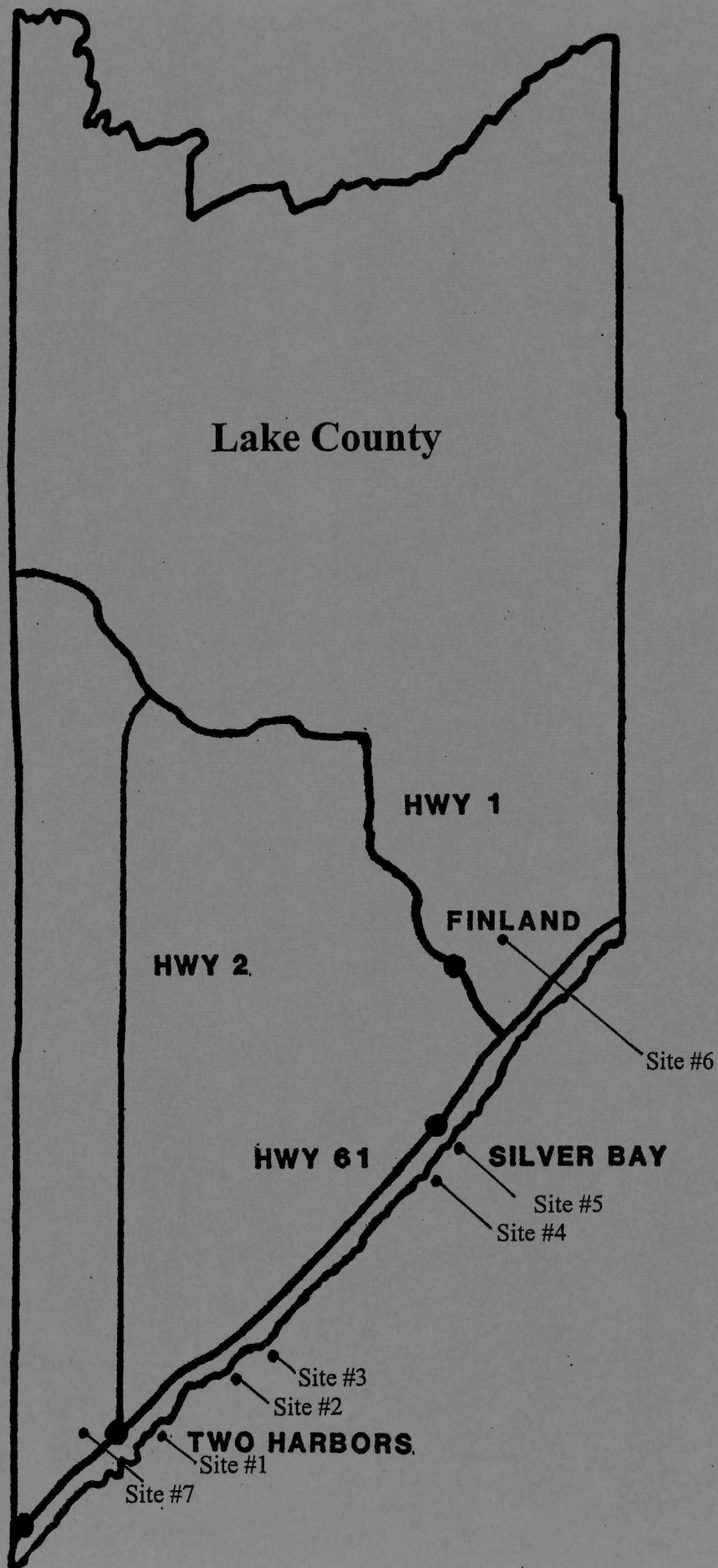
25 - BWSR ^{members} _{staff}

42 TOTAL

Board of Water & Soil Resources Tour
Wednesday, September 27, 2000
Hosted by: Lake County SWCD & Lake County Board of Commissioners

Tour Itinerary

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 8:00 a.m. | Welcome: Mayor Wayne Sletten, City of Two Harbors
Chairman Clair Nelson, Lake County Board |
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Lookout Mountain Village - Water Quality Issue - Jeff Dickson |
| 3:50 - 4:35 | Site #7:
On-Site Wetlands Determination - Mark Nelson/Tim Peterson |
| 4:45 | Return to Superior Shores Lodge |



Design and Construction

- JJR, Inc. handled the overall design, including breakwater, with DNR input.
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reviewed and approved the plan.
 - Model study done on breakwater and basin design by Kevin Hall of Kingston, Ontario.
- MTI (Marine Technology Incorporated) completed Phase I, basin and breakwater construction.
- Northland Construction completed Phase II, land construction.
- Oxford Construction completed the building.
- Shoremaster supplied the docks.
- Coordinated Building Services completed the engineering, quality control and inspection process.

Season Operation

Hours consist of 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; seven days a week

Season begins May 15, 2000 and ends October 15, 2000 (dependent upon weather)

Laundry Room Hours: Open 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., seven days a week

Bathroom Combination: Press 2 and 4 at the same time, release and then press 3.

Gate Combination: 7 - 19 - 34

Slip rental consists of: Daily Rate: \$00.50/foot

Monthly Rate: \$10.00/foot

Seasonal Rate: \$18.00/foot

Telephone number: 218/226-3121 during season

218/226-4408 during off-season

CITY OF SILVER BAY, MINNESOTA MARINA / HARBOR OF REFUGE

Location

On Lake Superior, one mile south of the City of Silver Bay, approximately 53 miles north of Duluth, Minnesota.

Facility Description

A public marina, safe harbor, and boat launch. Marina facilities are owned by the State of Minnesota and operated by the City of Silver Bay.

- Breakwater provides over seven acres of protected water
- Three lane boat launch with docks
- Dock/staging area for divers to explore shipwreck of Hesper – a wood and steel freighter built on June 28, 1890 which sank in the spring of 1905 during a snowstorm.
- Sixty-one slips (10 slips 35' long; 33 slips 40' long; 9 slips 45' long; 7 slips 50' long; 2 slips 60' long)
- Room to add 106 additional slips for a total of 167 slips.
- Electric service – 30 amp service at slips less than 40'; 50 amp service at slips 40' and up.
- Gas and diesel sales.
- Sewage pumpout.
- Administration building – upper level is open to general public and includes observation deck, porch and restrooms. Lower level contains showers, laundry and restroom facilities for boaters.
- Scenic overlook.
- City park and picnic area.

Breakwater Facts

- Largest rock weighs 28 tons.
- Over 92,000 tons of rock were used in the breakwater construction.
- The large armor stone seen on the breakwater was hauled from Babbitt, 52 miles away. Twenty-five trucks made two trips per day, seven days a week for three months. Trucks could haul up to four rocks per trip.

Working Together...



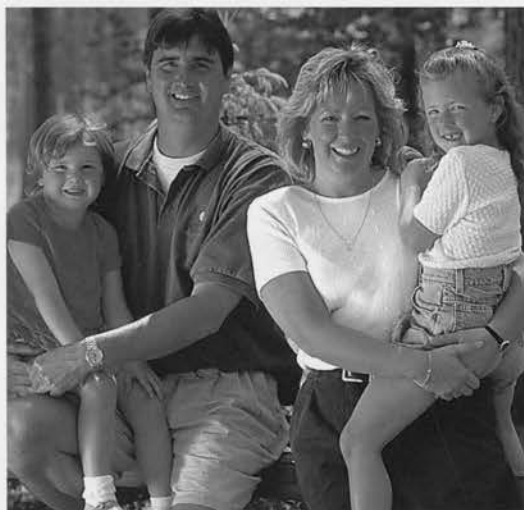
Producing Iron Ore Products...



To Make Steel... For YOU.

Who are these people?

Northshore Mining people are mostly long-time Minnesotans who are living and working in an area we love. We have a strong work ethic. We are highly trained with advanced skills in operating and maintaining complex, computer-controlled machinery. We train continually to keep up with new technologies. This brochure is about the work we do to help maintain our status as one of the nation's lowest-cost producers of iron ore pellets for the steel industry.



As Part of a Team

Because we have to sell our product on the open market, we really have to hustle. We have to be competitive.

At Northshore Mining, employees are encouraged to put their brains to work. Modern mining is complex. No one person has all the answers. Teamwork is the key, and employees at every level are encouraged to pool their thinking to:

- find more efficient ways of doing things;
- solve production problems; and
- improve safety.



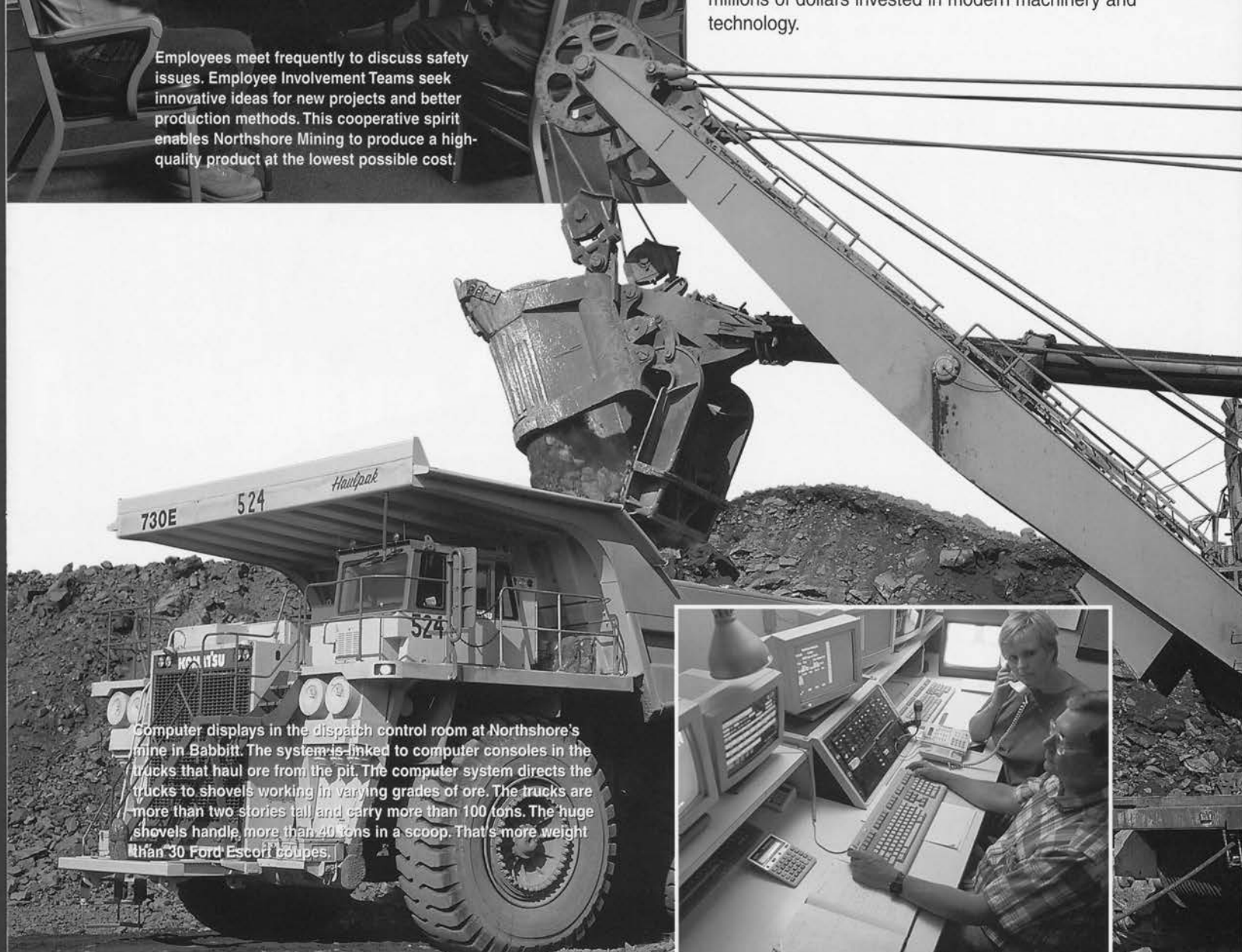
Winning in a high-tech world



Employees meet frequently to discuss safety issues. Employee Involvement Teams seek innovative ideas for new projects and better production methods. This cooperative spirit enables Northshore Mining to produce a high-quality product at the lowest possible cost.

From the time the hard, iron-bearing rock (called taconite) is extracted from the earth, through all the stages of crushing, grinding and forming the ore into pellets for shipping, complex machinery and computer technology play a key role. Power shovels, trucks, trains, rotary drills, the machines that concentrate and pelletize the ore, and even the planning for the mining itself—all are today, in some degree, computer-controlled. You will have to look long and hard to find a pick and shovel here.

We make a quality product. We can do this because we have good people, an excellent ore body and many millions of dollars invested in modern machinery and technology.

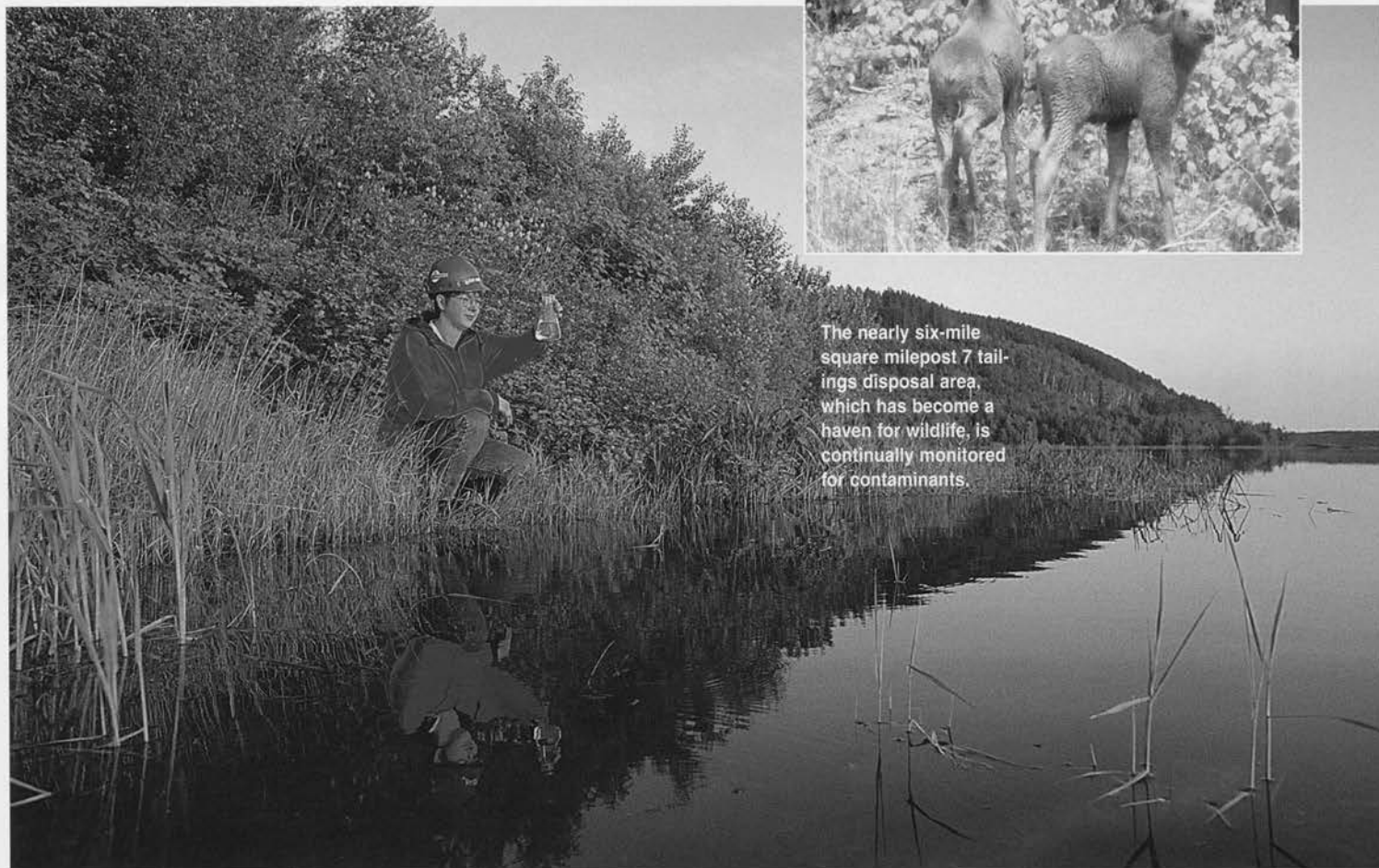


Computer displays in the dispatch control room at Northshore's mine in Babbitt. The system is linked to computer consoles in the trucks that haul ore from the pit. The computer system directs the trucks to shovels working in varying grades of ore. The trucks are more than two stories tall and carry more than 100 tons. The huge shovels handle more than 40 tons in a scoop. That's more weight than 30 Ford Escort coupes.

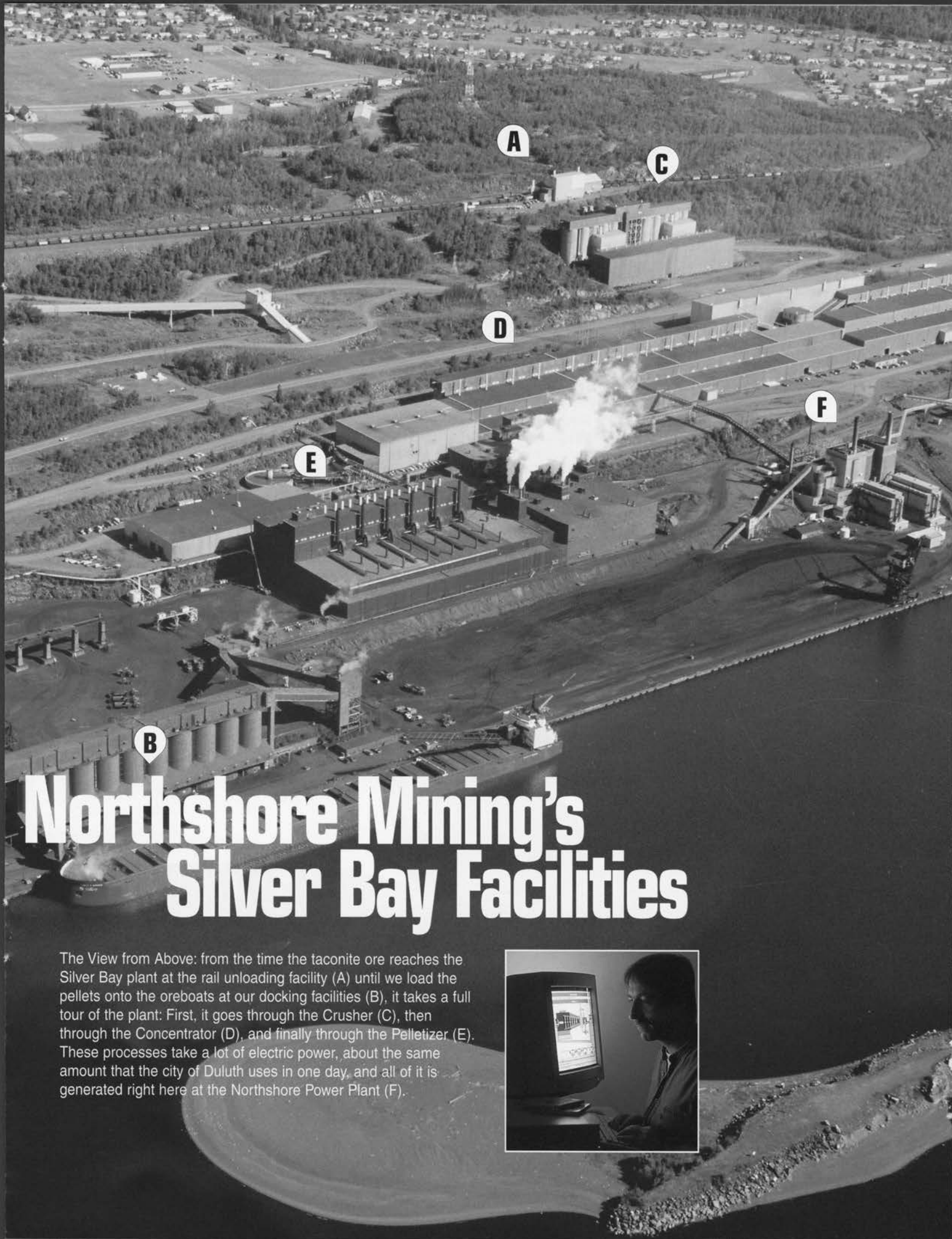


Working in harmony with the environment

Northshore employees value the natural environment as much as anyone else. We live and work here in large part because of that. Though mining necessarily changes the landscape, we do our best to minimize the disruption. We are keenly aware of our special duty to protect Lake Superior, and we have invested many millions of dollars to keep it clean and clear. Water from runoff is captured by a closed collection system and recycled. In addition, no tailings from the plant are allowed to enter the lake. Tailings are transported seven miles inland to our tailings basin from which process water is reclaimed. High-tech scrubbers ensure that our exhaust stacks discharge only steam. In addition, to ensure a sense of environmental consciousness, each employee receives environmental awareness training annually.

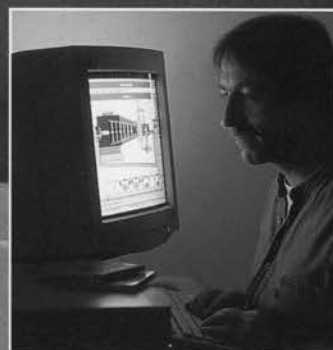


The nearly six-mile square milepost 7 tailings disposal area, which has become a haven for wildlife, is continually monitored for contaminants.



Northshore Mining's Silver Bay Facilities

The View from Above: from the time the taconite ore reaches the Silver Bay plant at the rail unloading facility (A) until we load the pellets onto the oreboats at our docking facilities (B), it takes a full tour of the plant: First, it goes through the Crusher (C), then through the Concentrator (D), and finally through the Pelletizer (E). These processes take a lot of electric power, about the same amount that the city of Duluth uses in one day, and all of it is generated right here at the Northshore Power Plant (F).



When hard rock turns into steel



Drilling:
Specially trained workers drill deep blast holes at planned intervals into the taconite rock at the Babbitt mine.



Taconite is a hard, iron-bearing rock formed more than a billion years ago when this region was covered by a great sea. Minnesota's taconite belt, which varies from one to three miles wide and as much as 500 feet thick, extends northeastward from the Grand Rapids area up to Babbitt, where the mine that feeds the Silver Bay processing operations is located. We mine the taconite, extract and concentrate the iron, form it into pellets and ship it out. Northshore has the capacity to produce up to 4.8 million tons of iron ore pellets annually, depending on the type of pellet. Here's how it works:



Coming back

Northshore taconite pellets come back to Minnesota as the steel in automobiles and appliances and a host of other products that we use every day.





Blasting:

To protect employees and local communities, strict safety procedures are imposed. The area is cleared and the taconite is blasted into boulder-size chunks.



Loading and Hauling:

Shovel operators load up to 40 tons per scoop on trucks that can haul more than 200 tons.



Crushing:

In Babbitt, boulder-size chunks are reduced to small pieces by a crusher that functions like a giant mortar and pestle.



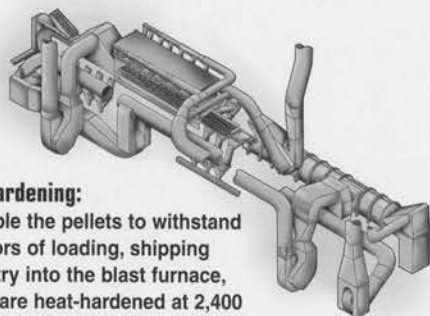
Transporting by Train:

Diesel-powered trains almost a mile long then transport the crushed ore 47 miles to Northshore's Silver Bay processing facilities.



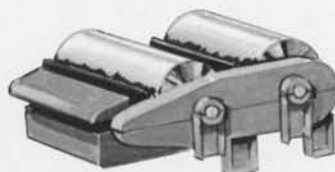
Pellet Forming:

The rich concentrate from the separator, now about 65% iron, is rolled into marble-size pellets in a balling drum. A bonding agent called bentonite helps hold the pellets together.



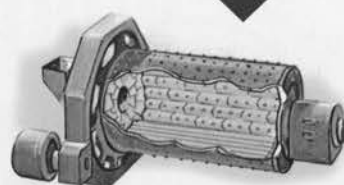
Heat Hardening:

To enable the pellets to withstand the rigors of loading, shipping and entry into the blast furnace, pellets are heat-hardened at 2,400 degrees Fahrenheit.



Magnetic Separation:

Operators send the powder through revolving drums containing powerful magnets that separate the iron-bearing particles from the waste called "tailings."



Grinding:

In Silver Bay, the crushed taconite containing about 25% iron is offloaded from the trains and passed through a series of crushers and tumbling devices that grind the pieces into powder.

Shipping:

When the pellets cool, we load them into ore boats. We have our own shipping dock right next to our Silver Bay processing works. Each year we transport more than four million tons of taconite pellets across the Great Lakes to the nation's steelmakers as raw material for their blast furnaces.



home





www.nsmining.com

Northshore Mining, which originally operated as Reserve Mining Company, was the first taconite mining and processing facility in North America when it opened in 1955. Production reached as high as 11 million tons before industry economic conditions forced its closure in 1986. The facility was reopened at reduced capacity in 1989 by Cyprus Minerals Company.

Cliffs Minnesota Minerals Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cleveland-Cliffs Inc, acquired Northshore in 1994. Cleveland-Cliffs Inc purchases Northshore pellets for resale in North America. Cleveland-Cliffs subsidiaries also manage five other iron ore mines in North America.

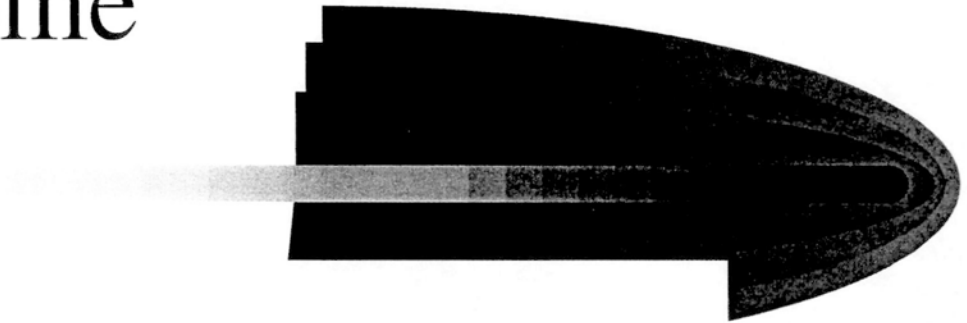
Babbitt and Silver Bay, Minnesota
For group tours and other information,
call: 218-226-4125.

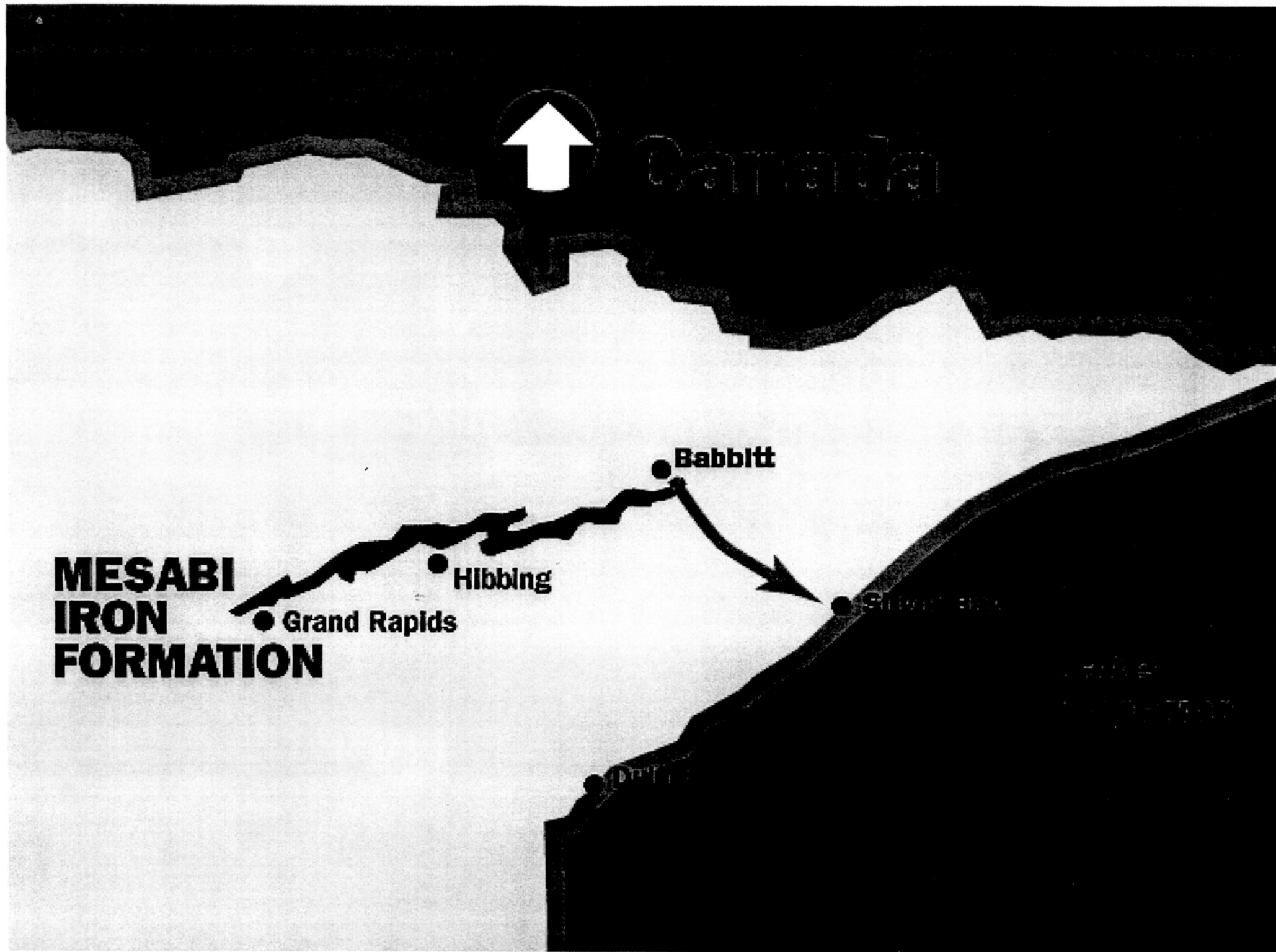


TOUR ATTENDEES

1. Jim Anderson
2. Mary Jo Anderson
3. Alton Berglund
4. Jim Birkholz
5. Darrell Bruggman
6. Gene Clark
7. Harold Cleveland
8. Lee Coe
9. Jim Dahlvang
10. Jerome Deal
11. Jeff Dickson
12. Mark Dittrich
13. ~~Wayne Edgerton~~
14. Dave Falk
15. Tom Fischer
16. Mary Jo Flemming
17. Jack Frost
18. Ruth Gubrud
19. Clarence Gustafson
20. Francis Gustafson
21. Dan Haglund
22. Ron Harnack
23. Brian Hayden
24. Wayne Hensche
25. Ginny Imholte
26. Mark Johnson
27. Norton Johnson
28. Char Kahler
29. Al Kean
30. Mike Kennedy
31. ~~Paul Krabbenhoft~~
32. Jim Lemmerman
33. Tammy McGlone
34. Brad Matlack
35. Clair Nelson
36. Mark Nelson
37. Allan Oehlke
38. Joe Oswald
39. Tim Peterson
40. Pete Raeker
41. Kathleen Roer
42. Wayne Seidel
43. Ron Shelito
44. Dick Sigel
45. Don Sivertson
46. Doug Thomas

Welcome





**MESABI
IRON
FORMATION**

● Grand Rapids

Hibbing

Babbitt

Silver Lake

What is Hematite?

- Low grade iron ore, about 25% iron.
 - Magnetic called Magnetite
 - Non-Magnetic called Hematite
- Most on the Mesabi Range is left after mining the high grade ore containing about 65% iron.

Mine located at [redacted] MN



Reserve Mining Co. History



- 1916 Pilot Plant in Duluth
- 1922-24 Babbitt Pilot Plant
- 1952 Babbitt Plant Restarted
- 1955 Silver Bay Plant
- 1963 Silver Bay Plant Expansion
- 1980 On-land Tailings Disposal
- 1986 Bankruptcy

Ore Reserves

- **Peter Mitchell Mine**

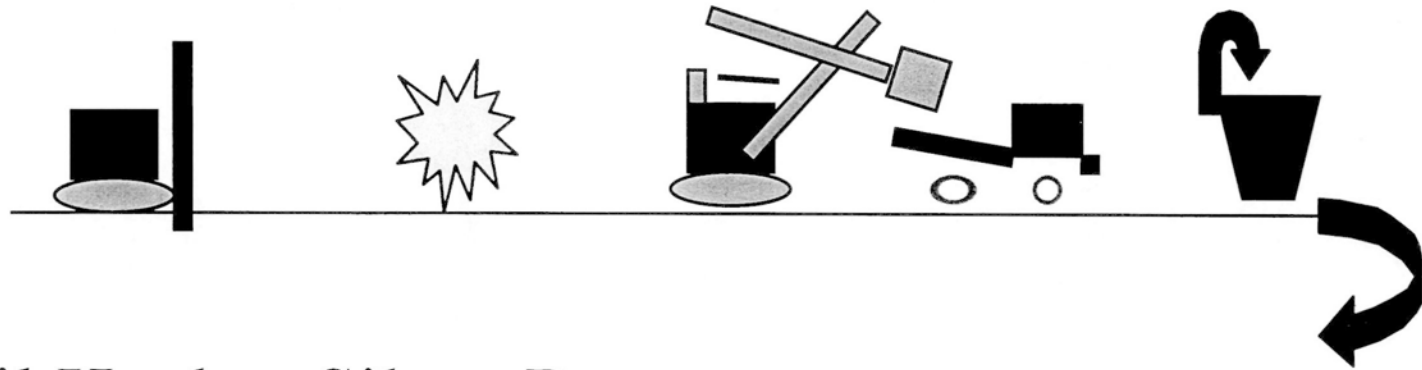
- 1.0 billion tons mined to date
- 1.15 Billion Tons Remain - Official Reserves
- 76 Years at 15 Million Tons Per Year
- Large resources beyond official reserves.

Open Pit Mining

- Crude Ore Processing

- Mine

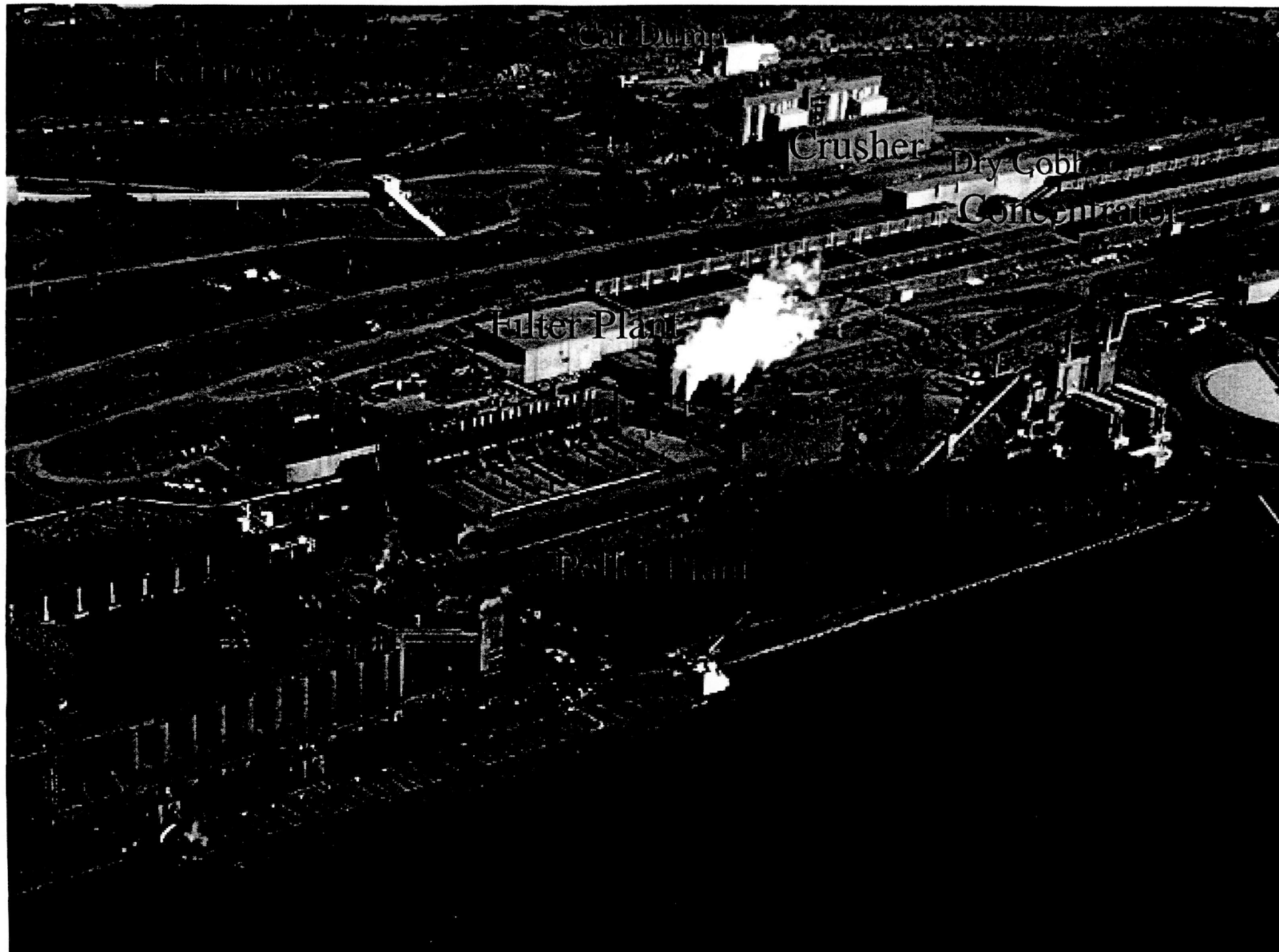
- Drilling - Blasting - Loading - Hauling - Crushing



Rail Haul to Silver Bay







Kapoor

Car Dump

Crusher

Dry Gobi

Concentrator

Filter Plant

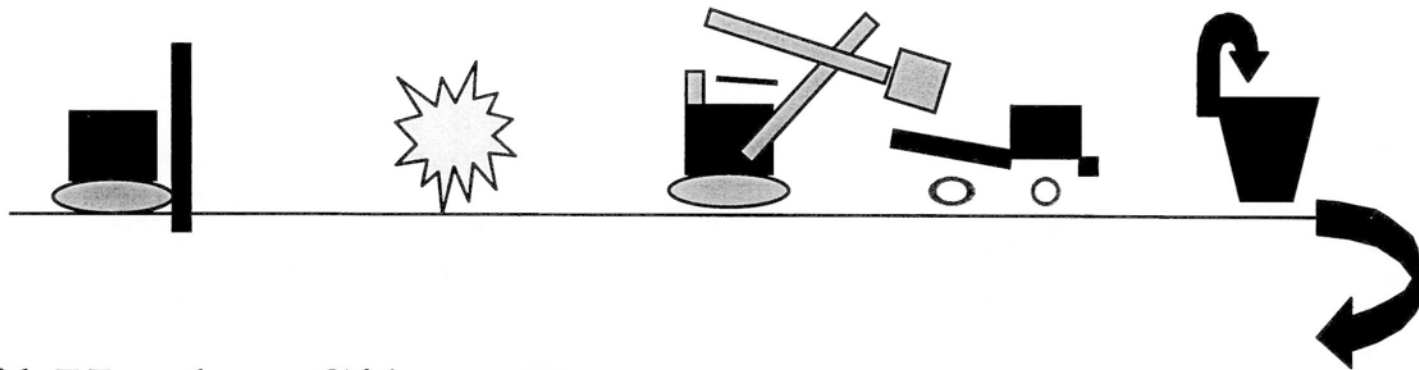
Filter Plant

Open Pit Mining

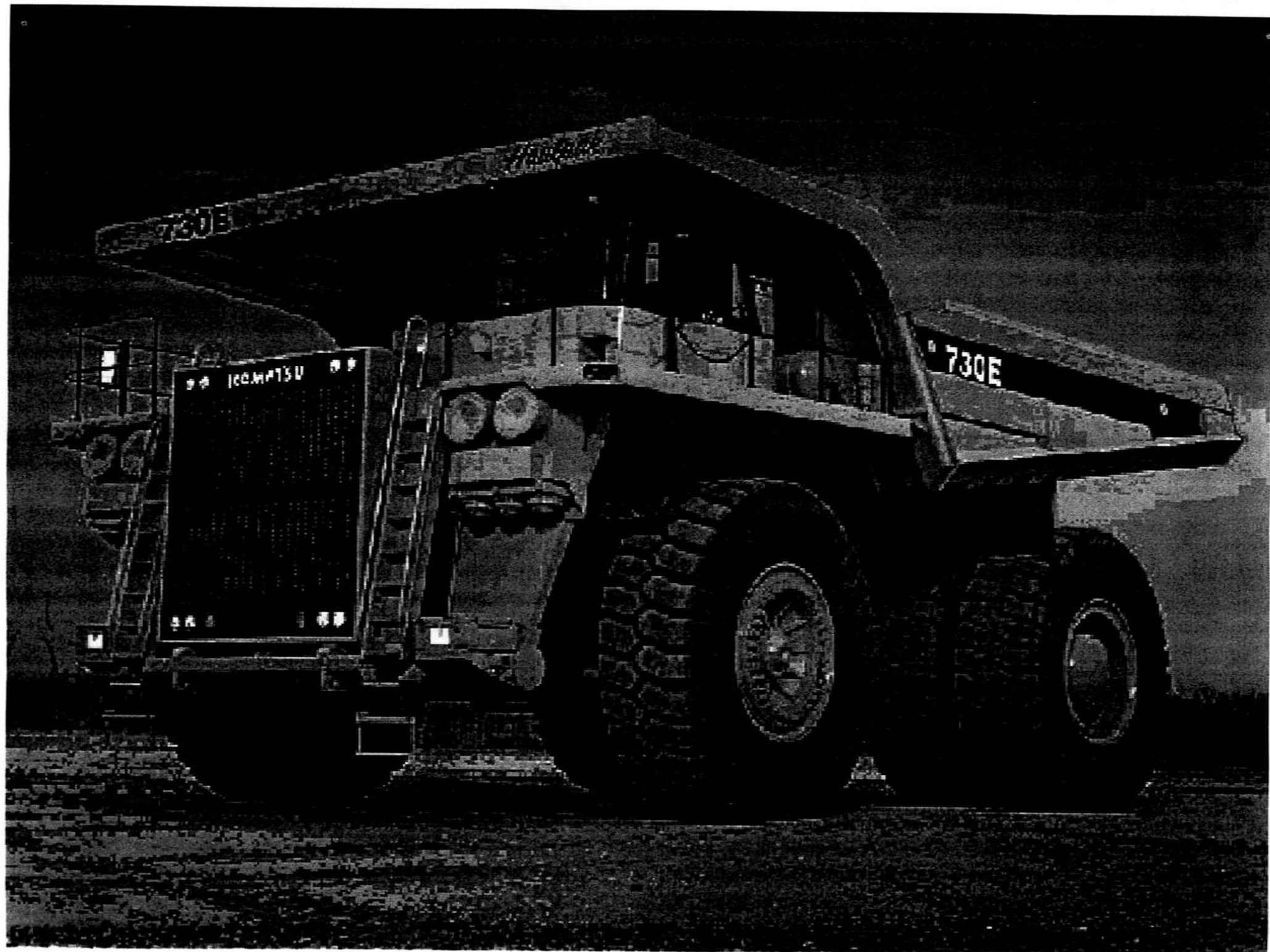
- Crude Ore Processing

- Mine

- Drilling - Blasting - Loading - Hauling - Crushing



Rail Haul to Silver Bay



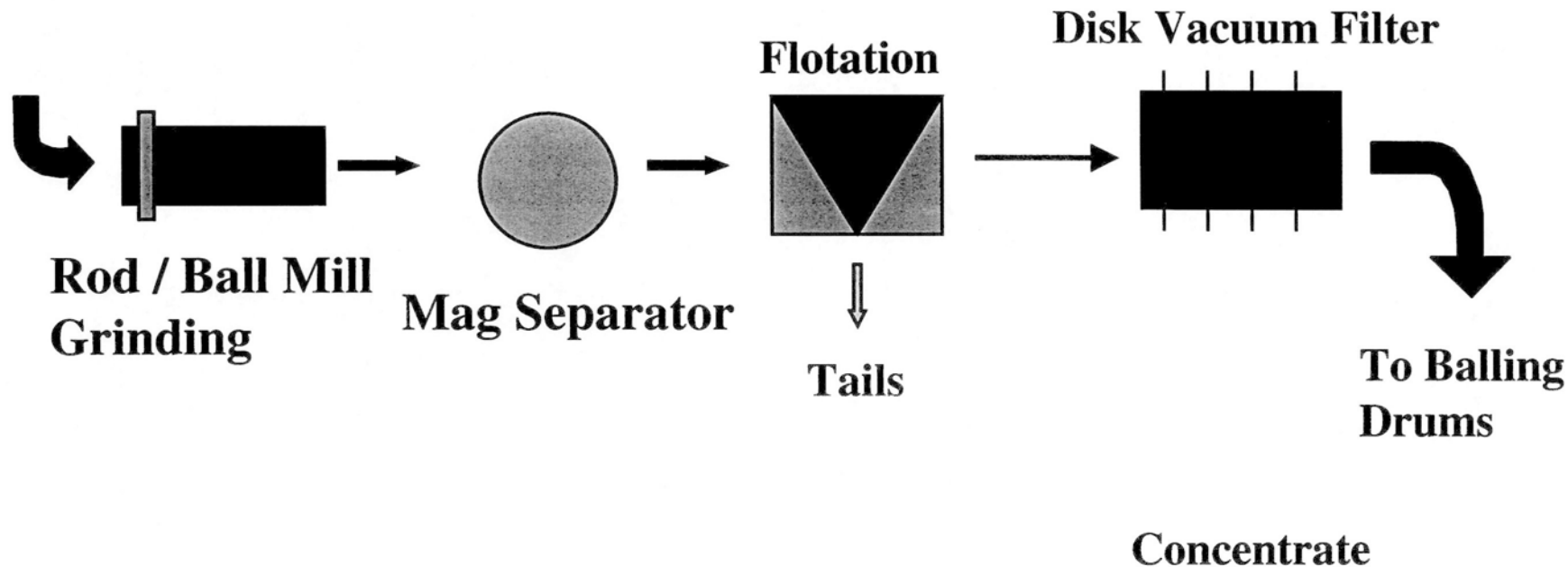


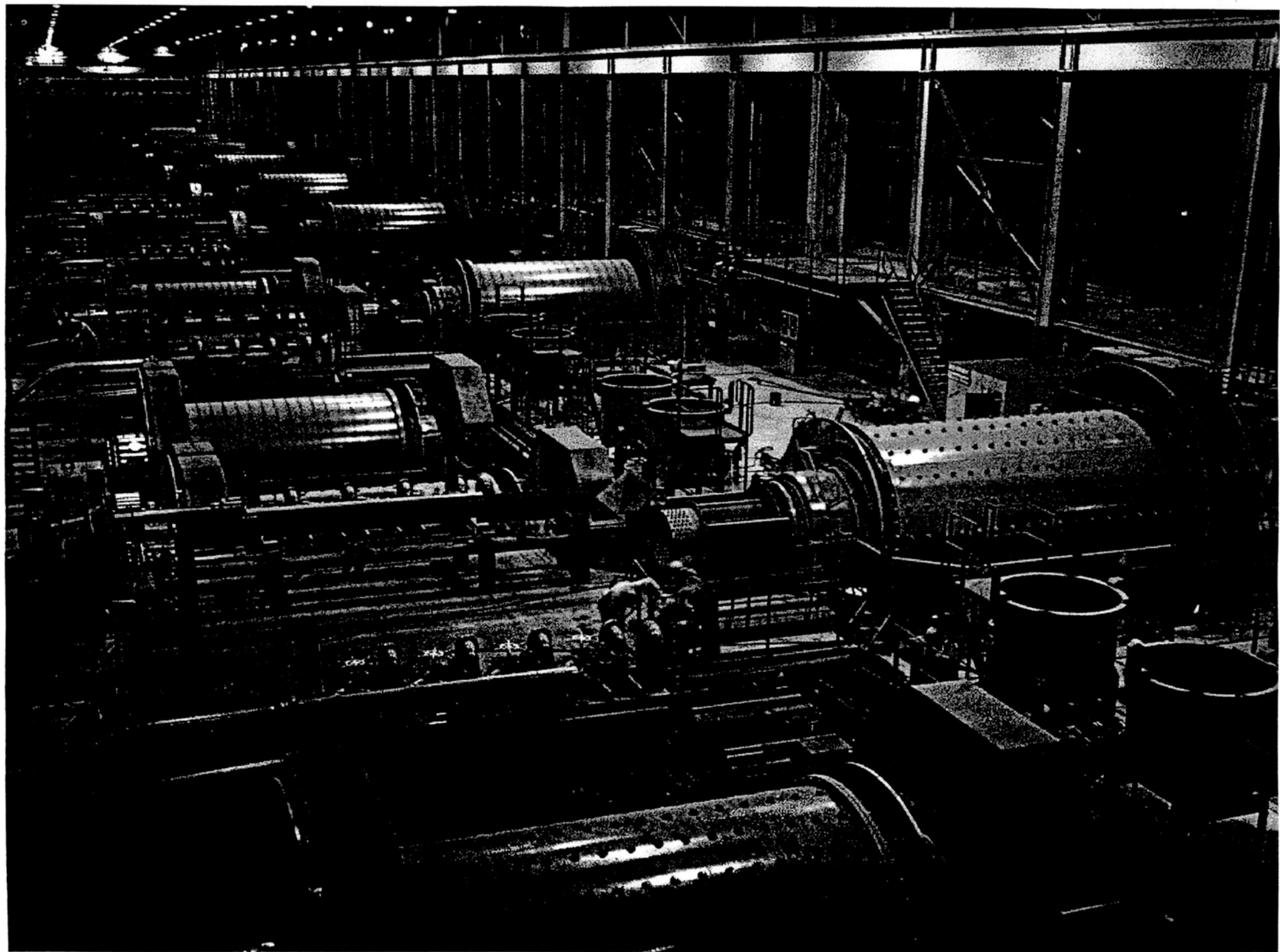


Current Operation

- Concentrating

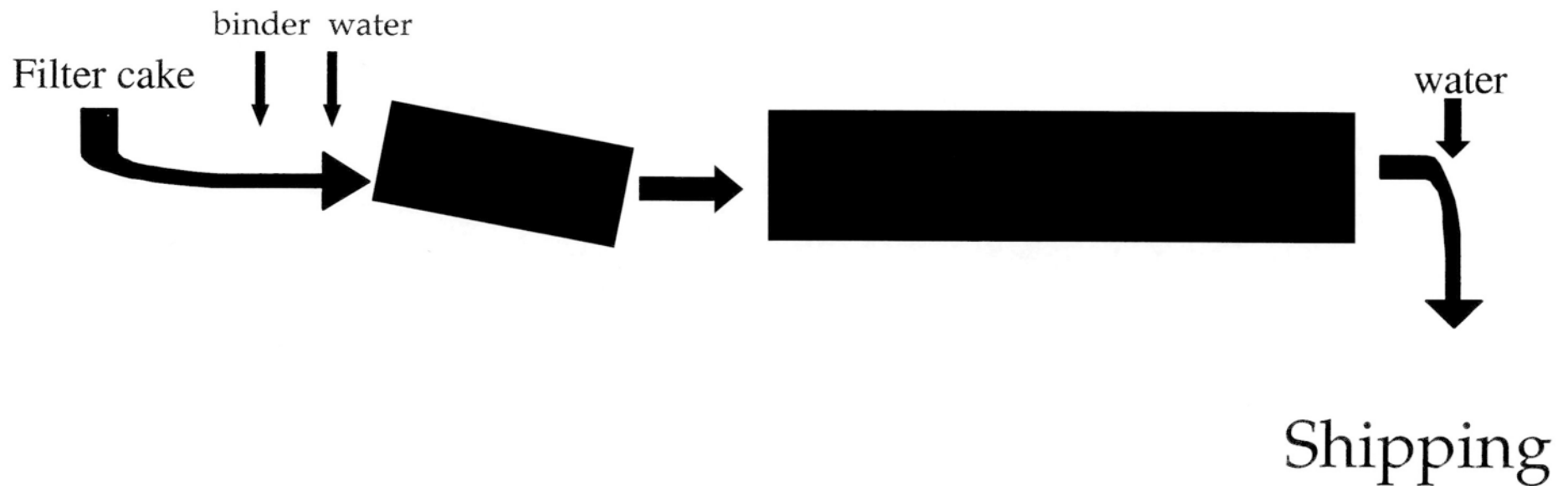
From Dry Cobbing

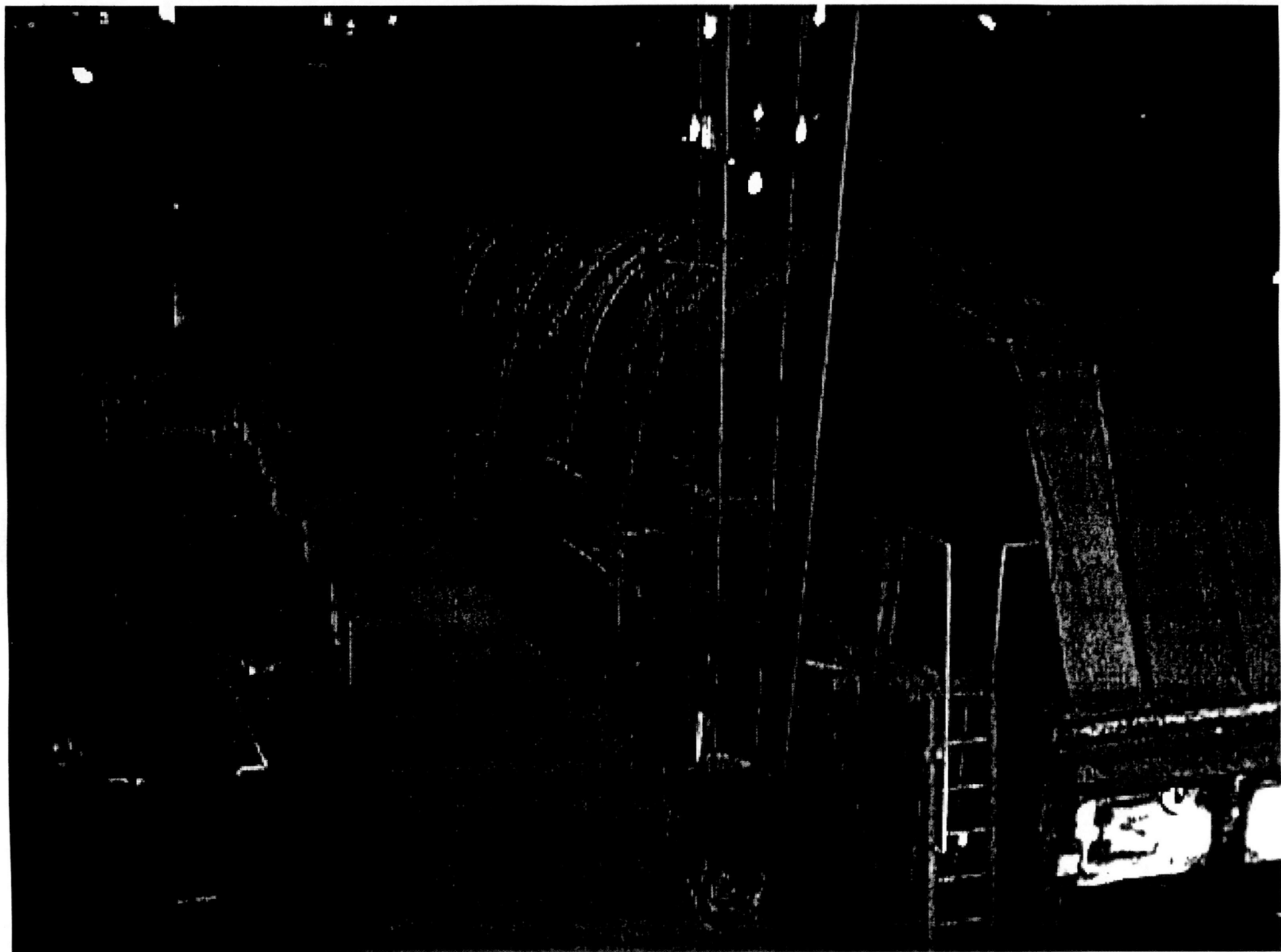




Current Operation

- Balling & Pelletizing



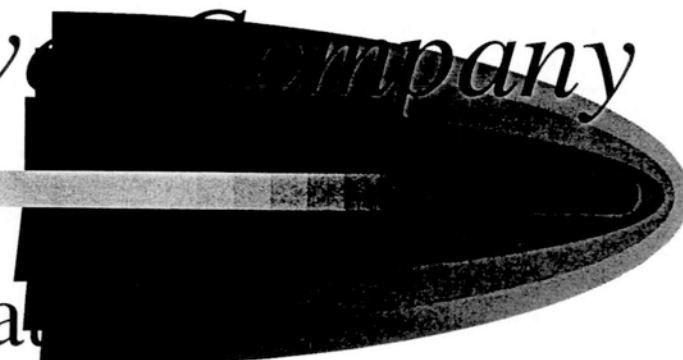


Current Operations

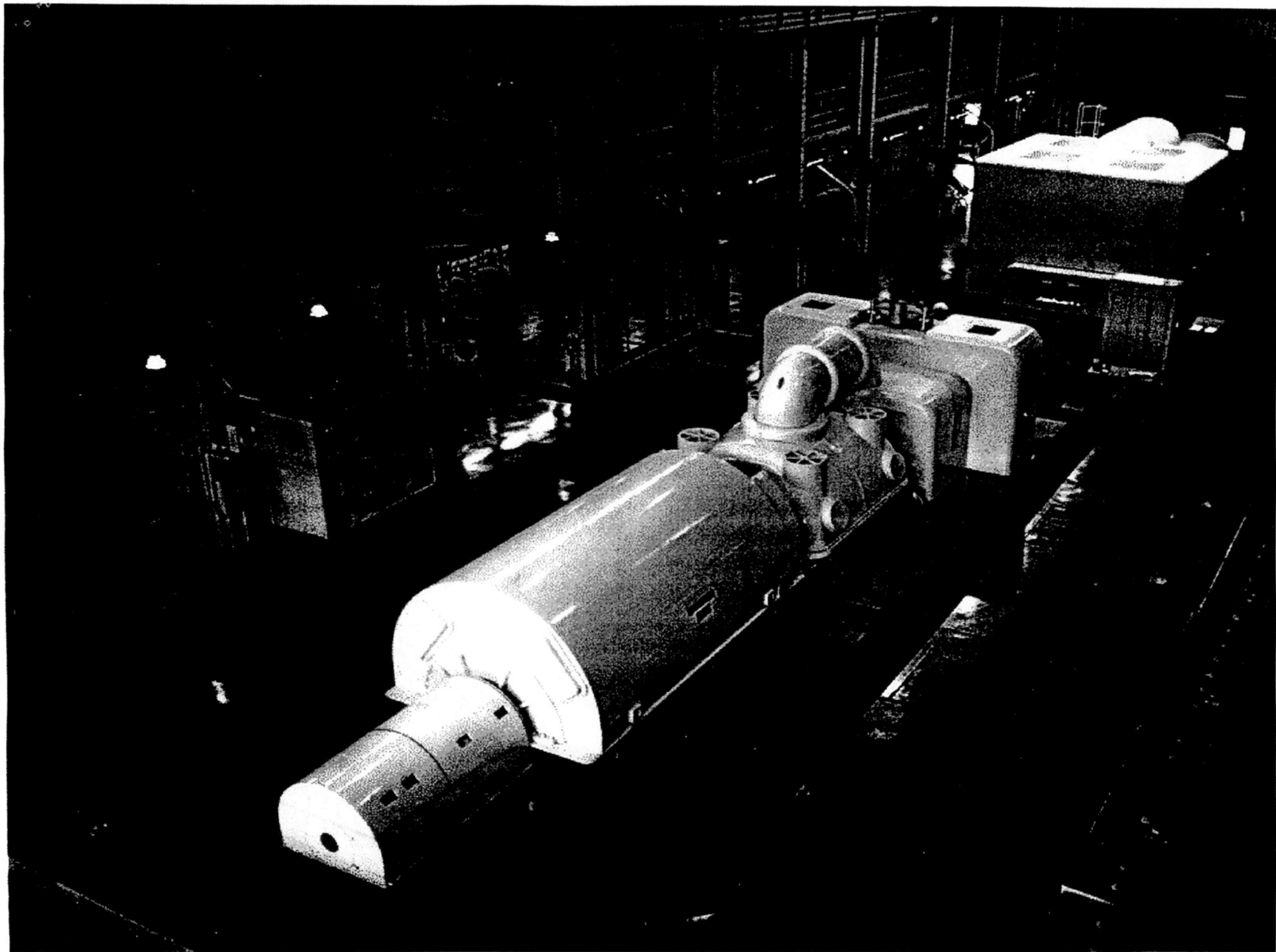


- Production
 - 4.3 million tons pellets requiring:
 - 12 million tons crude ore
 - 3.9 million tons concentrate
 - 0.2 million tons limestone
 - 0.2 million tons oxygen

Silver Bay Power Company



- 45 and 75 Megawatt generators
- 29 Employees
- Generates Silver Bay Plant needs
- Sells power on the open market.



500 Plus employees

Cash outlay of approximately \$120,000,000 annually

Spends over \$500,000 per year on environmental permits, fees, monitoring, sampling and analysis

Budgeting \$1,500,000 in capital for environmentally related equipment and projects for 2001

Operate under 42 permits with MPCA, MDNR, NRC, US Coast Guard, US Forest Service and US Army.

Surface Water



PCB free at Babbitt & Silver Bay

Active Asbestos Abatement program

Lined Landfill for Coal Ash

Recycled Plant water system with treated Basin discharge

Plant surface runoff collected

BACT is in place from most air sources

BACT is being installed voluntarily on the remaining sources

All Mine discharges are monitored

Wastes, where practical, are recycled to energy recovery systems

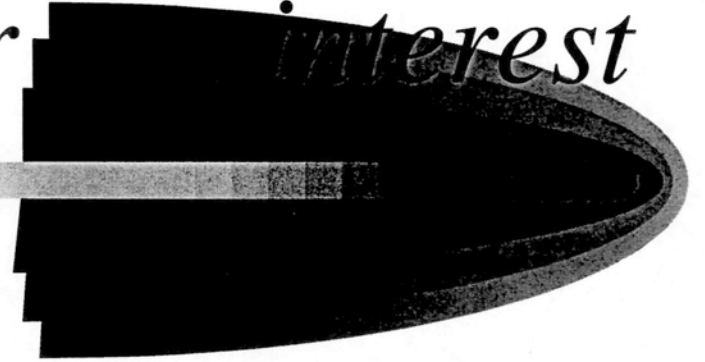


Working Together...



Getting things done

Thanks for interest



October 2000

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**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
ONE WEST WATER STREET, CONFERENCE ROOM
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55107
OCTOBER 25, 2000**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathleen Roer, Jim Dahlvang, Lee Coe, Jerome Deal, Allan Oehlke, Dwain Otte, Ginny Imholte, Char Kahler, Dan Wilson-MDH, Paul Krabbenhoft, Jim Anderson-MES, Jack Frost, Mark Dittrich-MDA, Joe Oschwald-DNR, Rod Massey-PCA

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Darrell Bruggman and Clair Nelson

STAFF PRESENT: Ron Harnack, Jim Haertel, Wayne Zellmer, Mary Jo Anderson, Mary Kells, Al Kean, Bill Best

OTHERS PRESENT:

Owen Knutson, MASWCD

Scott Gieseke, MACDE

Bev Nordby and Norman Senjem, BALMM

Tim Koehler, NRCS

Ray Bohn, MAWD

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BWSR Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2000
Page Two

Call Meeting to Order - Chair Roer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

** **Adopt Agenda** - Moved by Lee Coe, seconded by Jerome Deal, to adopt the agenda
00-75 as presented. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Minutes of September 28, 2000 - Dan Wilson reported that a correction is needed on page three, the last sentence of his report should read, "Dan stated that this would be the first testing and data collection survey of this kind ever done, which could be useful for the next two decades." Lee Coe should be added as attending the September 28, meeting. On page five, the third paragraph should read, "BWSR will provide that information... Moved by Jack Frost, seconded by Jerome Deal, to approve the minutes
**
00-76 of September 28, 2000, as corrected. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Reports

Chair Roer reported that she went to Owen Knutson's farm in Goodhue County for the technical presentation of the soil survey update, sponsored by USDA and MES. Chair Roer thanked Greg Larson, Owen Knutson and others for putting that great effort together. The web address for the on-line soil survey is [HTTP://gis.umn.edu/soils](http://gis.umn.edu/soils). Chair Roer reported that she spoke briefly at the BWSR all staff meeting in Brainerd on October 9. She also reported that she unexpectedly stopped by the Duluth office for a visit.

Executive Director - Ron Harnack commented on the information in the board members' packets today. The "Board Member Update" has been updated. He commented on the memo and report he submitted to the Governor's Office and legislators regarding the wetland road replacement report, as required by ML 2000, Chapter 492, Sec. 9, Sub. 5, addressing the local government roads wetland replacement program. Ron encouraged board member attendance at the MAWD, AMC, and MASWCD conventions. BWSR will have booths and staff attend each of the conventions. Ron asked board members to contact Mary Jo Anderson if they're interested in attending the annual meetings.

Ron attended the EQB and State Planning press conference on October 9, regarding the State Water Plan. The focus on measurable outcomes was discussed, as well as recognizing issues that need to be addressed. A reporting system pertaining to developed formulas will be presented to the Board at the next meeting.

Ron reported that he presented BWSR's budget to the Department of Finance on October 23. BWSR is not in the challenge pool. Ron stated that CREP, feedlot initiatives, and wetland road replacement were discussed. Ron stated that he's certain

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BWSR Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2000
Page Three

more discussion will be held in the next month before we know what the budget outcome will be.

Ron stated that BWSR is still involved in the Hugo mediation process; this will now go to court for a ruling. Ron stated that the Governor's Office has receiving a lot of response regarding CREP.

Ron stated that the Board has been invited by various LGUs to tour their county. An invitation has been received from Grant County, Aitkin County, and southwestern Minnesota water plan coordinators to hold a Board tour/meeting in conjunction with the State Water Planner's Conference at Jack Pot Junction in June. Ron stated that additional invitations will be coming in, the Board will decide after the first of the year when and where to hold their out-state meetings for 2001.

Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) - Jim Haertel reported that there are presently five pending appeals, all are WCA appeals. An appeal concerning an exemption determination by the Lac Qui Parle - Yellow Bank Watershed District was filed last week by the BWSR Marshall office. The exemption determination was for the Lac Qui Parle County drainage authority. The decision to accept or deny the appeal has not been made yet.

Another appeal is in the City of Delano which involves a replacement plan decision. A second decision on the project is being made since there were some administrative mistakes made on the first decision. The appeal is in abeyance until the city council makes the second decision.

Another appeal involves a wildlife exemption granted by Pine County SWCD. DNR filed the appeal. The appeal has been accepted and a pre-hearing conference was held. The appeal is presently on track to being settled.

The final pending appeals involve Cub Foods in both Chisago County and Forest Lake. Both appeals have been accepted and will be combined as one appeal. However, the appeal process is on hold since the petitioners are considering another site and could withdraw the appeals. The other site is an upland site with no wetlands.

Jim reported that the pending appeal in Duluth was recently denied. It was a citizen petition and involved an exemption determination. The appeal was based on the DNR's shoreland management program and tributaries to designated trout streams.

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BWSR Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2000
Page Four

The shoreland management classification has a bearing on the WCA diminimus exemption. In this case it would be the difference between 10,000 square feet vs. 400 square feet of allowable wetland fill without replacement.

Wetlands Committee - Ron Harnack reported that the Wetlands Committee met yesterday and will present issues next month. BWSR policy on holding LGUs accountable for the wetland process was discussed. The Wetland Committee will set the rule revision guiding principles at their meeting next month.

Cost-Share/Soil Conservation Committee - Dwain Otte distributed the Cost-Share/Soil Conservation Committee meeting notice. The committee will meet on November 21 to discuss MASWCD Non Point Engineering Assistance Program (NPEA) Recommendations and the Cost-Share Allocation Formula Alternatives.

Education and Public Relations Committee – Paul Krabbenhoft reported that the Education Committee will meet on December 13. The Committee continues to work on the new BWSR website.

Agency Reports

Mark Dittich, Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), reported that FMAC met in September, a draft of the general permit was reviewed; their next meeting is November 16. Mark reported that MDA's Best Management Practices (BMPs) Program has loans available. Mark attended a hypoxia meeting last week in Baton Rouge, the final draft of the hypoxia report will be done in weeks, the final report will be available in January.

Rod Massey stated that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the MDA, PCA, and feedlot dairy inspectors is in the process of being signed. Rod stated that the commissioners of MDA and PCA have agreed to the MOU, but need to get together to sign the MOU.

Dan Wilson, Minnesota Department of Health, reported that (MDH) is participating in the challenge pool. Dan reported that the House and Senate approved EPA's FY2001 funding at \$7.8 billion.

Joe Oswald, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Waters, reported that Wayne Edgerton apologized for not attending today, Joe is attending on behalf of Wayne. Joe stated that DNR Commissioner Garber recommended that concon lands be included in wildlife management areas. Joe stated that DNR is expecting a good deer harvest this fall; the deer hunting season opens November 4.

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BWSR Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2000
Page Five

Rod Massey, Pollution Control Agency (PCA), reported that the feedlot rules went into effect October 23. PCA is working with MES and MDA on feedlot training. Rod reported that PCA is in the challenge pool, primarily for the feedlot program. Rod stated that there may be a significant staff reduction over the next biennium due to the budget situation. PCA has been working on a North Shore mining fine tailings system that had a pipe burst, a significant amount of contamination went into the creek and into the lake, clean-up efforts are underway.

Jim Anderson, Minnesota Extension Service (MES), reported that MES, BWSR, PCA, and MDA have been involved in six regional feedlot meetings held in September, with 50 county meetings scheduled in November.

Ron Harnack reported that the CARA bill did not pass. This bill includes various natural resources issues, 500 acres of wetland restoration in the five-state area, Minnesota included. Ron will provide additional information to board members as he receives it.

Consent Agenda

Isanti County Request for Comprehensive Local Water Plan Update – Ron Harnack reported that the northern subcommittee reviewed the plan update and recommends approval. Moved by Jim Dahlvang, seconded Allan Oehlke, to approve the Isanti County Request for Comprehensive Local Water Plan Update. Motion passed on a voice vote. Ron stated that this does include Snake River, which will come before the board in February.

**
00-77

Lake of the Woods County, Traverse County, and Winona County Requests for Comprehensive Local Water Plan Extension. Moved by Jerome Deal, seconded by Dan Wilson, to approve the Lake of the Woods County, Traverse County, and Winona County Requests for Comprehensive Local Water Plan Extensions. Motion passed on a voice vote.

**
00-78

Committee Recommendations

Carnelian-Marine Watershed District Watershed Management Plan - Jack Frost reported that the metro subcommittee met October 2 to review Carnelian-Marine Watershed District Watershed Management Plan. The metro subcommittee recommends approval of the Carnelian-Marine Watershed District Watershed Management Plan. Moved by Char Kahler, seconded by Dwain Otte, to approve the Carnelian-Marine Watershed District Watershed Management Plan. Motion passed on a voice vote.

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00-79

Chair Roer called for a break at 10:10 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:20 a.m.

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New Business

Basin Alliance of the Lower Mississippi in Minnesota (BALMM) - Mary Kells BWSR thanked the Board for the opportunity to present this new alliance. Mary introduced Bev Nordby, Mower SWCD and chair of the Alliance; and Norman Senjem, MPCA basin planner. Bev explained that BALMM is a locally-led basin alliance linked to the local water plans and also linked to the State Water Plan 2000. This is not another layer of government. BALMM's goal is to improve and protect water quality, while implementing strategies through local, county, state, and federal collaboration. Norman presented the water and land resource goals and strategies as well as key basin characteristics. BALMM's conclusion is to bring existing staff and resources together to work on protecting our resources in the basin; it's not a new creature of government but a cooperative venture to bring funding sources to constituents; they would like involvement along the way to keep this locally led. Bev stated that BALMM has a newsletter, the "BALMM Currents" to keep people informed and involved. Discussion followed. Chair Roer thanked Bev, Mary, and Norman for their presentation. Chair Roer stated that this can serve as a model for other areas of the state and BWSR will continue to support their efforts.

FY 2000 MPCA Feedlot Challenge Grants - Wayne Zellmer presented background information on the 2000 feedlot challenge grant. On behalf of MPCA, Wayne requests approval of the \$108,320 grant allocations for Cass County, Cottonwood County, Fillmore County, Houston County, Murray County, Stevens County, and Waseca County. Moved by Jack Frost, seconded by Jim Dahlvang, to approve the FY2000 MPCA Feedlot Challenge Grants. Motion passed on a voice vote.

**

00-80

Valley Branch Watershed District Enlargement and Increase Number of Managers Order for Public Hearing and Brown's Creek Watershed Enlargement and Increase Number of Managers Order for Public Hearing - Jim Haertel presented the petitions for the Valley Branch and Brown's Creek Watershed Districts enlargement and increased number of managers. The BWSR metro water planning subcommittee will hold public hearings in November. Jim stated that the petitions will be presented to the BWSR in January or February for action. Moved by Dwain Otte, seconded by Ginny Imholte, to approve the orders for public hearings of the Valley Branch and Brown's Creek Watershed Districts enlargement and increase number of managers. Motion passed on a voice vote.

**

00-81

Advisory Comments

Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees (MACDE) -Tim Gieseke, reported that MACDE met September 20, the Minnesota Milk Producers Association were present to discuss adding SWCDs to their partnership with MES. Tim reported

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BWSR Meeting Minutes
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that an education fund is available for areas to promote and market SWCDs. MACDE will be working with Pete Raeker on this endeavor. Tim reported that the web-based reporting system was discussed at the MACDE September 20 meeting. Doug Thomas and Tim Ogg play a big part in that effort, and SWCDs appreciate their assistance with the web-based reporting system. Tim stated that he's impressed with how quickly this reporting system effort has progressed. Ron Harnack congratulated Tim on his rock inlet thesis.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) - Owen Knutson reported that the MASWCD leadership session has finished; Chair Roer was a part of that. A new series of the leadership sessions will begin in the spring. The leadership core group went to Washington, D.C. This was a great experience for the leadership group to promote conservation issues with an emphasis on the conservation budget. Owen stated that Minnesota has a very heavy workload in the technical arena, as reported in the workload analysis. Owen commented on the new conservation act, green payments, legislation introduced by Congressman Minge and Tom Harkin from Iowa. Owen reported that MASWCD has entered into a private/public agreement with Monsanto. Owen invited and encouraged board member attendance at the MASWCD convention, December 3-5, at the Radisson South in Bloomington.

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts - Ray Bohn reported that the resolution process is underway. Ray invited board members to attend the MAWD annual meeting, November 30 – December 2, at the Radisson Arrowwood in Alexandria. Ray stated that Dean Barkley, Minnesota Planning, will be the keynote speaker.

Natural Resources and Conservation Service - Tim Koehler reported that NRCS still does not have a budget; the current budget expires November 1. NRCS anticipates approval of the budget. Tim reported that the bad news is that there's a \$40M shortfall compared to last year. Tim reported that landowners have applied for \$10M federal disaster funds for emergency watershed protection (EWP); hopeful that \$5M will come to Minnesota. The EQIP budget suggests \$4M again this year. PL566 suggests \$4M in the budget to include assistance to the Snake River. Tim stated that the BWSR/NRCS partnership for RIM/WRP will continue, although the allocation is unknown at this time, it's possible that the allocation could be \$900,000.

Upcoming Meetings

Chair Roer asked board members to let Mary Jo know what annual meetings they plan to attend. Board members are encouraged to attend other constituent meetings in conjunction with their own affiliate meetings.

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The next BWSR meeting will be held December 13, in St. Paul.

Committee Assignments - Ron Harnack stated the following committee assignments:

DRC - Allan Oehlke, Jerome Deal, Jim Dahlvang, Lee Coe, Kathleen Roer

Cost-Share - Jack Frost and Char Kahler have been added

WCA - remains the same plus Char Kahler added

North, metro, south water plan committee - agency representative added

Mary Jo will update the committee listing and distribute the new information.

Chair Roer adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Kathleen Roer', written in dark ink.

Kathleen Roer
Chair

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

(December 13, 2000)

- "BWSR Update"
- Information regarding Appeal of Lac qui Parle County Ditch Number 5 Decision, File 00-9
- Letter to Kim Crawford, Olmsted SWCD, regarding BWSR Inquiry of the Olmsted SWCD
- Wetland Committee Meeting agenda and WCA LGU oversight policy
- Expense Report Procedures
- "Directions 2000 the Strategic Plan" for the Department of Natural Resources



Board of Water and Soil Resources UPDATE

A publication of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

December 2000

METRO

Late October saw the Metro section beginning to slow down a little. We used the opportunity to take care of internal things like personnel reviews, position descriptions, adapting to new labor rules, and preparation for the flurry of December annual meetings.

Not everything was internal, and not everything slowed down.

The WCA technical evaluation panel load continued unabated. BCs Doug Snyder and Lynda Peterson were especially active with these.

Ron Struss, Phil Belfiori, and Steve Woods are still helping the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District get through their start up gyrations. We're facilitating their citizens advisory committee until they are self-sufficient and have made three different presentations to their managers/consultants on alternative ways to approach their role and planning process.

Woods participated in PCA's "Think Tank on Smartgrowth Strategies." Good input from DNR, Met Council, and DTED personnel provided outside perspectives as they struggle with how to adapt their current processes to become more effective.

The lone Board of Innovation grant application from this region is likely to be from Dakota County as they seek to examine how the now-defunct Vermillion WMO area can be managed. Interesting rumbles from Scott and Dakota Counties could result in some innovative melding of SWCD and county roles.

Ron Struss was the major organizing force behind the creation of a daylong conference on Dec. 8. He successfully appended a full day on phosphorous management in urban landscapes to the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Federation annual conference. This was a two-year effort designed to help promote awareness of the potential "no-P" legislation and the sources of phosphorus in urban settings. Topics and speakers for the session include: "Sources of phosphorus within the urban landscape," Roger Bannerman, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; "Phosphorus losses from turf-research results," Wayne Kussow, University of Wisconsin-Madison; "Phosphorus runoff from

urban turf-results from field studies," John Barten, Hennepin Parks; "Phosphorus requirement of turf-current recommendations," Carl Rosen, University of Minnesota; and "The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's role in managing phosphorus," Greg Buzicky, MDA.
-Submitted by Steve Woods

SOUTH

With growing interest and activities in nutrient management (new feedlot rules, the EPA TMDL program, hypoxia, EQIP, CWP implementation, etc.), we are anticipating a spike in demand for nutrient management services across the state. Certainly this will affect local governments, but what role will they play? How can local governments work to ensure that nutrient management achieves conservation goals while best serving the farmer's management and bottom line?

A 319 grant authored by Rick Hansen and MASWCD has been approved to develop and test a model (or models) on how SWCDs can facilitate nutrient management implementation. Two project areas have been selected and each will receive approximately \$100,000 to facilitate successful nutrient management on as many acres as possible. Redwood and Cottonwood SWCDs will partner to work with producers in the Cottonwood River Watershed. Rice and Goodhue SWCDs will partner to work with producers in the Cannon River Watershed. The funding is expected to arrive this winter, and the projects will work with producers during the 2001, 2002, and 2003 cropping seasons.

For each project, a team has already met. It includes staff from the local NRCS, SWCD, and Minnesota Extension, with regional nutrient management specialists from NRCS, BWSR, and Extension. Both teams decided that they would like to rely primarily on the private sector in providing nutrient management services to farmers. The first challenge lies in developing an incentive mechanism that will lead farmers to commit to implementing EQIP-style plans with U of M recommendations. Another challenge involves recruiting co-op and private agronomists to provide these services when, to them, it means learning to sell less fertilizer while making risky recommendations that could tarnish their reputations if yields drop.

Board of Water and Soil Resources Update, Page 2

The identification and delegation of roles is central to LGU facilitation of nutrient management. The Rice SWCD proposes the following roles: training, manure spreader calibration, providing aerial field photos for planning, providing GIS-based maps with sensitive featured identified, spot checking plan quality, assisting plan writers when needed, monitoring plan implementation, and using GIS to report implemented fields. The appropriate SWCD roles will certainly vary by county, depending on each situation.

The outcome of this 319 grant will be the documented case studies describing what did and didn't work as these two projects applied their model for facilitating nutrient management. This experience will be shared with SWCDs across the state to help expand their nutrient management services.

-Submitted by Derek Fischer

L&WS

As liaisons between state and local government, BWSR staff members contact many people with various county and watershed connections. Keeping track of the information as affiliations, addresses, and telephone numbers shift has been an ongoing challenge. Just over a year ago, meetings began to develop a unified database. Such a system would be available to everyone on the network and would eliminate the need for multiple updates with staff or address changes.

The first phase of this effort has been completed and is in use at the central office in St. Paul. The primary core is designed to handle information on people and offices. From this central contact management system, any number of segments may be attached.

Wetland banking was chosen as the first segment to use information from the contact management system. The wetland banking database was designed so that WCA-specific contacts could be designated quickly and easily for every impact and replacement site. Even more useful, however, is the information maintained in the wetland site lists.

Information about any wetland on the list can be used to sort and map sites on a county, watershed, or state level. Impact (and subsequent replacement) activity can be assessed by region or statewide over any given time period. Basic field information may also be entered and sorted to provide an assessment of bank site quality over time. These kinds of data can help to determine the success of BWSR efforts to protect Minnesota wetlands.

In addition to tracking bank activity, the database will be used to project the need for road replacement around the state. BWSR is responsible for replacing wetlands impacted by local road repair; purchases of wetland credits and establishment of our own bank sites has been a high priority. Developing sites in areas underserved by the private, entrepreneurial bank is crucial to maintaining the balance of wetland acres.

Although not yet finalized, a complementary program has been designed to track direct replacement, exempt and no-loss determinations, and enforcement actions. Together with the banking and road information, this could provide a complete picture of wetland losses and replacement activity. Further work on this portion will likely be an element of future work to develop an integrated GIS/internet-based data reporting and record keeping system with Linnet.

-Submitted by Natasha Devoe

The publication *Grazing System Planning Guide* has been written and is soon to be released. Howard Moechnig, grazing lands conservationist, and Jodi DeJong and Kevin Blanchet, extension educators with the University of Minnesota Extension Service, are authors.

Grazing Systems Planning Guide is intended to be used by service providers to assist producers with the development of rotational grazing systems on their farms. The publication guides the reader through the inventory process, plan development, pasture management, and monitoring of grazing systems. It is a companion publication to the popular *Pastures for Profit*.

At this time, many producers are expressing interest in establishing rotational grazing systems. This publication will help them understand the concepts that are the basis of a successful grazing system. It will be useful to service providers when assisting individual producers and is especially suited for producer workshops. This publication is the textbook for the "Planning Prescribed Grazing Systems" course offered in the Partnership Training Database.

It will be available through NRCS/SWCD field offices throughout the state, as well as the U of M Extension Service.

-Submitted by Howard Moechnig

Board of Water and Soil Resources Update, Page 3

ETS

The Engineering and Technical Services Section has been reorganized into the Engineering Section and Conservation Easement Section. **Al Kean**, chief engineer, will serve as the engineering section leader, and **Kevin Lines**, easement program manager, is the new easement section leader. See Kevin's bio below.

Welcome to **Kevin Zytovicz**, conservation engineering technician in the central office. Kevin will be working on CREP wetland restoration survey, design, and construction assistance to SWCDs. He is on a one-year mobility assignment from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Ecological Services. Kevin has been with the DNR since 1987, working as a technician in Engineering (four years) and Ecological Services (nine years).

Welcome to **Jeremy Larson**, also a conservation engineering technician. Jeremy will be located in Montevideo with the SWCD joint powers engineering staff office. He will assist CREP wetland restoration feasibility analyses, surveys, design, and construction assistance to SWCDs. Prior to BWSR, he had worked as a CREP technician with Lyon SWCD and earlier was an engineering technician with the SWCD joint powers organization located in Slayton.

BWSR engineering is proceeding to utilize the state's master roster of engineering consultants to contract for additional engineering capability to design CREP wetland restorations. We have a large design workload that we intend to take a large bite out of before the next construction season.

The conservation partnership training committee met recently to coordinate area training plans and identify state level training for 2001 to help meet the needs identified by the annual training needs inventory. Justin Jeffery, training and design engineer, is the state level engineering representative for BWSR and NRCS. He reports great cooperation between the area training team and central office representatives to develop coordinated training plans to serve SWCD, NRCS, and BWSR staff.

It's grant application time for the Great Lakes Commission and for the state Coastal Program, which is an outgrowth of Minnesota adopting the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) program. Gene Clark, lakeshore engineer, is working with the University of Minnesota Duluth and North Shore SWCDs to submit quality applications.

-Submitted by Al Kean

EASEMENTS

Kevin J. Lines, farmland wildlife program leader at the Department of Natural Resources for the past 10 years, has been named conservation easement program administrator and easement section leader at BWSR. He began in his new position Thursday, Nov. 9.

Lines will direct the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve Program. He worked at BWSR in 1996-1998, when he helped the agency launch CREP.

With the reorganization of the Engineering and Technical Services Section, **Tim Fredbo** will now serve as conservation easement specialist. Tim will remain our easement program eligibility and conservation plan guru, as well as day-to-day processing manager and lead program data provider.

Interviews were recently conducted for two additional BWSR easement processing specialists to help handle the CREP and RIM/WRP workload. Half the time of one of these positions will be funded by a grant from Ducks Unlimited for RIM/WRP easement processing and coordination. These new temporary positions are expected to be filled in soon, pending preparation of work space.

Finally, here's a report on the latest CREP numbers. As of Dec. 8, there are **735 easements** recorded for a total of **26,723 acres**. Numbers are updated monthly on BWSR's web site: <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/programs/major/crep/index.html>.

BRIEFS

Members of BWSR's web team met for the first time Nov. 20 to begin a redesign process for BWSR's web site. Discussion points at the meeting included the mission of the web site, goals of the web team, and a timeline for the process.

Much of the meeting centered on how to improve the navigation scheme, keeping the needs of our clientele a priority. The team also examined some web sites for models. At the end of the meeting, a proposed top layer of a site map was completed, along with several areas in the second layer. Team members are now going back to their respective sections and asking for input on the third layers.

Members of the team are: Char Sokatch, Derek Fisher, Doug Snyder, Jim Lemmerman, Marybeth Block, and Pete Racker. Polly Remick attended the meeting on behalf of Char. Next meeting is Dec. 15.



CREP is outcomes-based conservation!

BWSR is known to promote the benefits of CREP, including increased habitat for wildlife. Out on a recent day off to hunt on CREP land in southern Minnesota, the group pictured found great hunting opportunities. Left to right are: Tabor Hoek BWSR CREP coordinator; Clark Lingbeek, Cottonwood SWCD supervisor; Richard Hoek; landowner; Chuck Coners, Mountain Lake; Matt Holland, Pheasants Forever; and Ron Harnack, BWSR executive director.



Dan Shaw signs copies of *Native Vegetation in Restored and Created Wetlands* at a gathering Nov. 7.

Vegetation manual is published

BWSR staff gathered Nov. 7 to acknowledge the work of Dan Shaw and the publication of *Native Vegetation in Restored and Created Wetlands: Its Establishment and Management in Minnesota and the Upper Midwest*. Shaw authored and illustrated the publication in cooperation with BWSR and the University of Minnesota Department of Horticultural Sciences.

The publication has been mailed to BWSR clients and other interested groups. A second printing is under way and copies can be purchased through Minnesota's Bookstore, which agreed to help market the publication.

NORTH

Staff reassignments is the hot news in the North Region. Due to the increasing workload associated with WCA, Dale Krystosek, BC Bemidji, has been reassigned to serve as a second wetland specialist for the North Region. Dale will join Dan Eklund in providing assistance to LGUs and BCs on WCA issues that require a stepped-up level of BWSR involvement. In addition, Jim Lemmerman, BC/forester, Duluth will also be assisting wetland staff in facilitating wetland training activities. The demand for wetland training is constant. Staff have struggled to meet these demands. Jim's assistance should free up Dan and Dale's time to do more of the training and less of the planning. Overall, these staff changes should do two things: provide a higher level of clientele service and allow BWSR to do a better job of technical oversight, especially where violations occur. Dale's BC work area will be backfilled with existing staff in the short term. Plans to hire an additional staff person will hopefully be realized after the next legislative session.

In other WCA news, Bill was on hand to see the Darcy Harbott case go to trial. Darcy had wetland and floodplain violations on the Thief River in Thief River Falls. After about a year of trying to wrestle his way out of the consequences, Darcy finally went to court. The judge was unsympathetic. He ordered a fine, jail time, and restoration to be accomplished by the city charges to be billed back to Darcy. Bill and Dan Eklund both provided significant assistance to the city attorney as he prepared the case and the SWCD who wrote the restoration order. Bill and Dan get a lot of credit for the outcome of this case.

Mark Nelson and Dale spent some time with the city of Hermantown discussing ongoing wetland issues related to the continuing development of the Highway 53 corridor. Mark says they are struggling to keep their wetland planning efforts one step ahead of the development efforts. Mark and Dale will continue to work with this group.

-Submitted by Ron Shelito

**Deadline for next
Update: January 17**



Board
Packet
FYI

November 15, 2000

Willis Beecher, Chairman
Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District
600 Sixth Street
Madison, MN 56256

One West Water Street
Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55107
(651) 296-3767
Fax (651) 297-5615

RE: Appeal of Lac qui Parle County Ditch Number 5 Decision, File 00-9

Field Offices

Northern Region:

394 S. Lake Avenue
Room 403
Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 723-4752
Fax (218) 723-4794

3217 Bemidji Avenue N.
Bemidji, MN 56601
(218) 755-4235
Fax (218) 755-4201

217 S. 7th Street
Suite 202
Brainerd, MN 56401-3660
(218) 828-2383
Fax (218) 828-6036

Southern Region:

261 Highway 15 S.
New Ulm, MN 56073-8915
(507) 359-6074
Fax (507) 359-6018

40--16th Street SE
Suite A
Rochester, MN 55904
(507) 285-7458
Fax (507) 280-2875

Box 267
1400 E. Lyon Street
Marshall, MN 56258
(507) 537-6060
Fax (507) 537-6368

Metro Region:

One West Water Street
Suite 250
St. Paul, MN 55107
(651) 282-9969
Fax (651) 297-5615

Dear Mr. Beecher:

Please find enclosed an Order that remands the Wetland Conservation Act decision made by the Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District on October 2, 2000, regarding Lac qui Parle County Ditch Number 5. The remand is necessary in order to have the watershed district develop an adequate record to support their decision. The record in the October 2 decision is not adequate for an appeal hearing at this time.

The Order specifies that written findings of fact must be developed that support the decision, detailed minutes of the watershed district's board meeting must be completed unless the meeting proceedings are tape recorded such that a verbatim transcript could be made available, and a technical evaluation panel report must be considered in the case of a no loss decision. Additionally, the notice of decision must clearly show what is being approved. The notice of decision must clearly show if the decision regards an exemption or a no loss, not both. If the decision regards an exemption, the pertinent exemption should be clearly specified.

Please feel free to contact me at (651) 297-2906 if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Jim Haertel
Water Management Specialist

Enclosure

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cc's on attached page

Willis Beecher, Chairman
November 15, 2000
Page 2

cc: Steve Torvik, District Counsel
John Kolb, County Counsel
Dave Ludvigson, WCA Administrator
BWSR: Ron Harnack, Jim Birkholz, Doug Thomas, John Jaschke, Jeff Nielsen,
Dave Sill

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
One West Water Street, Suite 200
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107

In the Matter of the Wetland Conservation Act
Appeal involving Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank
Watershed District's decision on Lac qui Parle
County Ditch Number 5 in Lac qui Parle County

**ORDER
REMANDING
APPEAL**

Whereas, a petition dated October 16, 2000, was received from Mr. David Sill to appeal a Wetland Conservation Act exemption determination made by the Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District, acting as the local government unit administering the Wetland Conservation Act, involving Lac qui Parle County Ditch Number 5 in Sections 14 and 23, Augusta Township, Lac qui Parle County, and;

Whereas, the notice of wetland conservation act decision dated October 5, 2000, is unclear since both "No Loss Decision" and "Exemption Decision" are marked, and further, the exemption being granted is not specified, and;

Whereas, the Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District's record in this matter is not adequate for review purposes under an appeal since there are no written findings of fact to support the decision, the meeting minutes are minimal and no tape recording of the meeting exists so a verbatim transcript cannot be produced, and a Technical Evaluation Panel report was not considered if the decision regarded a no loss,

Now Therefore, the Board hereby makes the following Order.

ORDER

The Board hereby remands the wetland conservation act petition for appeal, involving Lac qui Parle County Ditch Number 5 in Sections 14 and 23 of Augusta Township in Lac qui Parle County, to the Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District to develop an adequate record to include written findings of fact that support the decision, adequate minutes or a tape recording of the District Board meeting, and consideration of a Technical Evaluation Panel report in the case of a no loss decision, pursuant to Minn. Rules Chapter 8420.0250, Subp. 3.

Dated at Saint Paul, Minnesota this 15th day of November, 2000.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

By: _____

Ronald D. Harnack, Executive Director



Kim Crawford, Chair
Olmsted Soil and Water Conservation District
1485 Industrial Drive NW, Rm. 102
Rochester, MN 55901

Ron
Board info
Packet!

Dear Chairman Crawford:

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Please find attached to this letter BWSR's report on its inquiry into the operations and management of the Olmsted Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). The BWSR was compelled to conduct its inquiry and prepare this report based on numerous contacts by citizens which expressed concerns over the whether the SWCD was in a position to deliver state supported conservation programs and services in an effective manner based on events which have transpired over the last two years.

As you will note in the report BWSR has concluded that at the current time the SWCD is adequately delivering state supported programs and services. Further we have determined that controls are in place for the proper management of funds received from the State of Minnesota through the BWSR. It is important to point out that BWSR did not conduct a financial investigation or audit as part of this inquiry.

I would also like to take this time to re-affirm our commitment, here at BWSR, to continue to offer our services and assistance to the SWCD so that programs and services are provided to citizens and local governments in the most effective and efficient means possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ron Harnack".

Ron Harnack, Executive Director

cc: Olmsted County
Jeff Nielsen, BWSR Regional Supervisor
Mary Kells, BWSR Board Conservationist
Kathleen Roer, BWSR Chair

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Wednesday, December 06, 2000

Report on the BWSR Inquiry of the Olmsted Soil and Water Conservation District

Prepared by: Doug Thomas, Assistant Director and Jeff Nielsen, Regional Supervisor

Over this past year the BWSR has received numerous requests to investigate the Olmsted Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) regarding allegations of: inappropriate actions on the part of the Board of Supervisors (Board); erosion of public confidence of the SWCD; and, improper administration and management of programs. The purpose of this report is intended to express the findings and conclusions of the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) inquiry into the alleged problems within the SWCD and the Board.

Certain charges alleged included malfeasance, misconduct and violations of the open meeting law by the Board and/or members of the Board. Since all of these charges are currently being litigated in district court, the BWSR has chosen not to address these charges at this time in deference to another decision-making body, which in this case is district court. Since the district court has special expertise and authority in these matters, it would be inappropriate for BWSR to interfere in that process at this time. In matters such as these it is also highly desirable to have a single decision rather than multiple decisions. While this litigation occurs the BWSR will be developing guidelines for removing from office a soil and water conservation district supervisor. In the event that the courts determine that "the willful commission of an unlawful or wrongful act in the performance of the public official's duties which is outside the scope of the authority of the public official and which infringes on the rights of any person or entity" did occur this matter will be brought in front of the BWSR at its earliest convenience, for deliberation and decision on what action/s it will take, based on its statutory authorities.

Beyond the charges that are mentioned above the remainder of the complaints that BWSR received related to the administration of state programs, conduct of meetings and business, lack of responsiveness to landowners, and an erosion of communication between the SWCD and Olmsted County. The remainder of this report will focus on the administration and operations of programs and authorities bestowed upon the SWCD by the State of Minnesota through the BWSR. Our inquiry into SWCD operations was done by 1) constructing as complete a record as possible for the period of September 1998 through September of 2000, 2) an office visit conducted by Jeff Nielsen, Southern Regional Supervisor and Doug Thomas, Assistant Director on September 6, 2000, and 3) a review of the record to identify issues and what if any response or action was taken by the SWCD.

The record assembled by BWSR, for this report, included 34 items including letters, hand written notes, and e-mail correspondence. Additional items related to this matter also exist in the BWSR office in Rochester. The following findings summarize the major events that occurred during the past 26 months:

- 9/98 – 12/98: BWSR staff questioned SWCD's direction to staff regarding a local Wetland Conservation Act. Individuals in the county raised questions over possible violations of the Open Meeting Law. Reorganization discussions of office functions amongst the existing staff occurred.
- 1/99 – 3/99: BWSR staff conducted a new supervisor orientation and attended three meetings to provide assistance to the SWCD to aid supervisors and staff in program administration and district operations.
- 7/99: BWSR staff responds to continued concerns over proper implementation of state programs, particularly the implementation of the wetland conservation act, by putting a temporary hold on the SWCD's FY00 state funds until the SWCD can assure that they are being effectively staffed and implemented. BWSR staff meets with SWCD supervisors and staff to convey their concerns and offer continued support and assistance.
- 8/99 – 12/99: SWCD responds to BWSR regarding program implementation and provides clarification on staff assignments and roles. BWSR receives written communication from a citizen group expressing their concerns with SWCD board and how it is functioning. Lawsuits against the SWCD filed in district court. BWSR staff discusses SWCD relations with an Olmsted County Commissioner and possible roles the county might play. BWSR staff meets with SWCD on August 24th to discuss BWSR concerns over district operations and reasons for holding FY00 state funds. Items that were asked to be addressed by the SWCD prior to the release of state funds included 1) definition of board functions versus individual member functions and administrative procedures clarified, 2) transition staff assignments and delegation of authority for district day to day operations, 3) full board affirmation of updated board policy, procedures, committees, and board to staff direction, 4) update staff position descriptions to assure proper roles and responsibilities for office and program administration occurs, and 5) annual workplan and budget development process involves appropriate partners.
- 10/99: BWSR staff review draft position descriptions, provide financial management segregation of duties information to SWCD, and review draft district response to 8/24/99 BWSR letter to SWCD.
- 1/2000: On January 11th BWSR releases FY00 state funds and acknowledges SWCD's responses to ensuring that district operations and procedures were reviewed and approved by the Board, that day to day operations and responsibilities have been appropriately assigned to staff, and updated position descriptions had been completed. BWSR also commented on the importance of strategic planning and visioning as the SWCD moves ahead with preparations for its 2000 workplan.
- 4/2000: Based on continued allegations from conversations with concerned citizens BWSR management authorizes a office review to determine if the SWCD has implemented adequate and necessary procedures, controls and staff assignments to assure adequate delivery of state programs and fiscal controls.
- 8/2000 BWSR staff conducts office review. Items covered in the office visit included SWCD staff input on district operations, adequacy of current staff assignments in relation to state programs, status of current board staff relations,

how work is being assigned, how board policy is being set and the status of a current cost-share program violation.

After a thorough and careful review of the activities of the past 26 months BWSR concludes that:

1. The actions taken by the SWCD, in response to BWSR issues raised on numerous occasions, have resulted in a current situation where there is confidence on the part of BWSR that the state supported and delegated programs are being implemented properly.
2. The necessary controls are in place for the proper management of funds received from the State of Minnesota through the BWSR.
3. The SWCD should consider the adoption of bylaws. Adoption of bylaws by the SWCD can aid in establishing clear and concise procedures for conduct of meeting and business by the board and its individual members.
4. The SWCD should approve supervisor per-diem as an expense item at a board meeting not as a payroll action where board action occurs after the fact. The current method of approving supervisor per-diem does not allow for the scrutiny, by the full board, of an individual board members attendance at meetings or for other business conducted on behalf of the SWCD prior to being paid.



DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT

December 11, 2000

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TO: BWSR Wetland Committee
FROM: John Jaschke, Land & Water Section Administrator
RE: January 24th Wetland Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the BWSR Wetland Committee will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (after the BWSR Board meeting) on Wednesday, January 24, 2001 in the BWSR Conference room at 1 West Water Street. Lunch will be provided for committee members. The tentative agenda is as follows:

1. Finalize WCA LGU oversight policy (see attachment)
2. Legislative Reports/Activity
3. Legal action update
4. Rules process and principles

Attachment: WCA Corrective Action Policy
WCA Oversight Flowchart

c: Executive Team
Regional Supervisors
Board Conservationists
Dan Eklund
Dale Krystosek

W:\BWSR WETLAND COMM DEC MTG.doc

12-11-00
Mary Jo
Please provide a copy
of this to each Board
member c/wet, December
meeting.
thanks. [Signature]

MN Board of Water and Soil Resources WCA Corrective Action/Oversight Policy

Approval Date _____

Resolution # _____

The purpose of this policy is to establish the process that will be utilized to correct Local Government Unit (LGU) implementation and administration problems involving the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). The strategy of this policy is to provide a clear, concise, timely route to resolution through implementation of the following steps:

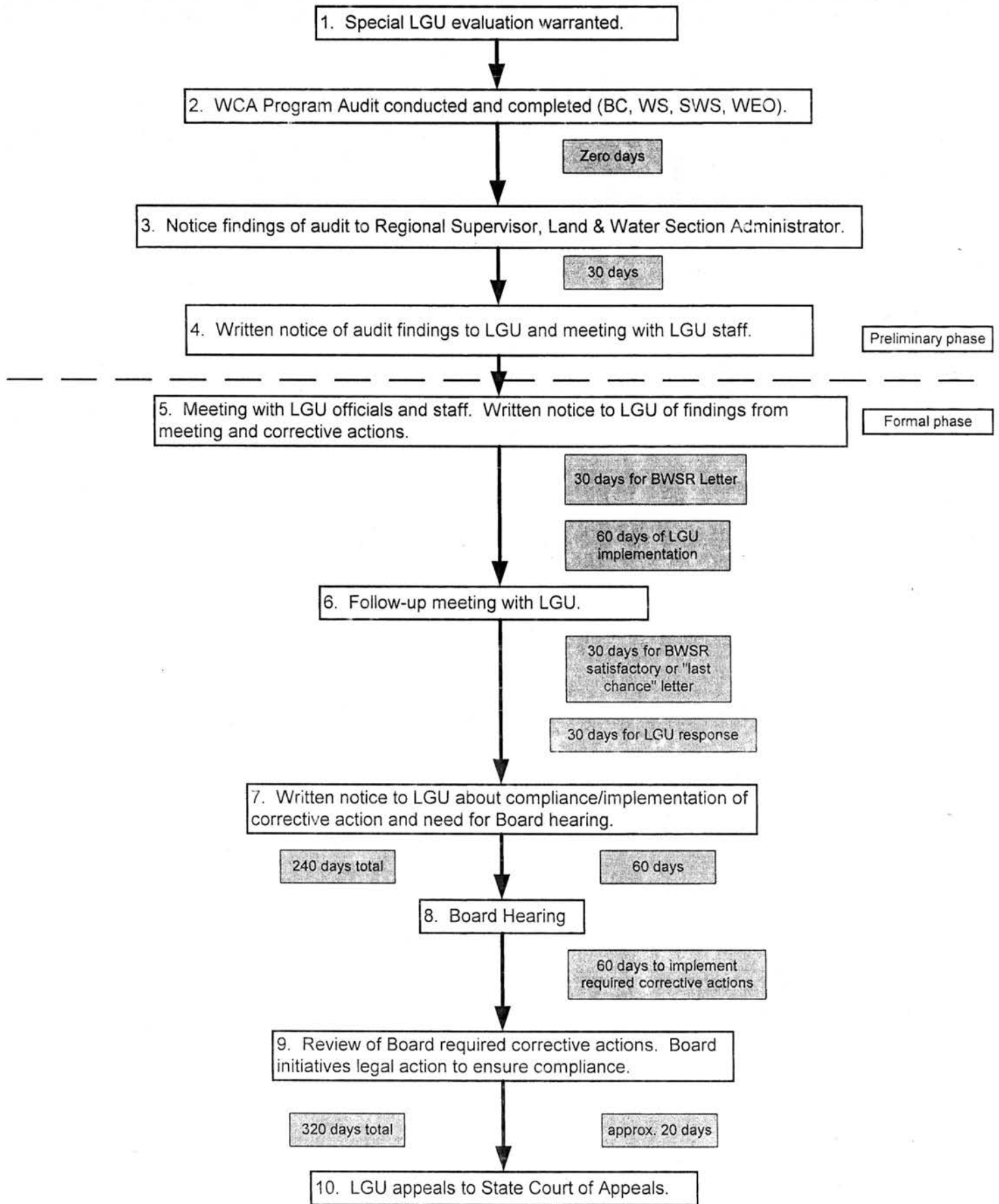
- 1) BWSR staff receives complaints or believes that special evaluation of a particular LGU is necessary.
- 2) A combination of the following staff shall conduct an investigation of the situation:
 - Board Conservationist (BC)
 - Wetland Specialist (WS)
 - Senior Wetland Specialist (SWS)
 - DNR Wetland Enforcement Officer (WEO)

This investigation shall:

- Verify who the responsible LGU is and that WCA has been adopted
 - Conduct an audit of WCA actions, grant funds and coordination efforts
 - Consult with other regulatory agency representatives
- 3) Staff will promptly notify Regional Supervisor (RS) and Land Water Section Administrator (LWSA) of findings upon audit completion. Staff, RS, and LWSA shall review the findings and determine if the situation requires continued implementation of this process or some other remedy.
 - 4) Within 30 days after completing the audit, the RS and BC shall notify the LGU staff in writing and via a meeting of findings which may include:
 - LGU properly applying WCA and no further action is needed; or
 - LGU needs to make minor changes in WCA application with BWSR assistance; or
 - LGU application is flawed seriously enough to require continuation of this process into the formal place.

- 5) If continued action is deemed necessary, BWSR staff shall arrange a meeting with appropriate LGU staff and elected officials to discuss the findings of the audit and determine any necessary corrective actions. Within 30 days after this meeting, BWSR staff shall provide the LGU with written findings and recommendations for corrective actions to be implemented by the LGU within 60 days from receipt of the written findings and recommendations.
- 6) BWSR Staff shall schedule a follow-up meeting at the end of the 60-day implementation process to review progress by the LGU. If corrective action(s) are proceeding satisfactorily, the RS and BC will notify the LGU of such in writing within 30 days and continue monitoring. If implementation is not proceeding satisfactorily, staff shall recommend to the Executive Director (ED) that a letter to the LGU be issued indicating unsatisfactory implementation of corrective measures and request a written response from the LGU within 30 days. This is a "last chance" provision.
- 7) The staff shall review the response received from the LGU. If the response is unsatisfactory, the Executive Director (ED) shall recommend to the Board that the LGU appear at a hearing before the Board, or committee thereof appointed by the Board, in accordance with MN Rule 8420.0260.
- 8) If a hearing is ordered and if it is determined at this hearing that corrective action is necessary, the Board shall write the LGU directing specific corrective action within 60 days.
- 9) If after the 60 day period described in Step #8 the LGU has not corrected the problem to the satisfaction of the Board, the Board shall take appropriate legal action to ensure compliance. Actions may include:
 - Declaring a moratorium until actions are corrected;
 - Withholding WCA funding
 - Assignment of WCA authority to another party
 - State auditor review of LGU
 - Legal actions by State of Minnesota
- 10) An LGU appeal of the Board's decision may be taken to the State Court of Appeals as specified in MN Rule 8420.0280 (Appeal from Board Decision).

WCA OVERSIGHT/CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN
November 17, 2000





Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4037

MP - see if Wayne
can get one for 7-8341

each
Board member.

October 26, 2000

OCT 27 2000

Will
bring
to Bd.
mtg.

Ron Harnack, Executive Director
Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources
One West Water Street
Suite 200
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107

Dear Ron:

I am pleased to forward to you a copy of the Department of Natural Resources' strategic plan, ***Directions 2000***, and I want to again thank you for the time BWSR staff gave to reviewing the draft plan and providing recommendations for improvement.

If you would like to receive additional copies, please contact Terri Yearwood in our Office of Management & Budget Services at 651-297-5889.

We look forward to working with you and your staff as we move forward to achieving our goals and objectives for natural resource management in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Steven Morse
Deputy Commissioner

enclosure

DNR INFORMATION: 651-296-6157, 1-888-646-6367 (TTY: 651-296-5484, 1-800-657-3929) FAX: 651-296-4799

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Directions 2000

The Strategic Plan

September 2000

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

A Message from the DNR Commissioner

Minnesota's natural resource heritage defines the state's economy and lifestyle. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is a steward of that heritage. DNR's strategic planning process provides us with a tool to focus our stewardship and management. This report, *Directions 2000*, is DNR's strategic plan. It contains the goals, objectives and strategies that identify organizational priorities.

The goal of sustainability guides our work with citizens to manage the state's natural resources. Sustainability depends on healthy ecosystems, a vibrant economy, and viable communities. Healthy ecosystems support natural resource industries, tourism, outdoor recreation, and lifestyles important to Minnesotans. DNR will continue to emphasize a healthy environment for managing natural resources in a sustainable manner. This implies protecting and restoring habitat, protecting fragile natural areas, and minimizing environmental impacts from development. There is no substitute for clean water, productive habitat, and healthy ecosystems.

We will continue to use good science and sound decisions and focus on long term basic responsibilities that have always been at the heart of resource management and that will continue to be foremost to all Minnesotans. This means a continuing focus on improving the way we manage resources for basic needs like recreation, hunting, fishing, tourism, resource industries, and preservation.

DNR will emphasize three resource management priorities.

Conservation Connections: DNR will partner with local citizen groups and local government to establish and maintain land and water connections throughout Minnesota. DNR will accomplish this through cooperative partnerships with interested people inside and outside of the DNR. DNR will strive to become a welcome partner in Minnesota growth using Conservation Connections as a resource to manage growth impacts on natural resources.

Smart Growth: DNR realizes that growth in Minnesota has a highly significant impact on natural resources. DNR will be guided by the Governor's *Smart Growth Initiative* as we strive to become a more active participant in growth issues at the local, county, and statewide levels. DNR will work with other government, non-profit, and for-profit organizations to sustain healthy ecosystems, a vibrant economy, and livable communities.

Sustainable Forests: DNR recognizes the critical importance of sustainable forest ecosystems and will continue cooperating with other agencies and organizations to accomplish that end.

When implementing these priorities, DNR will be guided by an increased focus on three areas.

Fiscal Responsibility: DNR will ensure that all its programs are financially responsible. Using a system of quarterly fiscal reviews at the Commissioner level, DNR will ensure that funds are spent wisely and appropriately.

Clear Communications and Decision-Making: DNR constantly seeks to improve how we work with stakeholders. Good communications means actively listening to what citizens and partners have to say. Improved communication and delivery of information will ensure accountability for efficient and effective public service. DNR will stand behind its decisions and clearly communicate its position on issues to citizens, legislators, local government, the media, the private sector, stakeholder groups, and other agencies. DNR will consider all relevant information in making decisions. When DNR is not the deciding party, DNR will advocate its interests. Within the limits of its staff, DNR will be receptive and responsive to all inquiries. DNR will accept criticism and respond to that criticism as appropriate.

Human Resources Management: DNR will constantly seek improvements in the quality of its work force. Through workforce planning, including employee recruitment and career development, DNR will ensure that its staff continues to effectively meet increased public demands for current and new services.

DNR believes that we cannot protect and sustain our resources alone. We are committed to bringing citizens together to help enhance Minnesota's natural resource base for present and future generations.

Allen Garber

Allen Garber, Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Directions 2000

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Introduction

The DNR Strategic Plan

Directions 2000 is DNR's strategic plan. It identifies goals, objectives, and strategies for five systems: water resources, forest resources, agricultural areas, urban and developing areas, and recreation systems. The strategic plan provides guidance for developing detailed program and division action plans and for assessing progress in managing ecosystems for their long term sustainability. *Directions 2000* will guide DNR during the next five years. DNR will undertake a midpoint assessment in 2002 to evaluate effectiveness of management strategies and to develop new action priorities.

DNR Mission

The mission of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is to work with citizens to protect and manage the state's natural resources, to provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and to provide for commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life.

Directions 2000 carries forward the themes of ecosystem-based management and sustainability established in *Directions 1997*. *Directions 1997* defined sustainability as "protecting and restoring the natural environment while enhancing economic opportunity and community well being. Sustainability addresses three related elements: the environment, the economy, and the community. The goal is to maintain all three elements in a healthy state indefinitely."

The DNR mission is broad; the mission includes providing hunting and fishing opportunities for millions of Minnesotans; providing high quality recreation opportunities for park and trail users; providing economic opportunities for resource industries; it includes preserving important features of the state's natural heritage. DNR programs include fish and wildlife habitat improvement, fire management, mineral potential research, management of public lands and waters, and many others—all designed to provide sustainable benefits to Minnesotans for the long term. The DNR mission requires sharing stewardship with citizens and partners and working together to address sometimes conflicting interests.

Sustainability Goals

The DNR mission is supported by two overarching goals from *Directions 1997*. These two goals are the foundation for the goals and objectives presented in this plan:

- 1) To maintain, enhance, or restore the health of Minnesota ecosystems so that they can continue to serve environmental, social, and economic purposes, and
- 2) To foster an ethic of natural resource stewardship among all Minnesotans.

Management Principles

Twelve principles define how DNR fulfills its mission and provide an additional framework to shape the management strategies in this plan. These principles guide DNR decision-making at all levels of the organization.

- **Basic Services:** DNR believes that its long-term, basic work to sustain natural resources and serve citizens is the backbone of effective resource management. DNR will emphasize strong basic services that provide recreation opportunities, protect and improve habitat, and manage natural resources for sustainable use. This requires investments in core disciplines and finding new ways to improve interdisciplinary cooperation and partnerships with citizens to promote healthy and sustainable ecosystems.



State tree, 1953

- **Partnerships:** DNR believes that cooperation with other agencies, local units of government, citizens, and stakeholder groups is the best approach to managing natural resources effectively. DNR will expand its use of partnerships to develop cooperative resource management approaches and will evaluate opportunities to build local capacity for managing and protecting natural resources. DNR will cooperate with county and local officials to mitigate the impacts of DNR land purchases on local tax revenues.
- **Integrated Approaches:** DNR believes that resources are part of large, interdependent systems and cannot be managed in isolation. DNR will emphasize a systems approach that seeks to coordinate and integrate the broad scope of management efforts.
- **Science, Information, and Technology:** DNR believes that the complex challenges of the future will require increased emphasis on good science, accurate information and state of the art technology, especially information systems. DNR will accelerate the collection, interpretation, and dissemination of scientific information describing Minnesota's ecosystems and natural resources and will continue investing in the technology necessary to be effective resource managers.
- **Communication:** DNR believes that good internal and external communication will be essential in managing future natural resource challenges. DNR will seek opportunities to improve communications with stakeholders and citizens, including legislators, local government, the media, stakeholder groups, the private sector, and other agencies.
- **Technical Assistance:** DNR believes that many resource and land use decisions should be made at the local level and that well-informed local decision makers will make good decisions. DNR will expand efforts to provide information and technical assistance to citizens and local government.
- **Natural Resource Stewardship Education:** DNR believes that informed citizens will be wise stewards of natural resources. Natural resource stewardship education will be a cornerstone for DNR efforts to develop an environmental stewardship ethic among all Minnesotans. DNR will implement recommendations of its *Cornerstones* report that defines priorities for delivering natural resource stewardship education services more effectively.
- **Performance Measurement:** DNR believes that accurate assessment of its effectiveness and management must occur on a regular basis. During the year 2000, DNR will establish performance measures for the goals and objectives in *Directions 2000*. The *DNR Performance Report 2001* will provide a more comprehensive assessment of the agency's success in managing natural resources for commercial use, recreation opportunities, and for the long-term sustainability of ecosystems.
- **Sustainable Organization:** DNR believes that its actions should model sustainable use of natural resources. Following a key recommendation from *DNR Cornerstones*, DNR will look for opportunities to manage its own programs, facilities, and workforce in a way that reflects sustainable use of natural resources. (*Cornerstones 2000 recommended that DNR's commitment to sustainability should be reflected in its day to day practices and policies.*)
- **Planning & Budgeting:** DNR believes that integrating planning and budgeting across area, regional, and state levels will strengthen the ability to accomplish goals and objectives. DNR will integrate resource management priorities into existing departmental processes, discipline planning, budget development, regional resource plans, and spending plans, and will place more authority with area staff to manage budget and staffing priorities.
- **Human Resources:** DNR believes that sustaining natural resources requires an effective and skilled work force to meet the changing needs of the human community. DNR will emphasize work force planning that includes recruitment and retention of a diverse work force, as well as employee development, training, and career paths to meet current and future community needs.

- **Quality Services:** DNR believes that the products and services it delivers to the public will be of the highest quality. DNR will look for further opportunities to continually enhance the quality of its products and services and will actively solicit suggestions for improvements.

Action Priorities

Directions 2000, as DNR's strategic plan, focuses on a five-year time frame for the years 2000 through 2004. The goals and objectives of *Directions 2000* are long range and most may not be reached during the plan's five year horizon. Most DNR goals can only be accomplished by working over the long term in broad coalitions with citizens and partners, such as the **Conservation Connections** approaches. DNR is committed to developing better ways of working with citizens and partners to accomplish sustainability goals. DNR is building better performance measures to track progress towards reaching long term goals. Performance measures will link DNR strategies to natural resource results and to public benefits.

DNR will review *Directions 2000* in 2002 to ensure that strategies are still appropriate to challenges posed by longer term goals and objectives. DNR will continue to develop two year work plans to develop priorities for reaching long term goals. The *DNR Commissioner's Work Plan 2000* emphasizes three resource management priorities. These priorities guide and inform the strategies developed in each of the five key resource sections of *Directions 2000*.

1) Smart Growth: Creating healthy, vital communities is one of four major strategies in the Ventura administration *Big Plan*. A key component of this strategy is the *Smart Growth Initiative*. This state-wide initiative includes six principles:

- **Economic Growth:** Economic expansion is reflected by growth in employment, personal income, and private sector investment.
- **Stewardship:** Use land and natural resources wisely to sustain them in the future. Minnesota will protect the environment that supports outdoor recreation, tourism, and natural resource-based industries.
- **Efficiency:** Minnesota will coordinate and link investments and tax policies with Smart Growth principles.
- **Choice:** Communities will have a range of choices regarding how they grow.
- **Accountability:** Growth, land use, and investment decisions will be consistent with Smart Growth principles.
- **Fiscal Responsibility:** Minnesota will maximize private and public good and minimize public investment.

DNR is a lead state agency in developing the administration's approach to managing growth. The project focus includes growth throughout Minnesota in urban, suburban, and rural areas, including shoreland development.

2) Conservation Connections: Minnesota *Conservation Connections* is a way for the DNR to connect with people where they live and where they work. It is a forward-looking way to protect and manage Minnesota's natural resources by working with people and their local governments. It builds on Minnesota's strong tradition of preserving its outdoors heritage for future generations. Relying on partnerships among public and private landowners, all levels of government, non-profits and concerned citizens, *Conservation Connections* respects individual property rights while providing a cost-effective approach to conservation.

Conservation Connections is a statewide network of natural areas, wildlife habitat, working forests, and other open spaces connected by land and water corridors. Corridors provide many benefits. They help wildlife flourish by connecting fragmented habitat. They provide environmental services such as flood control and water purification at relatively low costs. They offer numerous recreation benefits that enhance the tourism industry.

A statewide system of corridors will provide a framework to coordinate resource preservation and sustainable land use planning. This is critical now as many areas of the state face growing development pressures. **Conservation Connections** will help guide development in a way that balances environmental, economic, and social needs, thereby assuring the high quality of life expected by all Minnesotans.

3) Sustainable Forests: DNR is committed to sustaining healthy and productive forest ecosystems. Sustainable forests support a thriving timber industry, protect diverse habitats for plant and animal species, maintain water quality, and provide recreation opportunities. These benefits provide a foundation for Minnesota's economy and quality of life.

Sustaining forest ecosystems requires a mix of strategies. DNR's Sustainable Forest Initiative gives focus to the following operational priorities.

- Improving management to increase forest productivity,
- Managing for older forests through DNR's Old Growth and Extended Rotation guidelines,
- Implementing the Forest Resource Council's site-level guidelines,
- Developing new tools to assess changes in the size, pattern, and connectivity of forest habitats and incorporating this information into operational management, and
- Integrating timber production and biodiversity goals through landscape-level planning and coordination.

4) Additional Priorities: The DNR budget process may surface additional priorities that merit funding support. As indicated in the twelve management principles, DNR is seeking to better integrate the budget and **Directions** process.

The Strategic Planning Context

Directions Background

DNR Strategic Plan

Directions 2000 is the latest in a series of DNR strategic plans started in the 1980s and updated about every two years. This planning process provides strategic level organizational guidance by establishing management principles and themes that clarify DNR's mission and how it will be accomplished. **Directions 2000** summarizes the goals, objectives, and strategies for the broad scope of resources managed by the DNR. Goals and objectives are stated as outcomes that can be measured. Identifying outcomes (natural resource and public benefit results) as well as activities (what the DNR does) represents an important change in approach. Outcome-based planning provides a linkage to DNR evaluation efforts which will be reported in **Performance Report 2001**. This improved approach follows Governor Ventura's **Big Plan**. "The state must affirm its commitment to quality service for its citizens, with success measured by actual outcomes rather than process, and cost-conscious state government." (**Big Plan, Part III**).

Resource management goals are not easily expressed as outcome statements. Resource goals often span decades into the future and are affected by conditions that DNR does not control. DNR can only achieve resource management goals through collaboration with citizens and partners. The realities of finite budgets, changing public demand for resources, and broader environmental and economic trends will influence DNR's capacity to reach sustainability goals. DNR will continue to refine goals and objectives based on input from the biennial **Performance Report**. The strategies in **Directions 2000** are strategic actions DNR is taking, or plans to take in the immediate future, to address goals and objectives.

Goals, objectives, and strategies in **Directions 2000** are not listed in rank order. Rather, they are portrayed in a sequence relevant for understanding their content and context. The numbering of goals, objectives, or strategies is done only for convenient reference, without rank or preference.

Directions 2000 Focus

DNR management has a dual focus; it directly manages the natural resources in an ecosystem; it also manages how society uses those resources. This duality is reflected in the organization of **Directions 2000**. **Directions 2000** has five major sections. Three sections (**Forest Resources, Agricultural Areas, Urban and Developing Areas**) are organized around broad geographic regions that reflect natural resource ecosystems. The **Recreation Systems** section addresses a major aspect of resource use. The **Water Resources** section addresses a resource that occurs statewide. Management of Minnesota's natural resources is addressed within these major systems. Some natural resources, such as minerals and sensitive or rare habitats, occur throughout Minnesota, but mineral extraction is addressed primarily in the forest resources section. Other resources, such as wildlife, are addressed primarily in the forest and agricultural sections.

Since **Directions 2000** is organized along these broad systems approaches, the specific work of DNR divisions and bureaus is not cited. For example, the text does not address such activities as fish stocking, timber stand improvement, or trail maintenance. While these are important components of the DNR mandate, such activities are addressed in the strategic and work plans at the division, region, and area level of the organization. Division and interdisciplinary planning and implementation efforts will connect **Directions 2000** with specific programs and activities.

Directions 2000 offers guidance, but does not directly provide solutions to the broad range of operational issues that occupy management and staff time. For example, DNR will continue to devote time and energy to the management of such complex issues as negotiation of treaties with American Indians and managing Off Highway Vehicle use on public lands. DNR addresses such operational issues using the strategic management principles cited in the introduction. Specific management strategies are developed in discipline strategic and work plans.



State bird, 1961

DNR Organizational Structure

Directions 2000 focuses on management of natural resources. The DNR's organization and human resources provide the means to manage natural resources. DNR is organized into nine divisions or disciplines, that have primary responsibility for resource management. Five support bureaus provide services to divisions and the public. DNR bureau functions are not as visible to the public; however, their operation is essential to the organization and adequate resources for these bureaus continues to be a major challenge.

Divisions	Bureaus	Regional Offices
Ecological Services	Engineering & Field Services	I. Bemidji
Enforcement	Human Resources	II. Grand Rapids
Fisheries	Information, Education, & Licensing	III. Brainerd
Forestry	Office of Management & Budget Services	IV. New Ulm
Lands & Minerals	Management Information Systems	V. Rochester
Parks & Recreation		VI. Metro
Trails & Waterways		
Waters		
Wildlife		

The DNR's organizational structure has six regions with regional offices headquartered in communities around the state. These offices provide a supervisory function to area staff working in 123 area offices throughout the state. All divisions and bureaus are represented in each regional office. Regional division and bureau supervisors work together as an interdisciplinary Regional Management Team providing leadership, direction, and support to discipline work activities and DNR's community partnerships. Regional Operations further interdisciplinary efforts involving divisions and bureaus within each region and also provide administrative support. The central office provides program management, policy development, managerial leadership, and a variety of support functions to the field organization. In addition, a large number of field programs are operated and staffed out of the DNR central office.

Recently, DNR has undertaken several studies and organizational changes, including:

- Consolidation of the Office of Planning and the Financial Management Bureau to form the Office of Management and Budget,
- Consolidation of the License Bureau and Information and Education Bureau to form the Bureau of Information, Education and Licensing,
- Consolidation of the Division of Minerals and the Bureau of Real Estate Management to form the Division of Lands and Minerals,
- Consolidation of the Bureaus of Engineering and Field Services,
- Restructuring of the Division of Fish & Wildlife into the separate Division of Fisheries, Division of Wildlife, and Division of Ecological Services,
- Creation of the Office of Professional Standards, and
- An in-depth assessment of the efficiency of the DNR's regional organization including the business office and field services functions.

DNR will continue to assess its bureaus and divisions and may make additional organizational changes to improve its effectiveness in managing natural resources.

DNR faces a number of challenges with transitions in its human resources which are not addressed in *Directions*. Rather they are addressed by DNR through its work force planning and the DNR Affirmative Action/Diversity plan. DNR will continue to emphasize employee assistance, training and education of staff, recruitment of protected class candidates, and efforts to bring facilities into compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

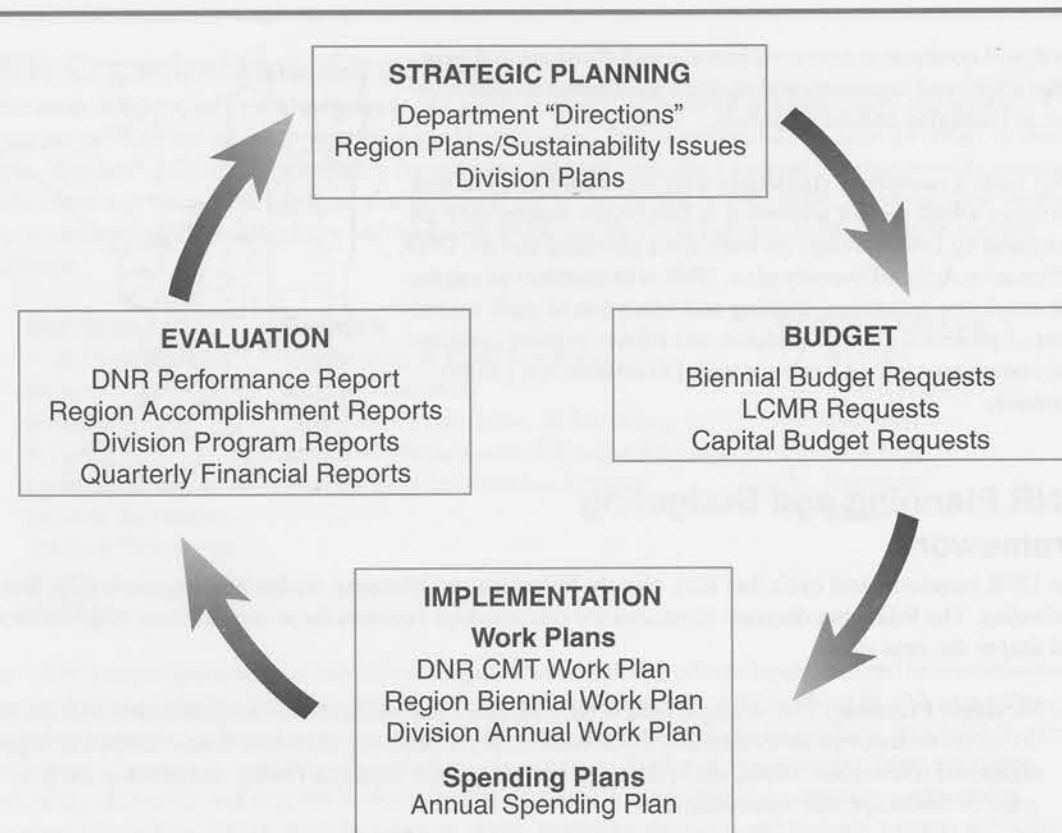


DNR Planning and Budgeting Framework

The DNR biennial fiscal cycle has four, closely-linked stages: planning, budgeting, implementing, and evaluating. The following diagram illustrates the relationships between these stages. Each stage frames and shapes the next stage.

- **Strategic Planning:** The strategic plan is the blue print that guides how an organization will use its resources to accomplish its mission. DNR does strategic planning at several levels; including organizational (*Directions 2000*), discipline, regional (Regional Strategic Plans), and often at the program or landscape and watershed level.
- **Budgeting:** The strategic plan provides specific guidance for developing organizational budgets. DNR budgeting (biennial, Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources, capital) also occur at several levels of the organization. Strategic plans determine new organizational priorities that guide how budgets and the organization's infrastructure will be organized.
- **Implementation:** The two legs of implementation are work plans and spending plans. Work and spending plans determine specific strategies and budget allocations that DNR will apply to accomplish its objectives. Spending plans are done primarily at the discipline level and shape the resources that regions, areas, and programs will apply to resource management priorities. Regional Work Plans are basic implementation components that are reflected in the departmental budget and in discipline spending plans.
- **Evaluation:** Evaluation provides feedback on the effectiveness of implementation strategies. Evaluation includes performance reporting, accomplishment reporting, financial reporting, and indicator measurement. Evaluation helps DNR adapt more effective management strategies and helps shape the next planning/budgeting cycle.

By strengthening linkages in this planning/budgeting framework, DNR program activities will better reflect organizational priorities. This will improve resource management and responsiveness to public interests.



Management Systems

➤ Water Resources

Minnesota's aquatic resources are a defining component in the state's varied ecosystems and are important to tourism and recreation, economic use, and where people choose to live. Lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands provide visible and essential connections for all landscapes, and ecosystems are supported by ground water and subsurface flows. In turn, healthy ecosystems support the plants, wildlife, and scenery that provide recreation opportunities and other benefits.

Growing demand on water supplies from development pressures and water quality challenges due to pollution and other causes of degradation continue to stress aquatic ecosystems. Sustainability issues identified in *Directions 1997* for water resources included:

- Reducing non-point source pollutants.
- Achieving no-net-loss of wetlands.
- Managing shoreline development.
- Controlling spread of exotic species.
- Protecting ground water systems.

In the past, the DNR managed "different" waters (e.g., wetlands, surface water, ground water and sub-surface flows) as separate resources, and treated water management issues as isolated problems. Today, the DNR views these as interdependent systems that can become burdened from accumulated stresses. Water resources are treated as a system in this plan because all living things depend upon water and because the water present in the atmosphere, in the ground, on the surface, and in living things is all that is available. Water resources can be seriously degraded but there is no such thing as "new" water; it is a nonrenewable, sometimes restorable natural resource.

The DNR is one of several state agencies with responsibilities for protecting and managing the state's water resources. The DNR's water resource goals and objectives are tailored to its organization, responsibilities, and management approach and are consistent with those in the State Water Plan, which is currently being updated. DNR regional staff are assisting in creating basin goals and objectives for the State Water Plan and are actively involved in the MPCA's basin planning efforts.

State policy is "to conserve and use water resources of the state in the best interests of its people, and to promote the public health, safety, and welfare" [Minnesota Statutes Sec. 103A. 201]. This means that the DNR must allocate water resources to meet increasing and varied usage demands and also protect water resources from activities that would impair them. The best way to handle the complex relationships underlying water resource sustainability issues is to combine a holistic approach to water resource management (avoiding or minimizing disruptions to the hydrologic cycle) with a collaborative approach to working with communities, water users, and interested citizens.

Water Resources Goals and Objectives

GOAL 1. Aquatic ecosystems will have a high degree of ecological health and integrity.

Objective 1.1. Populations of fish, wildlife, and natural communities will be self-sustaining wherever possible. Self-sustaining populations are valued as integral parts of healthy aquatic ecosystems, and because they cost less to manage in the long run. Where intensive management practices are used, such as artificial rearing and stocking of fish, it should be done within the carrying capacity of the resource. Self-sustaining populations of fish, wildlife, and natural communities can indicate that overall conditions in an aquatic ecosystem are healthy.



State fish, 1965

Objective 1.2. The natural characteristics of surface water basins, ground water, and sub-surface flows will be retained or improved. The total water system must be managed comprehensively because water quantity and water quality are closely linked. Improvements may occur when damaged water features such as wetlands are restored. Where natural characteristics are in good shape:

- In-lake water quality is typical for the lake type and ecoregion.
- Shoreland management, land use patterns, and near-shore vegetation enhance lake quality.
- The distribution, abundance, and diversity of wetlands in a watershed help maintain the quantity and quality of water in the hydrologic system.
- Ground water is not overused through excessive drawdowns or polluted by improper land use activities.

Objective 1.3. Rivers and streams will have flow conditions consistent with natural variability. Water control structures are used for a variety of public purposes such as lake level stabilization, wildlife habitat impoundments, and hydroelectric power generation. However, drainage systems and artificial manipulation of streams often increase the frequency and magnitude of flows beyond the normal range of variation. This changes how a stream behaves and generates ecological, economic, and social problems. Water moves more quickly off the land and through channels, resulting in fluctuating hydrographs (water level patterns), flooding, stream bank erosion, channel scouring, sedimentation, and transfer of non-point source pollutants to surface waters at accelerated rates. When possible, the DNR favors rivers and streams without obstructions to the flow of water or organisms, where natural processes are allowed to maintain fish and wildlife habitat. Restoring and maintaining natural stream flows takes intensive and ongoing collaboration with landowners, local units of government, and other organizations.

Objective 1.4. Populations of the most harmful aquatic exotic or invasive species will be reduced and no new introductions occur. Aquatic exotic or invasive species can severely degrade the integrity of water resources and diminish recreational use. Many detrimental species were introduced or expanded their distribution in the state's lakes, rivers, and streams during the 1980s and 1990s. The DNR has several programs to reduce the spread, minimize the impact, and limit the introduction of harmful aquatic exotic or invasive species. The DNR works with other government agencies, businesses, and private citizens to accomplish these goals.

Objective 1.5. Pollution in aquatic ecosystems will be reduced. Many river systems and watersheds have been severely degraded by agricultural drainage, intensive production practices, municipal sewage, and other sources of pollution. While the DNR does not regulate storm water management or most chemical use, those activities can have severe impacts on water quality. The DNR will play an advocacy role in promoting best management practices in land use and research on the effects of chemicals on aquatic ecosystems; providing information and advocacy to ensure that the loading of waste discharges and pollution from point and nonpoint sources meet targets for ecological integrity; and influencing federal farm program policy to benefit aquatic resources.

GOAL 2. Water resources will be conserved and allocated among competing uses in the best interests of the public and long-term sustainability.

Objective 2.1. Water will be used in a manner that can be maintained for an indefinite period without causing unacceptable environmental, economic, or social consequences. Sustainable use of water means that water is available for future generations and that parts of the hydrologic system are not overused to the detriment of other parts. For example, ground water withdrawals should not cause an unacceptable reduction in available surface water, nor should activities or alterations in surface water basins impair ground water. The DNR will link surface and ground water management to ensure that adequate, high quality water is available for viable existing uses and future needs.

Objective 2.2. Water will be conserved and allocated equitably among reasonable leisure, residential, and commercial/industrial uses. Allocation of water supplies among competing uses must be accomplished within the natural variability of climate and land use changes over time. Surface or ground water withdrawals may have adverse impacts on other users and on surface water bodies, native plant and animal communities, and water-dependent economic and recreation activities. The DNR will guide water users to appropriate and sufficient water supplies when competing demands exceed available water supplies. The DNR will promote sound conservation practices that will reduce water demand for the future.

Objective 2.3. Protected stream flows will be sufficient to maintain or enhance riverine functions and processes. Stream ecosystems are a product of water flows (i. e., the amount of water flowing through a stream corridor). Satisfactory water flows contribute to the protection of aquatic and riparian communities and the aesthetic and recreational opportunities they provide. The DNR will manage water withdrawals to maintain or restore native biological diversity, riparian communities, and water quality in streams that depend on the same water source sought for off-stream uses.

Objective 2.4. Sensitive or rare aquatic resources will be protected. Sensitive or rare species and native plant and animal communities, such as trout streams and calcareous fens, require sufficient and high quality water supplies and protection from impacts. The DNR is responsible for such resources on state-managed public lands and for the protection of endangered and threatened species anywhere in the state. The DNR will provide inventory and monitoring data and resource management expertise to help protect the integrity of sensitive or rare aquatic resources.

Objective 2.5. Aquatic ecosystems will provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities over the long term. Providing recreation opportunities like swimming, fishing, hunting, boating, and other enjoyment of lakes and rivers influences many water resource management decisions. Healthy aquatic ecosystems provide swimmable and fishable lakes and rivers, and habitats for the animals and plant communities that contribute to a recreation experience. Because some recreational activities negatively impact shoreland and surface basins, the DNR will work with local communities on managing water-based recreation activities to ensure the long-term health of the state's water resources. (See Recreation Systems section for more comprehensive objectives and strategies.)

Water Resources Management Strategies

The DNR will employ the following management strategies to achieve the above goals and objectives for water resources:

Strategy 1. Gather and interpret information to aid problem solving and decision-making about conservation and use of water resources. Data collection efforts will be improved whenever possible, documenting information about the condition, stressors, and availability of the state's water resources. The DNR will assess that information to understand the consequences of various and competing desired uses on water resources.

Some examples:

- Develop ways to measure and understand cumulative effects of land use and development decisions on surface water basins, rivers, ground water, and watersheds; keep land use information up-to-date.
- Hydrologic conditions must be monitored consistently over time to make long-term trend analysis possible, and the effects of water conveyance alterations on the landscape (such as drainage, irrigation, and channelization) should be examined in such analyses.

- The amount, type, and frequency of data collected in the DNR's lake and stream survey and monitoring programs should be continually improved so they can be used to define trends and help evaluate management.
- Better physical, chemical, and biological indicators are needed for assessing the ecological integrity of lakes, wetlands, and rivers; DNR will develop improved measures in cooperation with the MPCA and other agencies.
- Rare aquatic species and natural communities, such as nongame fish, mussels, and plants, must be identified and inventoried, and research carried out to better understand what actions are necessary to protect them.

The DNR will work with the MPCA, other agencies, and local government units to improve coordination of data collection and database integration efforts. An up-to-date information base and data management system could produce annual reports on the status of shoreland use and ownership, including publicly owned shoreland.

Strategy 2. Use scientific methods and a comprehensive management approach at the appropriate scale (e.g., lake, watershed, drainage basin, aquatic ecosystem, etc.) to manage water resources. Because of its multi-disciplinary expertise on natural resources, the DNR will protect and manage water resources directly and through relationships with other agencies, local government units, non-governmental organizations, and the general public. Non-regulatory approaches often hold more promise for long-term resource protection than regulatory actions.

Some examples:

- Comprehensive management efforts for individual lakes and rivers will be coordinated among the DNR's divisions.
- The DNR will support locally-based leadership for comprehensive management of water resources.
- The best available scientific principles and findings about watershed and in-lake management will be used to establish and maintain aquatic plants in littoral and riparian zones for fish and wildlife habitat and for their intrinsic value in conserving biodiversity.
- Information, technical assistance, and financial assistance (where available) will be provided to landowners, lake associations, and watershed groups about maintaining and restoring native vegetation of shorelines and aquatic areas, and about protecting sensitive or rare species and native plant and animal communities.
- A systematic departmental approach will be employed for protecting and managing calcareous fens.

Strategy 3. Apply cumulative effect analysis in water resource regulatory programs. The DNR's regulatory authority can limit water uses if needed to forestall adverse impacts on other users and on water resources. For example, protecting flows on streams and rivers (with protection levels informed by biology, hydrology, and geomorphology) can reserve the water needed for aquatic and riparian communities and the aesthetic and recreational opportunities they provide.

Strategy 4. Pursue more opportunities to restore river and floodplain connectivity and reduce future flood damages. For example, the DNR can remove a dam when the costs of rehabilitation and maintenance exceed the public benefits from the dam, when public safety issues are a concern, and when an opportunity arises to improve a river's ecological health and integrity. Opportunities to reduce future flood damages to flood-prone communities occur after major flood events and through financial and technical assistance.

Strategy 5. Provide information and advice to local communities, water users, and residents to help them plan for sound water conservation and use and associated land use practices.

Some examples:

- Provide multi-disciplinary technical support about the value communities get from lakes and how to preserve those values; how to access and use lake information in local planning; and how to avoid land use decisions that are inconsistent with lake protection.
- Work with local communities to emphasize water use conservation practices and to reduce the impacts of proposed land use and development activities on water resources.
- Provide communities with an atlas and regional assessment of important hydrogeologic features and risks (in cooperation with the Minnesota Geological Survey) and complete the delineation of watersheds for individual lakes.
- Advise water users and government officials about the consequences of ignoring the variability in the hydrologic system (e.g., flooding, drought, and ground water limitations) and assist them in anticipating and planning for such adverse events.
- Use the Floodplain Management Program to increase public awareness of flood risks and to reduce flood damage.

Strategy 6. Include education about water use and conservation in all regulatory and non-regulatory programs and activities. These are important opportunities for furnishing information and interpretation that can improve understanding of ways to protect water and shoreland, including prevention of nonpoint source pollution. The DNR will create more ways for its regulatory and non-regulatory programs to educate landowners and the general public about water resource conservation.

Strategy 7. Build partnerships and trust with other water resource stakeholders. Because the authority to manage water resources is shared among many jurisdictions, partnerships will be sought with communities, lake and watershed associations, landowners, educators, other state agencies, and federal agencies. The DNR has information and technical assistance that local government units, watershed projects, and others can use in developing comprehensive management plans, local land use and water plans, and water-related zoning and subdivision ordinances. DNR staff will support and assist local government units in development and integration of land use and water management plans, participate in the MPCA's basin planning and other large comprehensive watershed management planning efforts, and participate in the development and implementation of the State Water Plan 2000. The DNR will listen to stakeholders and learn from their concerns, questions, and ideas. The DNR will work with other agencies and local government units to clarify water management roles and responsibilities and to search for ways to integrate services.

Strategy 8. Address impacts to water resources from such activities as agricultural drainage, irrigation, and other production activities, recreational use of surface waters, residential and commercial development, and harmful exotic species. The DNR will encourage landowners to participate in federal farm subsidy programs, such as WRP (wetlands), CRP/CREP (watersheds), Continuous CRP (riparian areas), and in the state RIM program (Reinvest in Minnesota), and will promote full funding of those programs. DNR staff will work with landowners and local government units by offering advice and assistance about surface water use and associated impacts, promoting sound shoreland management practices, and providing advice and assistance to limit the spread and reduce the impacts caused by harmful exotic species. The DNR will work with the MDA, BWSR, and MPCA to address impacts to water resources from such activities.

Strategy 9. Participate in coordinating data acquisition and policy development for addressing impacts of nonpoint source pollution and wastewater upon receiving waters and watersheds.

State policy on nonpoint source pollution and wastewater management must be informed by up-to-date information and must address future as well as present needs. For example, the DNR will support implementation of strong Phase 2 EPA storm water update requirements. This will be done working with the MPCA, BWSR, and local water planners.

Strategy 10. Carry out the 1998 interagency Action Plan for implementing the Minnesota Wetlands Conservation Plan (MWCP) and achieve no-net-loss of wetlands affected by DNR management activities and regulation. Joint actions with other agencies and local government units include: standardizing the multiple programmatic databases currently used to track information; improving cooperation among state and federal regulatory staff to improve consistency and reduce duplication; and using the MWCP in regulatory and non-regulatory programs. The DNR's regulation of public waters wetlands is focused on increasing any wetland functional values lost through alteration or impact; therefore, the DNR will ensure a minimum 1:1 replacement of wetland acreage and functional values affected by drainage or filling activities. A net gain in wetlands will be achieved through DNR's land management activities.

Strategy 11. Develop and implement a comprehensive management approach for lakes in Minnesota, working jointly with other state agencies, local government units, local and state-wide organizations, and the general public.

Some examples:

- Coordinate with others on research to develop needed data on the ecological status and economic value of lakes; on the effects of land use changes on lakes; and on the cumulative effects of vegetation removal, fill, excavation, and structure placement.
- Participate in cooperative efforts on lake and stream restoration, community and business education (including developers, builders, and realtors), modification of tax structures, and other factors affecting the sustainability of lakes.
- Promote watershed-based approaches for lake management.
- Establish shared objectives for lake management through collaborative processes.

Measuring Progress

Measuring progress toward DNR goals and objectives for water resources is a challenging task. First, water resources do not exist in isolation, but are part of a complex hydrologic system that includes ground water, lakes, wetlands, rivers and streams. Second, water resources are nested within terrestrial systems, and frequently bear the consequences of activities in urban areas, agricultural areas, and forest systems. Third, in addition to the DNR, water resources are also managed by state and federal agencies and local communities. Measures of progress are meaningful only within the context of these interrelationships. Examples of performance measures linked to DNR goals and objectives are described below.

GOAL 1. Aquatic ecosystems will have a high degree of ecological health and integrity. Performance measures must reflect the environmental outcomes that are the focus of this first goal. Minnesotans care deeply about water quality and fish and wildlife. Other components of the environment are important as well, such as hydrology and shoreland vegetation. Some possible measures are:

- Abundance of important aquatic species (e.g., populations of fish and waterfowl).
- Water quality (e.g., phosphorus content, toxic substances, sediment content, clarity).
- Rates of flow in rivers and streams.
- % Miles of riverbanks and shoreland with permanent vegetative cover.
- Indices of biological integrity.

Relating indicators of upland activities to changes in aquatic systems helps identify potential problems (e.g., changes in vegetative cover and stream water quality). Thus indicators for urban, agricultural areas, forests, and recreation may help explain changes in the health of Minnesota's water resources.

GOAL 2. Water supplies will be conserved and allocated among competing uses in the best interests of the public. This goal focuses on water use and conservation. Measures of progress should focus on both water quantity and activities that may affect it (e.g., water extraction, recreation). Example measures are:

- Water levels in wells in principal aquifers.
- Water use (absolute and per capita) by category.

➤ Forest Resources

Directions 1997 identified four forest management priorities. Those priorities are:

- Protecting riparian areas.
- Ensuring forest soils productivity.
- Maintaining wildlife diversity.
- Managing for healthy and resilient forest ecosystems across landscape scales.

Working with partners, DNR has made considerable progress developing new approaches to address these priorities. The Sustainable Forest Resources Management Act established sustainable forest ecosystems as a priority goal for Minnesota. The act was based on recommendations of the Generic Environmental Impact Statement on Timber Harvesting and Forest Management in Minnesota (GEIS). The GEIS studied the potential impacts from current and increased levels of timber harvesting and recommended strategies for the sustainable management of the state's forest resources.

DNR has become increasingly concerned about problems posed by land use conversion throughout rural areas of the state. Land use conversion is the process of converting forest or other natural areas into housing and related uses (commercial development, parking lots, roads, etc.). At the same time, many larger blocks of land are being subdivided into smaller blocks. Increased fragmentation of the landscape is a critical threat to the state's natural resource base. Land conversion and fragmentation decrease the area in forest cover, destroy fish and wildlife habitat, degrade water quality, and reduce the large blocks of ownership best suited to managing land holistically. This concern is greatest when it occurs within significant blocks of public ownership as the character and ability to manage the surrounding land is changed dramatically. Over the long term, a continuation of these patterns poses significant concerns for the health of forest resources and viability of industry dependent on healthy forest ecosystems. These concerns form the basis for DNR's approach to developing Smart Growth and *Conservation Connections* strategies. They also are the basis for DNR's investment in Sustainable Forest initiatives.

Forest Ecosystem Goals and Objectives

Building on the GEIS, the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) identified three priority forest management goals. DNR has developed a fourth goal to address mineral development in forest ecosystems.

GOAL 1. Minnesota's forest land base will be enlarged and protected. No net loss of forest land will occur and some previously forested areas will be returned to forest cover. The forest land base will be protected from decreases and fragmentation by land use changes.

Objective 1.1. Landowners will have viable options for restoring former farmland to forest and other open land conditions. As use of some lands changes from the production of agricultural commodities to other uses, opportunities arise to direct new uses to serve natural resource purposes, including forestry.

Objective 1.2. Loss and fragmentation of private forest lands will be minimized. Subdivision of forest lands or conversion of those lands to non-forest uses diminishes the capacity of forests to provide healthy public benefits and results in a net loss of forest acreage. The objective is to maintain the productive capacity of forests by minimizing the loss and fragmentation of private forest lands.

GOAL 2. Forest ecosystems will be healthy, resilient, and functioning. Forests will be composed of appropriate mixes of vegetative types and age classes that maintain wildlife and biological diversity.

Objective 2.1. Forests will be managed for structural and plant species diversity. A forest with a variety of tree species, native plant communities, and ages provides habitat suitable for more species and has greater potential to provide a sustainable yield of timber. A diverse forest generally is healthier and more resilient than a less diverse forest. Landscape metrics provide useful tools for measuring vegetative spatial patterns across landscapes. The objective is to establish and manage towards landscape goals that provide a diversity of age classes, habitats, patch sizes, and spatial configuration using the natural range of variation as a guide.

Objective 2.2. Forest practices will ensure healthy forest soils and water resources. The objective is to ensure that forestry practices minimize damage to soils and maintain healthy aquatic ecosystems.

Objective 2.3. Forests will support self-sustaining fish and wildlife populations. Self-sustaining fish and wildlife populations - game and non-game - are important to the recreating public and as components of healthy ecosystems. The objective is healthy, self-sustaining populations of all native and desirable introduced plant, fish, and wildlife species, especially those species listed as threatened and endangered.

Objective 2.4. Forest habitat areas will be connected by natural corridors. Where forests are fragmented by other land uses such as agriculture or urban areas, corridors of forest, often along streams or trails, may connect larger forest habitat areas serving both wildlife and recreation uses. Where older forest blocks are fragmented by younger forest in a primarily forested landscape, corridors composed primarily of older or uneven-aged forests and careful planning of timber harvest patterns can provide continuous forest cover. The objective is to identify and maintain natural areas representative of the variety of the forested landscape and connect those areas by natural corridors.

Objective 2.5. Exotic species will have a minimal impact on forests and other native plant and animal species. Minnesota's forests are susceptible to significant impacts from exotic species. Examples of exotics that adversely affect Minnesota forest resources include white pine blister rust, Gypsy moth, and buckthorn. Management will seek to minimize impacts from these species while also minimizing the impact of control measures on vulnerable native species.

Objective 2.6. Damage from native insects, diseases, and wildlife will be managed at acceptable levels. Native insects, diseases and wildlife have both positive and negative impacts on forests. On one hand, they are a major source of mortality and reduce resistance of forests to other stresses; on the other hand, they promote diversity of tree species and forest structure and generate dead wood, which provides important habitat and soil nutrients. Widespread pest outbreaks cause high levels of tree mortality and can have significant ecological and economic consequences. The objective is to reduce vulnerability of forests to the effects of significant outbreaks and to manage impacts of native pests, including wildlife, at levels consistent with forest ecosystem sustainability.

Objective 2.7. The acreage of healthy brushland landscapes will increase. Large, open brushlands are some of the state's most productive wildlife habitat and are essential to survival of several wildlife species, some of which are declining in Minnesota (e.g. sharptailed grouse, yellow rail, savanna sparrow, short-eared owl). Brushland acreage has declined due to conversion to agriculture and fire suppression.

GOAL 3. Forest-based economic and recreational opportunities will be numerous and wide-ranging. The contribution of forests to the state's economic and social well-being will be acknowledged. Economic opportunities for Minnesota's forest-based industries, including tourism and wood-based businesses, will be large, sustainable, and diverse.

Objective 3.1. Commercial timber supply will be abundant and sustainable. DNR will manage state lands and work with other forest landowners to help provide a predictable and sustain-

able amount of quality wood to meet the raw material needs of a growing population consistent with the sustainability of forest ecosystems. Predictable and sustainable harvests of quality wood from forests will support a strong state economy by helping maintain a viable forest products industry in the state.

Objective 3.2. Use of non-timber forest products will expand. Non-timber products, such as balsam boughs and birch bark, help diversify local economies. DNR will expand use of non-timber forest products consistent with sustainability of forest ecosystems.

Objective 3.3. Forest management will minimize impacts on visual quality. The visual quality of forest landscapes is especially important in areas of significant public use, such as roadsides, shorelands, and park areas. MFRC has incorporated "Visual Sensitivity Categories," developed by the Timber Tourism Visual Quality Committee, into site level forest management guidelines. DNR will apply the appropriate guidelines so that visual quality is not adversely impacted during forest management activities.

Objective 3.4. Forests will support diverse recreation opportunities. Forests provide opportunities for many outdoor recreation activities, which in turn provide economic benefits to local communities. The objective is to meet the demand for forest related outdoor recreation where and when these activities are consistent with the sustainability of forest ecosystems. See the Recreation Systems section for a more comprehensive development of recreation goals.

Objective 3.5. Private forest land owners will be able to manage their forests to provide public benefits. Public lands cannot provide all benefits demanded from forests. Private lands will play a key role. The objective is for private landowners to have sufficient access to the technical assistance and other services they need to satisfy their own management goals, while also maintaining healthy forest ecosystems, providing timber, and serving recreation needs.

Objective 3.6. Cultural resources will be protected. Cultural resources are scarce, nonrenewable features that provide physical links to our past. MFRC voluntary site-level guidelines protect cultural resources during forest activities. The objective is to increase the awareness and use of the guidelines by forest landowners, loggers, and resource managers.

Objective 3.7. Trust fund revenues from mining and forest management will continue. Trust fund and other DNR-administered state land management will be proactive in the identification of surplus parcels for an annual sale and will initiate land exchanges with private landowners within established natural resource management areas to consolidate state ownership. The DNR also will identify and remove some trust fund lands from non-revenue producing natural resource management units on an annual basis.

GOAL 4. Mineral resources use will be economically viable and environmentally sound. Extraction of subsurface resources on all lands will continue to be a significant component of the state's economy. DNR will manage mineral development to protect public health and safety, reduce environmental impacts, and restore land for post-mining uses.

Objective 4.1. Opportunities for mineral exploration will continue. Minnesota has excellent potential for non-ferrous and industrial mineral deposits. These deposits are found throughout the state, though predominantly in the forested areas. Mineral exploration requires availability of land in areas of high mineral potential, preferably within regions with compatible land uses. The objective is to provide improved data on the quality and quantity of mineral deposits including a consideration of the ecological impacts of minerals extraction.

Objective 4.2. The diversity of the minerals industry will continue to expand. Areas for mineral development include peat, clay, stone, non-ferrous minerals, and stockpiled material from existing or previous mining. Value-added processing of taconite or iron ore will further add stability and diversity to the minerals industry. The objective is to develop uses, marketing, and

transportation strategies in cooperation with industry and other partners in order to expand the diversity of the minerals industry.

Objective 4.3. Mining and exploration will have minimal environmental impacts. The objective has three components: 1) restoring expired mine lands to productive uses including for recreation and fish and wildlife habitat, 2) minimizing the impact of new mining operations on areas with high biodiversity or where extractive operations will fragment significant native habitats, and 3) addressing the multiple concerns relating to how mining operations affect surface and subsurface water resource quality and flows.

Forest Ecosystem Management Strategies

DNR will employ the following management strategies to achieve forest lands resource goals and objectives.

Strategy 1. Develop landscape-scale management plans to guide timber harvest and biodiversity protection. DNR is developing ecosystem subsection plans for forest management. Plans will develop interdisciplinary approaches to meeting multiple forest objectives on state Forestry and Wildlife lands. Harvest, reforestation, and protection strategies will guide management in reaching a variety of objectives such as timber production, diversity of age classes, patch size distribution, native plant communities (forest land, wetland, and open brushland communities), and connectivity (to provide habitat corridors and wildlife habitat). DNR's Old Growth and Extended Rotation Forest Guidelines will focus on maintaining older forests. DNR will coordinate landscape plans and priorities with other owners when possible, including MFRC's landscape planning effort. (This strategy applies to Objectives 1.1–3.7.)

Strategy 2. Apply MFRC Site-level Forest Management Guidelines. DNR will apply the MFRC guidelines on DNR-administered land and encourage widespread adoption and use of the guidelines on other public and private lands to protect wildlife habitat, historic and cultural resources, riparian areas, soils productivity, water quality, and visual quality of forest lands across the state. The DNR will assist with education and training for guideline implementation and coordinate efforts to monitor the application of these guidelines in forest management practices. DNR will encourage land managers to use the guidelines whenever appropriate (e.g. road construction, forest harvest, pesticide use, reforestation, thinning, fire management, and recreation management). In some cases, land managers may choose to apply land treatments that are more restrictive than the guidelines; in other areas, less restrictive standards may be appropriate. Specifics of local conditions and management objectives will determine appropriate application of guidelines. (This strategy applies to Objectives 1.1–3.7.)

Strategy 3. Manage insect pests and forest diseases. Exotic insects such as the gypsy moth and native insects (such as the spruce budworm) as well as diseases (such as white pine blister rust and oak wilt) are major threats to forest resources. DNR will monitor exotic and native forest insects and diseases and seek to minimize damage on public and private lands. DNR will seek to minimize impacts of control efforts on non-target organisms. DNR will coordinate management efforts with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the U. S. Forest Service, and the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture. (This strategy applies to Objectives 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.5–3.5, and 3.7.)

Strategy 4. Expand focus on corridor management and planning. Corridors provide opportunities to connect habitat, provide outdoor recreation, and protect scenic vistas. DNR, through the *Conservation Connections* initiative, will work closely with private landowners, other land management agencies, and local communities to identify corridor opportunities and to implement corridor management concepts. (This strategy applies to Objectives 1.1–2.4, 2.7, and 3.3–3.5.)

Strategy 5. Provide habitat for rare and threatened species. Restoring populations of rare and threatened species requires information on the location and prevalence of suitable habitats and development of guidelines and plans to ensure that habitats are restored or maintained, such as DNR's Old

Growth Forest guidelines. DNR will take a leadership role in advocating for maintaining habitat for rare and threatened species in all forests regardless of ownership. (This strategy applies to Objectives 1.1–2.7, and 3.5.)

Strategy 6. Enhance opportunities to use state forests for outdoor recreation. DNR will continue to seek a balance between intensive recreation uses (off-highway vehicles - OHVs) and activities that require nature and solitude in forests. DNR will maintain forest campgrounds and will complete its recreation trail system planning for OHVs. Additional focus on recreation opportunities in forest ecosystems appears in the Recreation Systems section. (This strategy applies to Objectives 1.1–2.7, and 3.3–3.7.)

Strategy 7. Incorporate wildlife population targets in all forest management efforts. DNR will consider fish and wildlife population targets in forest ecosystem management as part of an integrated strategy to maintain healthy forest ecosystems. Fish and wildlife population goals will continue to be an important consideration in planning timber harvests, old growth management, reforestation, and forest recreation. (This strategy applies to Objectives 2.1–3.7.)

Strategy 8. Provide appropriate access roads to forest lands. Access to forest lands is provided by an intermingled network of federal, state, county, and private forest access roads. Cooperation with other forest land owners will be critical in maintaining existing access to DNR forest lands and to coordinate future road access needs and road management direction. DNR balances a variety of considerations (e.g., biodiversity, wildlife management, fire suppression, timber harvest, and recreation) in developing access roads. DNR will continue providing access to forest lands consistent with management plans, MFRC site-level guidelines, and forest ecosystem sustainability. (This strategy applies to Objectives 1.1, and 2.1–3.7.)

Strategy 9. Manage fire to protect public safety and foster healthy, diverse forest and brushland ecosystems. Wildfire prevention and suppression will continue to be guided by statutory directives to protect public safety, property, and natural resources. Prescribed (i.e., ignited and controlled) fire will be used to mimic natural processes, alter forest or brushland composition, encourage regeneration of certain species, eliminate exotic species, and reduce risk/potential of wildfire (i.e., fuels reduction). DNR will increasingly use prescribed burning to manage wildlife habitats, plant communities, brushlands, and timber lands. Fuels management (including prescribed fire, constructing fire breaks, and salvage harvesting), will be a growing need to help reduce the risk of dangerous wildfires in forested areas damaged by natural events (e.g., blowdowns, insects, and diseases) and where residential and commercial development has expanded into forested areas. (This strategy applies to Objectives 1.2–3.7.)

Strategy 10. Accelerate management of brushland landscapes. Active management is required to maintain productive brushlands wildlife habitat. DNR will complete efforts to assess the extent and quality of large, open brushland landscapes. DNR will use the landscape planning process to identify priority brushland areas and will develop management plans across all ownerships for these areas. Management plans will specify appropriate use of controlled fire, mechanical disturbance, and herbicide treatments to maintain the health of the priority brushlands using the range of natural variation as a guide. (This strategy applies to Objectives 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, and 2.7.)

Strategy 11. Increase focus on timber quality and productivity. Demand for more and higher quality timber will continue as society's need for forest products continues to grow and Minnesota's forest industry seeks to remain competitive in a world-wide market. Focusing attention on timber productivity and quality will help increase the quality and quantity of wood available for harvest in Minnesota and will enhance the protection of non-timber values in forested landscapes. For example, increasing the wood fiber productivity of a certain portion of the forest will help reduce the intensity of harvest pressures on other forest land. DNR will increase efforts in programs and initiatives that focus on increasing the amount and quality of timber produced from appropriate forest lands. (This strategy applies to Objectives 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.5, 2.6, 3.1, 3.2, 3.5, and 3.7.)

Strategy 12. Continue acquisition of critical land parcels. DNR will continue to acquire parcels of land that are adjacent to or within blocks of existing DNR lands. This strategy is especially important in areas of growing recreation or residential/commercial pressures. (This strategy applies to Objectives 1.2, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, and 3.7–4.2.)

Strategy 13. Cooperate broadly with stakeholders and other agencies. Cooperative approaches to managing forest resources have expanded, especially with MFRC activities. DNR will continue to involve other agencies, stakeholders, and the public in forest management decisions. The forest subsection planning process provides opportunities to involve the public to provide input in developing management goals. (This strategy applies to all objectives.)

Strategy 14. Cooperate with other landowners in sale and exchange of DNR-administered land. DNR will be proactive in identifying surplus parcels for sale and will initiate land exchanges with public and private landowners within established natural resource management areas to consolidate state ownership. DNR will identify and remove trust fund lands from non-revenue producing natural resource management units on an annual basis. (This strategy applies to all objectives.)

Strategy 15. Cooperate with other agencies, local government, and stakeholders to help establish viable rural economies. DNR will work with other state agencies, especially the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the Department of Trade and Economic Development, and with other stakeholders to strengthen the rural economy by minimizing the impact of land fragmentation and development on forest lands. (This strategy applies to all objectives.)

Strategy 16. Increase investments in information technology. Information technology includes data collection, research, ecosystem monitoring, inventory efforts, and acquisition of technology. The expansion of information management technology allows a better understanding of the relationships between management techniques and resource conditions.

Forest inventories, and related data-gathering efforts provide information needed by all land owners to manage land in a sustainable manner. DNR will maintain and provide access to a wide range of databases (e.g., Forest Inventory and Analysis, Cooperative Stand Assessment, ECS, Forest Health Monitoring, County Biological Survey, Natural Heritage, mineral potential, etc.) and coordinate access to other data bases that provide information on forest composition, wildlife habitat, rare species, cultural resources, etc. DNR will develop compatible forest information across all ownerships, focusing on spatial features of landscapes (habitat patch size, shape, connectivity) not addressed in previous inventories and assessments.

Data assessment and applications, such as those made possible by the Native Plant Community Classification effort and the interagency effort to develop a Range of Natural Variation for forest age classes, provide important opportunities to better use databases. Monitoring of impacts from roads, timber harvests, and recreation use provide information needed to develop timber management plans and forest use policies. DNR will intensify data collection, database development, information sharing, data assessment, and monitoring efforts so as to provide forest managers with the information tools needed to manage forest ecosystems in a sustainable manner. DNR will improve the state land records system so that GIS technology can be better used to analyze land ownership records. (This strategy applies to all objectives.)

Strategy 17. Provide technical assistance and financial incentives to landowners. DNR will use private landowner assistance and easement programs (e.g., Private Forest Stewardship plans, Conservation Reserve Program and Forest Legacy Program) to help landowners manage their lands to meet personal and broader forest ecosystem objectives for timber production, maintaining forest ownership parcel size, recreation, wildlife habitat, and other forest resources. DNR will provide technical assistance to builders and developers to assist them in developing land in ways that are compatible with the limitations and opportunities provided by natural settings. DNR will coordinate stewardship programs with other entities, such as soil and water conservation districts.

DNR will provide technical assistance for mineral processing projects and for reclamation of mineral extractive sites. Long term management planning will provide communities with information and advice for mineral resources development and associated land use practices. DNR will assist private landowners in developing mineral product marketing efforts. (This strategy applies to all objectives.)

Strategy 18. Continue forest restoration and improvement. DNR will encourage restoration of non-forest land to forest cover where appropriate. DNR will assist private landowners in considering options for using land once in non-forest cover for timber and other beneficial uses. DNR will restore the presence of some forest types such as Big Woods and white pine, which are less common than they once were. Other restoration strategies (removal of buckthorn and prescribed fire) will restore and maintain the ecological health of forest habitats. (This strategy applies to all objectives.)

Measuring Progress

Measuring progress toward forest management goals and objectives requires regular collection of forest resources information, including information on how those resources benefit society. In order to demonstrate forest resource accountability, DNR also must document how strategies have been implemented. Information (and specific indicators, where appropriate) will allow DNR to measure: 1) the ecological status of forests; 2) the economic status of forest-based industries; and 3) progress in implementing management strategies.

Goal 1: Minnesota's forest land base will be enlarged and protected. Maintaining the state's forest land base is fundamental to achieving all of DNR's goals, including those associated with forests. To ensure that forest land is protected for the long term, DNR needs information on the extent of forest land, ownership, and productive capacity. Examples of performance measures are:

- Acres of forest land categorized by ownership type (public, private industrial, private non-industrial) and productivity class (timber producing, non-timber producing).
- Average size of non-industrial private forest land ownership.

Goal 2: Forest ecosystems will be healthy, resilient, and functioning. Forest ecosystem health and resilience insures that forests can respond to disturbances and the demands society places on them. Measures of forest composition and ecosystem functions are useful in documenting forest health. Examples of performance measures that focus on the distribution of forest plant communities, species, and ages are:

- Acres of old growth forest by type, or
- Acres of forest by community or forest type and age class.

Examples of performance measures that focus on forest health are:

- Number of species of plants and animals with significantly reduced geographic ranges or population sizes (compared to historic conditions).
- Tree growth rates.

Goal 3: Forest-based economic and recreational opportunities will be numerous and wide-ranging. Performance measures for this goal focus on uses of forests and the benefits of those uses for Minnesotans. Examples of performance measures are:

- Quantity of timber available.
- Quantity of timber harvested.
- Implementation of Visual Quality Guidelines.
- Number of state forest campground user nights.

➤ Agricultural Areas

Agricultural lands are extensive in Minnesota, occupying up to 45% of the state. DNR has a significant interest in agricultural areas because of its stewardship responsibility for many of the natural resources within the agricultural landscape and because agricultural practices and land use impact the quality of the region's water and land resources. DNR and the agricultural community share a common interest in land and water management. The inter-relationship between management and use of natural resources is clear to both. Each is concerned about practices that may damage or contribute to resource problems, such as degradation of water quality and increased flows in streams and rivers. Each is concerned about land conversion that degrades and fragments habitat and farmlands, and both recognize the need to address land use issues associated with development and production. Smart Growth and *Conservation Connections* provide information, technical assistance, and other needed strategies to address land use conversion trends.

Agricultural Areas Goals and Objectives

GOAL 1. Surface water and ground water quality will be protected in the agricultural areas of the state. Natural surface and subsurface water flow patterns (also known as flow regimes) will be maintained or restored where desirable and practicable in the agricultural region of the state. Flow regimes include surface water flow through streams and rivers as well as subsurface flows which are critical concerns throughout agricultural areas of Minnesota and especially in the Karst region of southeastern Minnesota.

Objective 1.1. Negative human impacts on water quality and flow regimes (e.g., soil erosion, chemical contamination, and sedimentation of water resources) will be minimized throughout the agricultural region of Minnesota.

Objective 1.2. Natural flow regimes will not be impaired by agricultural land use, water management practices, or land use development.

Objective 1.3. Land identified as prime farmland in the Red River Valley will be protected from ten year flooding. (Ten year floods are those that statistically occur on the average of once every ten years.)

More detailed objectives and strategies addressing water resources appear in the Water Resources section.

GOAL 2. Remaining natural ecosystems (wetlands, grasslands, undeveloped shorelands) within the farmland region will be maintained on public lands and their integrity enhanced on private lands where collaborative efforts with private landowners are possible.

Objective 2.1. Remnant natural areas will remain in a natural condition. Many remaining natural areas are under pressure for conversion to agricultural, residential, or extractive uses. DNR will seek to prevent further conversion of remaining natural areas (e.g., native prairie, oak savanna, wetlands, wet prairies, riparian forests, grasslands, etc.) to other land uses.

Objective 2.2. Remnant natural areas will be connected by natural corridors. As the acreage of natural areas, especially native prairie, declines, connectivity of remaining parcels will be increasingly important to the wildlife movement and the health of natural ecosystems. Through the *Conservation Connections* initiative, DNR will seek to expand right of way, cropland retirement programs, grasslands, and riparian land corridors that connect isolated natural areas.

GOAL 3. Degraded, high priority ecosystems and habitats will be maintained or restored to a more natural condition on public lands and on those private lands where collaborative efforts with private landowners are possible.

Objective 3.1. Acreage of restored grasslands and forest cover will increase on public lands. Restored grasslands and forest cover provide habitat for many prairie-dependent wildlife and plant species and contribute to the viability of natural ecosystems. DNR will restore additional acreage of grasslands and forest cover that are composed of the typical native species on DNR-administered lands. Restoration will focus on areas where grassland and forest cover were the presettlement native vegetation.

Objective 3.2. Acreage of marginal cropland removed from agricultural production and placed in long-term conservation easement programs will increase. Private land removed from agricultural production provides habitat for wildlife and supports the economy of farm operations. Some agricultural land, due to steep slope and proximity to water resources, is unusually susceptible to damaging erosion. Removing this land from production and enrolling the land in conservation easement programs will increase habitat, reduce damage to aquatic ecosystems, and help reduce peak water flows.

Objective 3.3. Acreage of restored high priority lake and wetland complexes will increase. DNR restores degraded lakes (e.g., Heron Lake, Swan Lake) and wetland complexes working in broad partnerships with landowners and local governments. Each of these projects poses multiple benefits for flood control, habitat management, water quality, and recreation.

Objective 3.4. The ecosystems of high priority rivers in the agricultural region will be restored. The Minnesota, Mississippi, and Red Rivers are high priority river systems based on their importance to the economy, lifestyles, and ecological well being of Minnesota. Human activity has seriously degraded these river systems. The Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers have been identified as significant contributors to the hypoxia of the Gulf of Mexico. The Mississippi River also has been designated as a nationally significant ecosystem in need of restoration. The Red River flooding problems need special attention. DNR will support and foster measures to improve the water quality and natural flow regimes for these rivers.

GOAL 4. Diverse recreation opportunities in the agricultural region will be developed in a sustainable manner on public and private lands.

Objective 4.1. Recreational opportunities associated with agri-tourism will expand. Agricultural regions of the state pose many opportunities for increasing tourism. For example, native prairies, grassland, and certain farmlands provide habitat for plants and wildlife used for recreation; e.g., waterfowl for hunting, prairie chickens for viewing. The objective is twofold: 1) to expand populations of grassland and prairie-dependent plant and wildlife species, especially native species used for recreation, and 2) expand access opportunities to public and private lands as a part of a broader cooperative effort between DNR, local communities, and private landowners to expand eco-tourism opportunities in the agricultural region.

Objective 4.2. Habitat value of rights-of-way will increase. Utility, road, and railroad rights-of-way provide critical habitat and connectivity opportunities in many agricultural areas. The objective will be to increase the value that these rights-of-way areas have for plant and wildlife habitat, especially relevant to recreation opportunities (hunting and wildlife viewing).

The Recreation Systems section provides a more comprehensive assessment of the broad range of recreation management goals and objectives that apply within the agricultural region.

GOAL 5. Access to mineral resources will be preserved.

Objective 5.1. Extractive operations will be managed for sustainable use. Sand and gravel deposits play an increasingly important role in economic development at the state and local level, especially as demand on the limited sand and gravel resources rises. Commercial deposits of aggregate resources lie beneath many native prairie and restored grasslands as well as sites desired for forest management and urban development. DNR, through its Smart Growth initiative, will seek to ensure adequate supplies of sand and gravel resources while eliminating or greatly minimizing further destruction of native prairie, forest resources, and other natural areas, and negative impacts on water quality and supply.

GOAL 6. Conversion of land to urban and other uses will have minimal impacts on prime and important farmland and on critical habitats.

Objective 6.1. Principles of Smart Growth management will help guide the conversion of land to urban and related land uses. As DNR and cooperating agencies, including the MDA, better define Smart Growth management approaches, strategies to better manage land conversion will protect prime farmlands and critical habitat areas.

Agricultural Areas Strategies

DNR will use the following management strategies to achieve agricultural areas resource goals and objectives.

Strategy 1. Support land retirement programs. DNR will work cooperatively with land owners, other agencies, and with stakeholders to support federal and state programs that provide incentives for retiring land from crop production and for placing that land into vegetative cover. This strategy has several components:

- Enroll lands in programs that provide longer term protection.
- Preserve remnant natural areas, especially native prairie.
- Establish forest cover in appropriate areas, such as riparian corridors.
- Focus enrollments in ways that buffer existing natural remnants, contribute to the scale of grassland complexes, remove cropland from flood prone and floodplain areas, or contribute to connectivity of natural areas.

(This strategy applies to Objectives 1.1, 1.2, and 3.2–4.2.)

Strategy 2. Increase the effectiveness of federal land and water policies and programs. Federal agricultural policies and programs greatly influence farm practices. DNR efforts to influence federal agricultural policies and programs can greatly benefit habitat in the agricultural areas of Minnesota. DNR support for the CREP program will continue to be a key strategy. DNR will support revisions in the Federal Farm Bill that will enhance natural resources in agricultural areas. (This strategy applies to Objectives 1.1, 1.2, 2.2, and 3.2–4.2.)

Strategy 3. Cooperate broadly with stakeholders and other agencies. DNR cooperative efforts are especially relevant in the agricultural region, where most land is in private ownership. An example of cooperative efforts includes linkages with other agencies and organizations in a broad effort to encourage land and water stewardship practices that will sustain the flow regimes and ecosystems of major rivers (Mississippi, Minnesota, Red Rivers). Another example would be working with the MDA, BWSR, and MPCA to identify and prioritize environmental issues relating to agriculture. (This strategy applies to all objectives.)

Strategy 4. Establish DNR as a "Good Neighbor" to landowners adjacent to DNR-administered lands. DNR will coordinate a number of strategies designed to establish good relations with owners of land adjacent to DNR-administered land. This includes such strategies as management of certain invasive vegetation that could encroach on neighboring farmlands. (This strategy applies to Objectives 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, and 3.3.)

Strategy 5. Cooperate with other agencies and stakeholders to help establish viable rural economies. DNR will work with other state agencies, especially the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Economic Development, and with other stakeholders to strengthen the rural economy by minimizing the impact of land fragmentation and development on working farms and associated woodlots. (This strategy applies to Objectives 4.1–5.1.)

Strategy 6. Protect critical habitat areas through land acquisition. The agricultural region has little public land ownership. Much of the private land is in agriculture. DNR will continue to acquire critical parcels through donations, purchase from willing sellers, or easement acquisition. Critical parcels include areas with native prairie or that pose opportunities to establish grasslands or a riparian forest cover. (This strategy applies to Objectives 1.1–1.3, and 2.2–4.2.)

Strategy 7. Expand focus on corridor management and planning. DNR will promote use of management practices (e.g., planting local source native grasses, mowing, chemical treatment practices, etc.) on rights-of-way (highway and rail corridors, utility line easements, etc.) that enhance the value for native plants and wildlife. DNR will support the National Prairie Passage program (a federal/state effort to establish a network of prairie byways between Texas and Manitoba) and seek to link it closely with the DNR *Conservation Connections* initiative. (This strategy applies to Objectives 2.1–4.2.)

Strategy 8. Seek opportunities to connect recreational users with private landowners. The urbanizing nature of Minnesota's population results in fewer opportunities to access private land suitable for recreation opportunities such as hunting. DNR will support a growing agri-tourism industry to provide optional income sources for farmers and to provide incentives for use of private land to serve public outdoor recreation needs. (This strategy applies to Objective 4.1.)

Strategy 9. Apply appropriate land treatment to native prairies and grasslands on DNR-administered land. DNR will continue to use prescribed fire to maintain grasslands and native prairie in a natural condition (assuming appropriate guidelines in burn size, season, and rotation to reduce risk of species extirpation). DNR will continue to monitor and control noxious weeds on DNR lands. (This strategy applies to Objective 3.1.)

Strategy 10. Increase investments in information technology. Scientific management of agricultural ecosystems depends on continued investments in data collection (e.g., County Biological Survey, Aggregate Inventory, etc.), monitoring, classification, and research (e.g., Prairie Bird Conservation Study and Western white fringed prairie orchid study). DNR will increase its investments in information technology and in efforts to communicate that information to the public. (This strategy applies to all objectives.)

Strategy 11. Assist local government (counties, municipalities, townships, watershed districts, etc.) to make land use and public infrastructure decisions that enhance sustainability of natural resources. Most land use decisions are made at the local level. Local government reviews and approves many of these decisions and plays a major role in land use through development of public infrastructure. Building and siting roads, dams, sewers, and drainage systems pose major implications for ecosystem health and for access to subsurface resources such as sand and gravel. (This strategy applies to Objectives 1.1–2.2, and 3.2–4.2.)

Strategy 12. Provide technical assistance and financial incentives to landowners. DNR, using the assistance of other organizations and working through existing local resources entities (such as counties and watershed districts), will increase efforts to provide technical assistance and financial

incentives to help landowners manage land in ways that are compatible with sustaining native plant and wildlife populations and to manage water resources more effectively. DNR technical assistance in the field will focus on the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and other assistance programs. DNR will encourage adoption of Best Management Practices by farmers and other land managers. DNR will cooperate with landowners to manage exotic species and encroaching vegetation that disrupt the ecological integrity of natural areas on public and private land. The strategy may include training of staff in other organizations to provide the technical assistance farm managers need. The strategy has several components.

– **Prairie Stewardship Planning Assistance:** Prairie Stewardship plans are an outgrowth of the DNR's Forest Stewardship Plan program. The program provides opportunities for professional land planning assistance to landowners with guidance on protecting prairie and grasslands in ways that are compatible with the landowners personal philosophy and land management goals.

– **Cooperative Farming Agreements:** Use cooperative farming agreements (food plots) and grazing agreements to demonstrate agricultural techniques that support ecosystems health consistent with landowner management goals.

– **Cooperative Forums:** Work closely with agricultural organizations to develop forums and other learning opportunities to deliver information to the farming community.

– **Encourage establishing permanent vegetation on some marginal farmlands:** Help landowners establish vegetation, including alternative crops and native vegetation, on lands that are producing a marginal economic return to farm managers.

– **Tree Planting:** Increase funding for DNR programs that assist private landowners to establish tree cover in high priority areas, such as in riparian corridors, while discouraging planting of trees in or adjacent to native prairies.

– **Water Management:** DNR will assist landowners and work with cooperating agencies to prevent excessive runoff and hold water on the landscape for ecological health and human safety.

(This strategy applies to objectives 1.1–2.2, and 3.2–6.1.)

Measuring Progress

DNR goals and objectives for the agricultural areas of the state recognize the importance of agriculture and emphasize achieving natural resource goals while maintaining high agricultural productivity. Because opportunities for making progress toward DNR goals may be more limited here than in other regions of the state, performance measures focus on documenting where those opportunities exist and what management activities are implemented.

Goal 1: Surface water and ground water quality will be protected and improved in the agricultural areas of the state. The quality of water resources in agricultural areas is intimately tied to agricultural practices and other land use decisions. Examples of performance measures that tie land use decisions to changes in water quality are:

- Percent of tilled acres that use conservation tillage practices.
- Percent of river miles with flow regimes within the range of natural variation.

Goal 2: Remaining natural ecosystems (wetlands, grasslands, undeveloped shorelands) within the farmland region will be maintained on public lands and their integrity enhanced on private lands where collaborative efforts with private landowners are possible.

Remnants of natural ecosystems and other areas with relatively little disturbance are especially important as examples of native ecosystems and as reservoirs of plant and animal diversity. Using these areas as centers to which other areas are connected is important to achieving natural resource goals.

Examples of performance measures that document our use of these areas are:

- Acres of prairie managed using prescribed burning.
- Degree of connectivity between areas suitable for wildlife habitat.
- Riparian acres planted to woody vegetation.

Goal 3: Degraded high priority ecosystems and habitats will be maintained or restored to a more natural condition on public lands and on those private lands where collaborative efforts with private landowners are possible. Restoration of disturbed areas include hunting and wildlife viewing. Examples of performance measures that document progress in this area are:

- Acres of restored grasslands.
- Acres of land enrolled in federal and state land retirement programs.
- Acres of wetland removed from production and restored.
- Acres of riparian corridors.

Goal 4: Diverse recreation opportunities in the agricultural region will be developed to a more natural condition on public lands and their integrity enhanced on private lands where collaborative efforts with private landowners are possible. Outdoor recreation in agricultural areas includes hunting and wildlife viewing. Examples of performance measure which document DNR's goal of enhancing these opportunities include:

- Acres of land with public access for hunting.
- Population sizes of selected game species.
- Miles of trail.

➤ Urban and Developing Areas

The natural features of urban and developing areas provide numerous benefits to human communities. Natural areas provide a variety of recreation and other quality of life opportunities. Wetlands provide natural water storage and purification systems. Watersheds provide a network of streams and rivers that drain the landscape. Native plant communities and urban forests clean the air we breathe, sequester and store carbon, and provide habitat for wildlife. Urban forests help to moderate the climate, offering winter shelter and summer cooling that provide energy savings. All of the environmental services provided by natural features fundamentally support the communities and economies of urban and developing areas.

At the same time, development in urban and other areas causes substantial pressures and impacts on the very natural features on which the communities rely. Land cover conversion reduces the area of permeable and ground surfaces, reducing the land's capacity for filtering and storing water. Settlement patterns and transportation corridors may cause habitat loss or fragmentation to the detriment of the environmental services those habitats provide. Rising recreational demands may also have harmful effects as the availability of natural areas to satisfy those demands decreases. Preservation of natural features is often placed in competition with pressure for development. Based on the density of development, the issues for natural resource management in built environments will vary among the urban core or central city, the suburban or exurban fringes, and areas of lakeshore development in predominately rural regions. A sense of urgency is needed for addressing these issues, regardless of location, so that action is taken before resources are lost and before taking action becomes too expensive.

As changes in technology and the growth of the global economy expand people's choices of where to locate, attention to the natural features that make an area livable and desirable becomes all the more important. Land use decisions should seek to maintain a healthy environment and healthy natural resources so that they and the economies they support will continue to attract people, business, and industries to contribute to our overall quality of life.

The following goals and objectives will address issues for natural resource management in urban and developing areas within Minnesota. Not all are the sole responsibility of DNR to achieve, but require working in partnership with other agencies, local units of government, and citizens to achieve multiple positive outcomes from the strategies used.

Urban and Developing Areas Goals and Objectives

GOAL 1. The natural environment in urban and developing areas will have the long term capacity to produce ecological, social, and economic benefits.

Objective 1.1. Discharge rates of water from urban watersheds will be similar to discharge rates prior to large-scale alterations to the hydrologic characteristics of the watershed. The intent is to minimize increased flow rates when development occurs. In areas with a high impervious surface coverage in the watershed, maintain existing areas of vegetation and seek opportunities to increase water infiltration, reduce runoff, and restore vegetative cover. In developing areas with a low percentage of imperviousness, seek opportunities through site development (infiltration ponds, swales, or other site designs) to manage the amount of runoff that is infiltrated versus runoff into lakes and streams.

Objective 1.2. Surface and ground water storage capacity will be sufficient to supply the needs of ecosystems, economic activities, and population growth. Take advantage of opportunities to infiltrate water, recharge groundwater, and filter pollutants.

Objective 1.3. Surface, ground water, and subsurface flows will be free from pollution by heavy metals, excessive nutrients, bacteria, and sediment. The intent is to meet or exceed existing water quality standards.

More objectives and strategies addressing water resources statewide appear in the Water Resources section.

Objective 1.4. Habitat and vegetative cover will be sufficient to support a diversity of plant and animal communities, and species in these communities will be capable of dispersal. Reduce habitat fragmentation; preserve large, intact natural areas; and seek opportunities to restore habitat connectivity in order to support a diversity of animal and plant species in urban and developing areas. Reduce loss of trees and wooded areas from development and construction practices.

Objective 1.5. Natural lands in urban and developing areas will support a diversity of quality outdoor recreation opportunities. Public use of natural lands should be appropriate to the resource base and should not result in degradation of the resource.

Objective 1.6. Residents of urban and developing areas will have access to a diversity of quality outdoor recreation opportunities. Recreation areas, including land and water, will be open and accessible to the public.

More objectives and strategies addressing outdoor recreation appear in the Recreation Systems section.

Objective 1.7. Residents of urban and developing areas will have opportunities to learn about the relationships between people and the natural environment. The demographics of Minnesota's population is changing, becoming older and more diverse. Natural resource stewardship education opportunities should be accessible to all citizens and address the needs of all population sectors.

Objective 1.8. Lands with subsurface resources will have the long term capacity to meet the infrastructure and development needs of urban and developing areas. Minnesota's expanding population is driving an increase in consumption of aggregate materials. The intent is to identify aggregate resources before development occurs. This will allow mining to proceed in conjunction with development, in a manner that conserves identified aggregate resources. Further, it will allow for early reclamation planning designed to meet the post-mining needs of the developing community.

GOAL 2. Local communities will have the information, expertise, and resources to plan for and manage their natural resources.

Objective 2.1. Local communities will have a decision-support system that facilitates consideration of natural resource issues in land use planning. Support for local decisions will come from partnerships among all agencies in all levels of government, non-governmental organizations, and citizens with a natural resource decision making role in the community. DNR's role is to provide technical assistance and decision coordination.

Objective 2.2. Local communities will have access to the necessary information to incorporate natural resource issues in land use planning. Information comes from a wide range of organizations. DNR's role is to provide easily accessible information. This will influence how we collect and provide data in order to elevate the importance of natural resources in the land use planning process.

Objective 2.3. Local communities will have access to information that guides management of natural resources to produce long term ecological, social, and economic benefits. DNR's role is to provide and interpret information and to assist in understanding how it applies to local decisions. The intent is that local communities will understand the consequences of decisions affecting natural resources in order to make informed choices between multiple goals.

Urban and Developing Areas Management Strategies

The DNR will use the following approaches to achieve the goals and objectives for urban and developing areas in Minnesota.

Strategy 1. In cooperation with federal, state, and local agencies and Soil & Water Conservation Districts, encourage best management practices in local communities to manage storm water discharges, control erosion and runoff, and maintain the water storage and infiltration capacity of the watershed to ensure that development is not damaged by future floods. Ensure that urban development policies minimize adverse changes to the hydrologic system, including stream flow rates, total runoff volume, ground water recharge, and erosion and sedimentation discharge. (Objectives 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3)

Strategy 2. Identify and implement habitat redevelopment opportunities in the urban core, protect quality habitat and communities, and maintain habitat connectivity in developing areas. Coordinate with local units of government to address development issues in sensitive natural areas, such as bluffslands. Train local staff and volunteers in natural resource restoration projects, monitoring native habitats and species, and other indicator projects. (Objective 1.4)

Strategy 3. Promote local planning that incorporates natural resource base line information early in the planning process, and work with citizens and local units of government to develop natural resource and wildlife management plans and guidelines that reduce people and wildlife conflicts. (Objectives 1.7, 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3)

Strategy 4. Promote working in partnerships across governmental boundaries and encourage and assist in partnerships with private and public land owners. (Objectives 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3)

Strategy 5. Maintain vegetative cover and reduce the extent of impervious surfaces in the watershed. Where feasible remove development with high-damage potential from areas needed to convey flood flows and restore these areas with native vegetation. Protect and restore to native vegetation lands sensitive to development impacts (lake shores and stream banks, steep slopes, flood plains). Protect and restore shoreline vegetation. (Objectives 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3)

Strategy 6. Reduce or eliminate populations of invasive non-native aquatic and terrestrial species and eliminate introductions of invasive non-native species. (Objective 1.4)

Strategy 7. Increase tree canopy in urban areas and maintain or increase tree canopy in developing areas. (Objective 1.4)

Strategy 8. Protect and restore habitat. Maintain and enhance existing habitat connectivity to reduce the impacts of development on habitat and wildlife populations. (Objective 1.4)

Strategy 9. Collect, interpret, and disseminate information that uses the concept of cumulative effects to evaluate on a watershed basis the impacts of development on the quantity and quality of water resources. Monitor and evaluate water supply demands and the effectiveness of conservation efforts. Assist communities in understanding the impacts of development on surface and ground water quality and quantity. (Objectives 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3)

Strategy 10. Increase DNR's information base on the natural resource impacts of land use decisions, population, growth, and recreation pressures and on the effectiveness of management strategies in urban and developing areas. (Objectives 1.4, 1.5, and 1.6)

Strategy 11. Increase the accessibility and usability of natural resource information to local units of government, business, landowners, non-governmental organizations, and other state agencies. (Objectives 2.2 and 2.3)

Strategy 12. Define and quantify existing levels of outdoor recreation currently occurring with urban and developing areas across the state. (Objectives 1.5 and 1.6)

Strategy 13. Identify potential aggregate resources in areas likely to be needed for urban development to avoid encumbrance of aggregate deposits that can be used for development. Identify post-mining land use needs with associated site specific reclamation practices and plan and stage activities to meet community growth needs. (Objectives 1.8, 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3)

Strategy 14. Work with local communities to encourage adopting Smart Growth principles and best management plans that protect surface and ground water quality, conserve ground water, protect fish and wildlife habitat, preserve natural areas, and conserve wetlands and wooded areas. Assist local communities in developing and implementing resource conservation and management plans. Use the DNR Environmental Review Process to inform local decision makers about fish and wildlife needs and benefits and to help guide environmentally-friendly development. Work with local communities in guiding aggregate mining to reduce conflicts and to support good reclamation practices. (Objectives 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, and 1.8)

Strategy 15. Provide education materials, workshops, data (MCBS), maps, handbooks, and best management practices guidelines to local communities. Enhance coordination and integration of natural resource guidance given to local communities by DNR programs and other agencies. Train local planners, resource managers, and consultants on how to assess and use natural resource information effectively in local land use planning. (Objectives 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3)

Strategy 16. Assess the capacity of local communities to effectively manage their natural resources and provide assistance through information and training. (Objectives 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3)

Strategy 17. Promote planning grants that support natural resource inventories and plans. Support local land use planning that actively and effectively involves citizens and stakeholders. Tie grant criteria to working in partnerships across governmental boundaries. Coordinate and consolidate where practical the various DNR financial assistance programs to local communities. (Objectives 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3)

Strategy 18. Encourage conservation of ground and surface water use and withdrawal so that water supplies are sustained. Communicate the importance of protecting wildlife habitat and natural areas—including the impacts of non-native aquatic and terrestrial species—as well as practical ways that protection can be accomplished. Inform on the need and appropriateness of management tools such as removal of invasive non-native species, hunting, and capture-transport-release. (Objectives 1.2, 1.4, and 1.7)

Strategy 19. Maintain and enhance DNR programs that address educational, aesthetic, and social qualities of communities in urban and developing areas. Enhance the DNR School Forest, Neighborhood Wilds, and other cooperative outdoor nature study area programs in urban and developing areas. (Objective 1.7)

Strategy 20. Recognize the demographic changes in urban and developing areas and meet the needs of all citizens. (Objective 1.7)

Strategy 21. Maintain and enhance hunting, fishing, and non-game activities in urban and developing areas. Provide public access to areas for hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, biking, and other terrestrial and water recreation areas. Provide access to open space for unstructured exploration of the natural world. (Objectives 1.5 and 1.6)

Strategy 22. Develop a system of linked parks and trail ways within a greenways network. Maintain and enhance trails in urban and developing areas, and give attention to preserving existing routes that are threatened by development. Provide assistance in planning trail placement and design to ensure natural features are protected and enhanced. Incorporate environmental criteria into the design and siting of recreation areas. (Objectives 1.5 and 1.6)

Measuring Progress

Measuring progress toward DNR goals and objectives for urban and developing areas requires that we track progress toward maintaining the capacity of the natural environment to produce the ecological, social, and economic benefits (Goal 1) which are associated with contributing to Minnesota's quality of life. Furthermore, because the decisions of local communities impact the natural environment, measuring progress towards providing local communities with the information, expertise, and resources they need to plan for and manage their natural resources (Goal 2) is equally vital. To these ends, examples of performance measures linked to DNR goals and objectives are described below:

Goal 1: The natural environment in urban and developing areas will have the long-term capacity to produce ecological, social, and economic benefits. Measuring progress toward this goal requires an emphasis on the environmental outcomes required to sustain benefits such as the capacity of watersheds to infiltrate and transport water; adequate supplies of clean water to meet the demands of ecological systems and local economies; a diversity of plant and animal communities, and natural lands open and accessible to outdoor recreation. Example measures are:

- Average annual flood damages.
- Water levels in wells in principal aquifers.
- Acres of large, intact natural areas.
- Connectivity of vegetative communities (connectivity, dispersion indices to be determined).
- Total acres of land and water open and accessible to the public.

Goal 2: Local communities will have the information, expertise, and resources to plan for and manage their natural resources. This goal focuses on increasing the ability of local communities to incorporate natural resources into land use decisions and increasing their understanding of the consequences of land use decisions on the environment's ability to provide a sustainable flow of benefits. Example measures are:

- Number of local comprehensive plans with natural resource baseline information.
- Number of watershed and landscape level natural resource plans (across jurisdictional boundaries) and grant dollars provided to these initiatives.

➤ Recreation Systems

DNR's Outdoor Recreation System

Outdoor recreation generates benefits for individuals, families, and society at large. In short, recreation adds value to our personal and collective lives. Demands for these benefits provide a rationale for establishing recreation opportunities, facilities, and services. Ensuring these benefits are available is the basic goal of outdoor recreation providers such as the Department of Natural Resources.

Outdoor recreation generates personal, social, economic, and environmental benefits. Personal benefits of outdoor recreation include improved mental and physical health, personal growth and education, an enhanced connection to nature, and simply the opportunity to have fun. Social benefits include stronger family or interpersonal bonds and a heightened sense of community identity. The economic benefits of outdoor recreation in Minnesota are quite apparent. They include strengthening the state's resort and tourism industry; attraction, retention and growth of local and regional businesses; the revitalization of small communities; and increased workforce productivity. Environmental benefits include a strengthening of the public's environmental ethic, a higher commitment to protect significant natural resource areas, and more active citizen involvement in environmental issues.

Providing outdoor recreation opportunities is truly a public-private partnership in Minnesota. All levels of government are involved from federal to state to local. And each level has its own particular niche to serve. The federal and state levels focus primarily on the resource-extensive opportunities—such as wildlife areas, large parks and primitive areas—while local governments tend to focus on population-oriented facilities, such as athletic fields and community parks. The private sector is a major provider, too, as demonstrated by Minnesota's thriving recreation-oriented tourism industry.

The DNR is the primary state-level provider of outdoor recreation. DNR's focus is on natural resource-based outdoor recreation opportunities, from hunting and fishing to hiking and trail riding to a variety of water sports. The DNR has a multi-faceted role in recreation, ranging from the direct provision of recreation opportunities (e.g., water accesses, trails and parks), to the maintenance of the natural resource base upon which outdoor recreation opportunities depend (e.g., plant and animal habitat, and connecting resource hubs through the new *Conservation Connections* initiative), to the safety of outdoor recreation participation (e.g., boating safety and hunter education).

Central to DNR's recreation role is the management of an outdoor recreation system with eleven units established by the state legislature (M. S. 86A. 05). These units provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities that benefit a range of outdoor enthusiasts.

1. State Parks
2. State Recreation Areas
3. State Trails
4. State Scientific and Natural Areas
5. State Wilderness Areas
6. State Forests
7. State Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers
8. State Water Access Sites
9. State Wildlife Management Areas
10. State Aquatic Management Areas
11. Other DNR units identified in the Outdoor Recreation Chapter (M. S. 86A) including State Safe Harbors.

As DNR develops these recreation units, it will work with local and county governments to plan for the impacts of increased recreational activities on the services required of local governments (e.g., police, fire, emergency medical services, roads).

The DNR's outdoor recreation goals, objectives, and strategies are presented below. They demonstrate the wide ranging importance of outdoor recreation at the DNR. They encompass DNR programs involved with the maintenance of the natural resource base upon which many recreation opportunities depend (organized under Goal 1 below), programs involved with the direct provision of recreation opportunities (Goal 2), and programs concerned with the safety of outdoor enthusiasts (Goal 3).

Note: The strategies in this chapter are listed under their relevant objectives. This format differs slightly from the other chapters which have strategies grouped together after the goals and objectives sections.

Outdoor Recreation Goals, Objectives and Strategies

GOAL 1. Minnesota's natural resources will be able to produce outdoor recreation benefits over the long term.

Objective 1.1. Minnesota will continue to have a diversity of recreation landscapes that provide a range of opportunities for outdoor recreation experiences. Minnesota has a variety of recreation landscapes from lightly modified to heavily modified. Lightly modified recreation landscapes include primitive and semi-primitive areas such as those in northeastern Minnesota (see Figure 1). Heavily modified recreation landscapes exist throughout Minnesota but are more common near urban and agricultural areas. Nearly 80% of Minnesota's primitive and semi-primitive lands and many of the state's urban natural areas are publicly owned, which underlines the important role public land management plays in permanently maintaining a full spectrum of recreation landscapes.

Strategy 1. Preserve natural, remote outdoor recreation opportunities through public land ownership and partnerships with private landowners.

Strategy 2. Develop and maintain outdoor recreation opportunities in and around urban areas through partnerships and acquisition.

Strategy 3. Manage view sheds to maintain natural settings for water-related outdoor recreation opportunities.

Objective 1.2. Minnesota's native plant and animal communities will be preserved (remnant communities from the time of European settlement). Minnesota's native plant and animal communities include the habitats of rare, threatened and endangered species, geologic sites and other natural features. These resources serve as the basis for outdoor recreation opportunities and numerous DNR programs.

Strategy 1. Identify and protect natural features that have a high priority for recreation use (see other resource sections for related strategies and performance measures).

Strategy 2. Create opportunities both to preserve Minnesota's native plant and animal communities and to provide for expanding outdoor recreation opportunities.

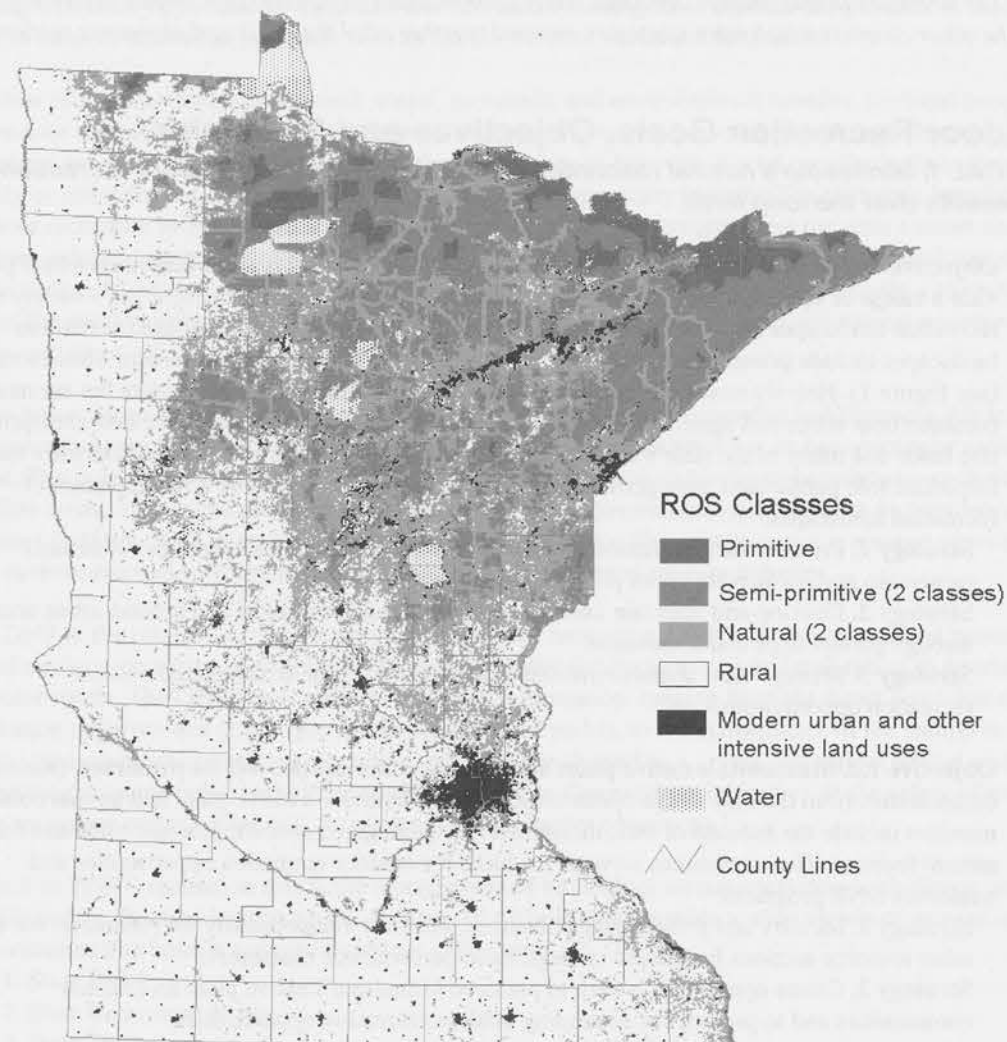
Objective 1.3. Minnesota lakes and rivers will be fishable and swimmable. Many of Minnesota's outdoor recreation opportunities depend on healthy lakes, rivers, and wetlands. While not all water bodies are, nor can be, fishable and swimmable, DNR will work to attain this objective where appropriate.

Strategy 1. Protect, enhance, and restore Minnesota's aquatic resources (see Waters section for related strategies and performance measures).

Strategy 2. Manage recreation development in a manner that protects lakes and rivers. This includes both public (e.g., boat access, campground, shore fishing site) and private (e.g., shoreland housing, resort, marina) developments.

Figure 1

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS)



Source: MN DNR, 1984-89 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Objective 1.4. Recreation activities will not significantly impair the natural resource base on which they depend. There are limits to the use of Minnesota's natural resources. DNR will manage recreation activities to ensure the long term health of the state's natural resources.

Strategy 1. Develop and enforce outdoor recreation rules that protect Minnesota's natural resources (e.g., surface water use zoning, use restrictions at sensitive environmental sites).

Strategy 2. Develop outdoor recreation areas and facilities in suitable places and minimize impacts to natural resources when they cannot be avoided (e.g., seasonal closures, separation of trail uses, lake-scaping, facility siting).

Strategy 3. Enhance efforts to monitor and evaluate recreational activities that impact natural resources over large geographic areas (e.g., off-highway vehicle use, motorized watercraft use, mountain biking, horseback riding).

Objective 1.5. Minnesota's natural environment will support populations of fish, wildlife, and plant species to sustain recreational opportunities. Minnesota has some of the highest participation rates for hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing in the nation. High participation in outdoor recreation can stress and deplete natural resources.

Strategy 1. Develop and enforce regulations that conserve populations of fish, wildlife, and plants.

Strategy 2. Continue research to support healthy fish, wildlife, and plant populations for fishing, hunting and viewing.

GOAL 2. Outdoor enthusiasts will have access to Minnesota's natural resources for a variety of recreation opportunities including environmental education.

Objective 2.1. Public lands and waters will be open and accessible for public recreation use.

Public lands and waters in Minnesota are owned in common by state residents. In most cases, some form of developed access is necessary to make them available for use.

Strategy 1. Continue to create and maintain access to public lands and waters through facility developments (fishing piers, boat accesses, trails, etc.), cooperative agreements with public and private land owners, and acquisition of land and easements.

Strategy 2. Develop facilities that provide access for multiple recreational uses at one location when appropriate.

Strategy 3. Provide outdoor recreation opportunities close to where people live.

Objective 2.2. People of all abilities will have access to outdoor recreation opportunities.

Opportunities should be accessible to all people including those with impairments that affect mobility, sight, hearing, and cognitive functions.

Strategy 1. Build DNR facilities using universal design principles and reconstruct or modify existing facilities that are not accessible.

Strategy 2. Require facilities that receive DNR financial assistance to meet accessibility principles.

Objective 2.3. DNR will address the needs of diverse populations when developing outdoor recreation programs and facilities. Minnesota's demographics have changed significantly in the last ten years. The state's population is increasingly older and more diverse. Immigrants need information, education, and assistance to learn about outdoor recreation opportunities.

Strategy 1. Enhance outreach efforts to diverse populations.

Strategy 2. Provide public information in different languages and formats.

Strategy 3. Evaluate and provide for the outdoor recreation needs of different groups and cultures.

Objective 2.4. Representative examples of Minnesota's natural and cultural heritage will be available for public education and enjoyment. Using a variety of educational tools, recreation enthusiasts will be able to understand and enjoy Minnesota's heritage. Examples of tools are self-guided displays and tours, naturalist programs, classes, publications, and kiosks.

- Strategy 1.** Provide access to Minnesota's natural features, landscapes, and rare resources for scientific research, public education, and enjoyment.
- Strategy 2.** Cooperate with schools, environmental learning centers, and universities to provide natural resource stewardship education opportunities. Determine gaps in existing opportunities and make needed adjustments.
- Strategy 3.** Work with Minnesota's diverse populations, including Native Americans, to interpret the state's pre-settlement and settlement cultural heritage.
- Strategy 4.** Design new educational tools and programs for enhancing understanding of Minnesota's heritage.

Objective 2.5. DNR— in cooperation with the public, other providers, and the private sector — will help ensure a range of natural resource based outdoor recreation opportunities. DNR provides a portion of the outdoor recreation opportunities that people desire. A complete outdoor recreation system requires participation from multiple levels of government and the private sector (see Figure 2).

- Strategy 1.** Develop a statewide outdoor recreation plan that defines the department's recreation priorities, guides actions, involves citizens, and meets guidelines to qualify for federal funding.
- Strategy 2.** Encourage broad participation from the outdoor recreation community and stakeholders to better coordinate the provision of a complete outdoor recreation system.
- Strategy 3.** Provide financial and technical assistance to local governments for outdoor recreation facilities.

Objective 2.6. The public will be aware of the outdoor recreation opportunities DNR provides. DNR uses many approaches to inform the public about outdoor recreation opportunities. DNR will ensure that these approaches are effective and keep abreast of emerging technologies.

- Strategy 1.** Improve and integrate public information, education, marketing, and outreach.
- Strategy 2.** Research how the public learns about outdoor recreation opportunities.

Objective 2.7. People who use DNR outdoor recreation facilities, services, and programs will be satisfied. DNR will measure public satisfaction to ensure that its facilities, services, and programs are high quality and that it is managing public expectations within the carrying capacity of the resource.

- Strategy 1.** Measure public satisfaction through market research and customer surveys.
- Strategy 2.** Use survey results to refine DNR's outdoor recreation services and programs, and ensure that they are high quality.

GOAL 3. Outdoor enthusiasts will have the opportunity for safe and responsible experiences.

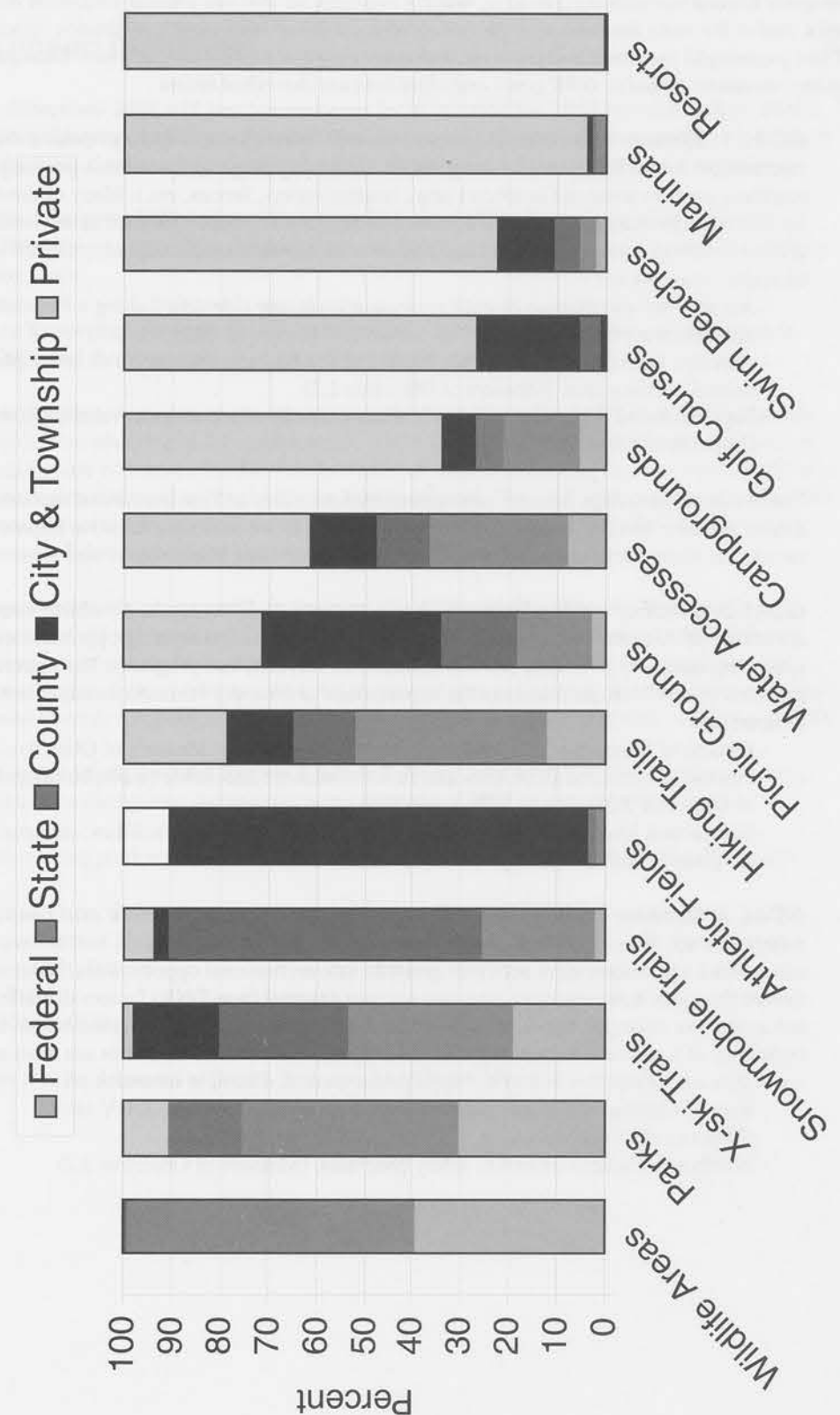
Objective 3.1. Outdoor enthusiasts will demonstrate safe behavior. Responsible behavior as defined by state law and common sense is an essential component of a safe recreation experience.

- Strategy 1.** Enforce outdoor recreation safety regulations.
- Strategy 2.** Provide clear, consistent outdoor recreation information and education regarding rules and expected behaviors.
- Strategy 3.** Provide public education and safety training for hunting, snowmobiling, and ATV and watercraft use.
- Strategy 4.** Inform the public about health concerns such as fish consumption, Lyme disease, and swimmer's itch.

Objective 3.2. DNR's recreation facilities will provide safe opportunities for the public. Public health and safety is a responsibility of DNR and other government agencies. This responsibility includes outdoor recreation.

- Strategy 1.** Construct, operate, and maintain DNR recreation facilities in a safe, responsible manner.

Figure 2



Measuring Progress

How do we measure progress toward DNR's three recreational goals? Broadly, we need to track both progress toward maintaining a diverse, healthy environment that can provide long-term recreation benefits, and at the same time measure the variety and quality of Minnesota's recreation opportunities. Thus, meaningful measures will focus on both environmental and social outcomes. Examples of performance measures linked to DNR goals and objectives are described below.

GOAL 1: Minnesota's natural resources will have the ability to produce outdoor recreation benefits over the long term. Measuring progress toward this goal requires an emphasis on environmental outcomes (e.g., healthy waters, forests, etc.). Many of these measures are described in other sections of *Directions 2000*, yet some measures such as the availability of diverse landscapes and native plant and animal communities, are particularly relevant to recreation. Example measures are:

- Acreage and distribution of each recreation landscape (identified along a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum from "primitive" to "urban"). (Measure of Objective 1.1)
- Acreage, location, and ownership (including fee title and easements) of native plant and animal communities. (Measure of Objective 1.2)
- Population and harvesting trends of selected species of recreational value (e.g., walleye). (Measure of Objectives 1.4, 1.5)

Examining relationships between our recreational activities and environmental outcomes (e.g., fishing pressure and fish population trends) helps ensure we minimize negative impacts and thus sustain the natural resources and recreation opportunities that Minnesotans care about so deeply.

GOAL 2: Outdoor enthusiasts will have access to Minnesota's natural resources for a variety of recreation opportunities. This goal focuses on creating opportunities to use natural resources by providing recreation facilities, services, and programs. The opportunities provided by the DNR need to meet the expectations of a variety of outdoor enthusiasts. Example measures are:

- Percent of Minnesota lakes and rivers with public access. (Measure of Objective 2.1)
- Percent of evaluated DNR sites and facilities that are accessible (trails, buildings). (Measure of Objective 2.2)
- Satisfaction levels of people who use DNR outdoor recreation facilities, services, and programs. (Measure of Objective 2.7)

GOAL 3: Outdoor enthusiasts will have the opportunity for safe and responsible experiences. While the DNR cannot be responsible for personal choices and behaviors, DNR's educational and enforcement activities promote safe recreational opportunities. Measuring progress toward this goal, however, must take into account external (non-DNR) factors that affect safety outcomes. For example, trends in accident rates are the result of many factors: length of a season, popularity of a recreational activity, alcohol use, etc. Performance measures are most meaningful when they are interpreted within the appropriate context. Example measures are:

- Rate of fatalities and major accidents by category (e.g., hunting, OHV, etc.). (Measure of Objective 3.1)
- Number of Citizens trained in safety programs. (Measure of Objective 3.2)

The Task Ahead

The task ahead includes:

Budgeting: *Directions 2000* will provide guidance for developing the DNR biennial budget. *Directions 2000* identifies strategies that merit additional budgetary or organizational support. An example is the DNR focus on *Conservation Connections* development.

Organizational Targets: DNR will develop numerical targets for selected objectives described in *Directions 2000*. Targets will allow DNR to measure success or progress in reaching both short term and long term goals.

Performance Reporting: *Performance Report 2001* will be based on the goals and objectives in *Directions 2000* and the targets developed for selected objectives.

Agency Coordination: Creation of specific goals, objectives, strategies, and targets establishes the basis for coordinated planning at the agency level. For example, DNR and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency share common concerns for the health of natural resources. Each agency implements an array of strategies designed to foster sustainable ecosystems. Those strategies are most often compatible but not always coordinated. Development of the strategic plan provides the basis for closer coordination with federal, state, and local agencies.

Plan Implementation: Implementation is the heart of a strategic plan. Plan implementation itself includes an array of efforts, such as a focus on the specific strategies identified in the plan (action planning), outreach to stakeholders, development of strategic plans for key DNR disciplines, and development of regional sustainability plans. All of these efforts collectively are part of the planning cycle and build towards a regular update of *Directions 2000*. That update probably will occur in 2002.

Integration at the Discipline and Regional Level: Over the long term, DNR will update existing strategic plans of its disciplines and regions using *Directions 2000* as a guiding framework.

DNR is receptive to suggestions and comments on any part of this strategic plan. Please direct such comments to:

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
OMBS Planning Unit, Box 10
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4010

Comments also may be delivered to DNR's Web site: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us>



State butterfly, 2000



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December 2000

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**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
ONE WEST WATER STREET, CONFERENCE ROOM
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55107
DECEMBER 13, 2000**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathleen Roer, Jim Dahlvang, Jerome Deal, Lee Coe, Darrell Bruggman, Jim Anderson-MES, Dwain Otte, Char Kahler, Paul Krabbenhoft, Ginny Imholte, Wayne Edgerton-DNR, Jack Frost, Dan Wilson-MDH, Mark Dittrich-MDA.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Allan Oehlke, Clair Nelson, Rod Massey-PCA

STAFF PRESENT: Ron Harnack, Doug Thomas, John Jaschke, Derek Fisher, Al Kean, Mary Jo Anderson, Ron Shelito, Dan Steward, Marybeth Block, Wayne Zellmer, Steve Woods, Tim Ogg, Pete Raeker

OTHERS PRESENT:
Marilyn Deneen, Capitol Region WD
LeAnn Buck, MASWCD
John Brach, NRCS

Call Meeting to Order - Chair Roer called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**
00-82 **Adopt Agenda** - Moved by Jim Dahlvang, seconded by Dan Wilson, to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion passed on a voice vote.

**
00-83 **Minutes of October 25, 2000** - Moved by Jack Frost, seconded by Char Kahler, to approve the minutes of October 25, 2000, as circulated. Motion passed on a voice vote.

REPORTS

Chair's Report - Chair Roer reported that she attended the public hearings for district enlargement and increase in number of managers for the Browns Creek Watershed District, November 27 in Stillwater; and the Valley Branch Watershed District, November 29 in Lake Elmo.

Chair Roer attended the MAWD annual meeting in Alexandria. ^{Uldrich} Jack Aldrich, deputy commissioner of Minnesota Planning, was the keynote speaker. Chair Roer stated that the workshops and meetings were very good. BWSR staff contributes extensively to the MAWD annual meeting.

Chair Roer reported that the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) did not meet in November; a meeting will be held next week.

Executive Director's Report - Ron Harnack briefly commented on the Olmsted SWCD; things are moving forward. Ron requested that the BWSR Administrative Advisory Committee meet to develop guiding principles and procedures to adequately respond to incidents that could occur over time, such as the issues in Olmsted SWCD.

Ron reported on new BWSR employees. Kevin Lines was recently hired as administrator of the conservation easement program and easement section leader. Kevin Zytkevich was recently hired as conservation engineering technician in the central office. Jeremy Larson, also a conservation engineering technician, will be located in Montevideo with the SWCD joint powers engineering staff.

Ron stated that he's optimistic as he continues discussions on the agency budget. Ron stated that ongoing litigation regarding the Hugo lawsuit has taken on a lot of staff time for John Jaschke and Jim Haertel. The court date has been set for January. Ron reported that the mediation with Judge Simonette has been set on the back burner because people have not come to the table as they should have, which is difficult to get issues resolved. Ron reported that the court decision is pending regarding the Big Stone ditch system. John Jaschke testified regarding the jurisdiction of WCA.

Ron attended the National Grazing Lands Conference in Las Vegas last week; he sits on the National Grazing Land Initiative steering committee.

Ron completed field office visits with field staff and local governments around the state. Ron stated that most of the comments he received regarding BWSR programs were positive.

Ron stated that with the new administration at the federal level, changes will occur regarding the Farm Bill. Doug Thomas, Wayne Edgerton, DNR, and Perry Aasness, MDA, have formed a staff group to convene a Minnesota Farm Bill Policy Forum in February.

Ron gave an update on CREP. As of December 8, 735 easements have been recorded for a total of 26,723 acres. There is \$8.2M left, with substantial applications coming in. Ron's optimistic that by February, the \$8.2 M will be spent on CREP. Ron stated that the CREP numbers are updated monthly on BWSR's website.

Ron has meetings scheduled with legislators. Ron will distribute the new leadership positions in the Senate and House to board members. Senator Jane Krentz will chair the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, and Senator Len Price, will chair the Environment and Agriculture Budget Committee.

Ron reported on the Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation (BGIC) special district grant applications. Eight applications were received. BWSR staff recommend three as priority for further review: 1) South Central Minnesota Natural Resource Program Delivery; 2) Vermillion River Watershed in Dakota and Scott Counties; and 3) Tri-County Wetland Conservation Action Implementation in the Red River Valley. The BGIC meets tomorrow to review the applications; a decision will be made on the grants in January.

Ron met with the Governor's Appointments Office regarding the three board member vacancies. Ron stated that applications are lacking from county commissioners, hopefully, those will be in by Christmas. Ron stated that several applications were received but were ineligible due to location. Ron hopes to have those positions filled by February.

Ron attended a national recognition of Vice President Al Gore's National Partnership for Reinventing Government, honoring all Hammer Award recipients at the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge.

Dispute Resolution Committee - Chair Roer reported that the Forest Lake Cub Foods matter resolved itself by Cub Foods choosing another site. Chair Roer reported that there is presently one appeal pending. The appeal regards Anoka County Ditch number 53-62. The Rice Creek Watershed District denied an exemption involving the federal exemption. The Board has previously heard two appeals on this ditch at this location but they dealt with a different exemption. A determination on accepting the appeal has not been made yet so a prehearing has not been scheduled. At the October BWSR meeting, an appeal was pending on Lac qui Parle County Ditch number 5. That appeal has been remanded so an adequate record can be developed.

Wetlands Committee - Darrell Bruggman reported that the wetlands committee will meet on January 24, a draft agenda has been distributed. The finalization of WCA Oversight Policy will be reviewed at the January meeting. Ron asked board members to review the flowchart regarding the oversight/correction action plan. Chair Roer stated that if new members aren't getting information, contact John Jaschke.

Cost-Share/Soil Conservation Committee - Dwain Otte reported that the next cost-share committee meeting will be held January 23. The committee will look at options for cost-share allocations, based on performance, and review of annual plans to see that goals and objectives are met. Wayne Zellmer distributed the Nonpoint Engineering Grants assessment, which shows the program will run out of money by April 2002. In trying to address this projected budget shortfall, the MASWCD recommends five short term and long term funding needs. The cost-share committee will be meeting next month to review allocations and present final recommendations to the Board in February.

Education and Public Relations Committee - Paul Krabbenhoft reported that he attended the MASWCD annual meeting. He stated that there is strong support of CREP statewide. There was an emergency resolution at MASWCD regarding the state Envirothon. The resolution was tabled, further discussions will be held. Chair Roer asked about the Environmental Education Office, could they or others provide funds for the program although they do not run the Envirothon. Ron stated that the Environmental Education Office is a part of the Department of Children, Families, and Learning (CFL). In previous years, CFL was asked to participate, but they had other priorities. Discussion followed regarding extending the Envirothon to the junior high level, which is a Minnesota idea, rather than a national level. The Canon National Envirothon is at the senior high level, sponsored by Canon.

Paul reported that the BWSR website was discussed at the education committee meeting this morning. The website continues to be improved. Paul asked for board member comments on the new version of the board member update. "The BWSR

Update" is a publication written by Pete Raeker, communications director. Paul reported that information packets have been developed for meetings with legislators. Jim Anderson, MES, reported that the education committee will revisit the drainage issue at their January meeting. Paul commended Pete Raeker for his good work as communications director. The education committee will meet at 8:00 a.m. on January 24. The Nonpoint source Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) project will be discussed at the January education committee meeting. Jim Anderson reported that MES has been commissioned for environmental education. He stated that this discussion is happening in other agencies as well.

Administrative Advisory Committee – Ron Harnack stated that the administrative advisory committee will meet via conference call prior to the January board meeting.

Agency Reports

Mark Dittich, Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), reported that feedlot meetings on the new feedlot rules will be held county-wide in January, February, March. If interested contact Mark or Jim Anderson at MES. Mark commented on MDA's outreach program for purple looseleaf. Chair Roer stated that an area in Wayzata is covered with purple looseleaf. Mark commended David Sill and Tabor Hoek for their fine efforts in working with the Lac qui Parle remand.

Dan Wilson, Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), reported that budgets for water programs are still alive; he's cautiously optimistic. MDH is looking at a children's environmental health program. Dan reported that during the 2000 legislative session, discussions were held regarding appropriations for new buildings for the MDH and MDA; a second campus for several state office buildings. Dan stated that the administration is looking at property; however, we've been through this before. Dan reported that a group of staff meets quarterly to discuss delegation to locals, good outcome of that program.

Wayne Edgerton, Department of Natural Resources, (DNR), reported that DNR has hired an environmental education position for DNR's stewardship program. Dawn Flynn, will coordinate meetings with BWSR, MES, and CFL as we move forward on environmental education. Wayne stated that CREP continues to move forward with twenty field technical positions. DNR anticipates an active legislative session with the concon and trespass issues. DNR staff suggest that the trespass issue be remedied by modifying the ag land definition.

Jim Anderson, Minnesota Extension Service (MES), reported that a listening session will be held today in Rosemount, designed to talk about budgets and priorities. Jim reported that the American Soybean Association has sponsored two efforts: a

certification program for growers; and an environmental assessment program/best management handbook. Jim reported that an LCMR project dairy initiative, may be funded July 1, 2001. This dairy initiative is looking at an environmental assurance program to look at dairy farms statewide. Jim stated that MES continues efforts involving the Lower Minnesota River watershed. A grant received through Met Council, has an active citizen program, entered into partnership with Friends of the Minnesota River. Listening sessions have been held, and they plan to do a series of sessions for the Lower Minnesota River watershed. The group just met with local water planners.

Consent Agenda

**
00-84 Aitkin County, Lyon County, Nicollet County, Pine County, Sibley County, and Stevens County Requests for Comprehensive Local Water Plan Extensions. Moved by Jack Frost, seconded by Lee Coe, to approve the Aitkin, Lyon, Nicollet, Pine, Sibley and Stevens Counties' requests for comprehensive local water plan extensions. Darrell Bruggman abstained from voting on the Aitkin County plan extension. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Committee Recommendations

Southern Subcommittee - Jim Dahlvang reported that the southern subcommittee reviewed the Fillmore County and Houston County Comprehensive Local Water Plan Update. Mark Dittrich stated that the MDA had commented to Houston County that they would like to see the next plan update be prepared as a stand alone document. Ron Harnack pointed out that the plan does not meet the Board's expectations for third generation plans, as communicated via BWSR guidance and board conservationist Mary Kells' comments on the plan on behalf of BWSR. Members of the Board agreed that Houston County's 2005 plan approval will be contingent upon: 1) it being written as a stand alone document; 2) watersheds be adequately addressed; and 3) the goals and objectives are written in measurable terms. Ron Harnack stated that a map will be distributed showing those counties that have been approved. Moved by Jim Dahlvang, seconded by Dwain Otte, to approve Fillmore County and Houston County Comprehensive Local Water Plan Update. Motion passed on a voice vote.

**
00-85

Northern Subcommittee - Ginny Imholte reported that the northern subcommittee reviewed the Todd County Comprehensive Local Water Plan Update. Ginny stated that the Todd County Plan has a good emphasis on watersheds, which has a map showing undeveloped lakes and rivers. Moved by Ginny Imholte, seconded by Dwain Otte, to approve the Todd County Comprehensive Local Water Plan Update. Motion passed on a voice vote.

**
00-86

Metro Subcommittee – Dwain Otte reported that the Metro Subcommittee reviewed the Capitol Region Watershed District Watershed Management Plan. Dwain stated that this is an excellent plan, good design and layout, and they have a unique working relationship with the counties. Jack Frost stated that he's concerned regarding oversight, and is skeptical of local permitting, is the process working. Moved by Dwain Otte, seconded by Jack Frost, to approve the Capitol Region Watershed District Watershed Management Plan. Motion passed on a voice vote. Marylyn Deneen, representative of the Capitol Region board of managers, thanked BWSR staff for assistance on the plan. Chair Roer stated that she is was very impressed with the work that has been accomplished during the past two years of existence at the Capitol Region Watershed District.

**

00-87

Chair Roer called for a break in the meeting at 10:45 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:55 a.m.

New Business

Local Government Accomplishments in 1998 and 1999 Reported via the Local Government Annual Reporting System (LARS) - Doug Thomas introduced Eric Mohring, groundwater specialist, who will present the accomplishments achieved with appropriations to LGUs. Eric stated that BWSR administers state funds to LGUs to accomplish a variety of management and planning functions. When those funds are used on projects, there is an increasing need to assess measurable benefits and determine the effectiveness of state spending. Eric stated that beginning in 1996, BWSR, the U of M/Soils Department, and MPCA started developing a computerized reporting system. The resulting database application became known as LARS (Local government Annual Reporting System). Eric stated that though there has been a host of problems with LARS in the past, LARS will be retooled and refined so efforts can be built into GIS application, estimates of nutrient benefits, soil savings, watershed yields, sediment and phosphorus reduction. Eric stated that they're in the early stages of developing a GIS and web-based reporting tool. This presentation was presented to EPA, and staff will continue to work on a collaborative effort. Chair Roer stated that this is a great start and when refined will be an incredibly efficient tool to give back to the users. It was suggested that this be presented to the MASWCD and MACDE training sessions and annual convention. Doug reported that staff will meet with LGUs on a blue ribbon task force to look at application efficiencies and efforts with a private company. Mark Dittrich congratulated BWSR staff on this endeavor, and asked staff to query others for assistance in delivery of this program. Lee Coe suggested a cost benefit ratio be included. Ron Harnack commended Eric Mohring for his work on this project.

2002/2003 Local Water Planning Challenge Grant Policy Changes - Marybeth Block reported that LCMR is recommending \$1.365M be appropriated to BWSR to distribute as local water planning challenge grants to fund projects that accelerate achieving goals identified in local water plans (\$25,000 is earmarked to assist with the development of a reporting system). Marybeth explained the policy changes; grant categories; grant limits; and work plan timeline. Marybeth will be distributing packets next week, if board members would like a packet contact Marybeth. Moved by Char Kahler, seconded by Ginny Imholte, that BWSR distribute \$2M via the 2002-03 local water planning challenge grant program, pending \$1.365 appropriation from LCMR, to successful applicants to accelerate achieving the goals identified in their Comprehensive Local Water Plans. Motion passed on a voice vote.

**

00-88

Minnesota's Tillage Transect Survey for Monitoring Trends in Crop Residue Management - Derek Fisher presented the tillage transect survey procedure that was developed by the Department of Agronomy at Purdue University. Derek explained that crop residue plays a key role in methodology, data collection, and survey results. When the survey is used to demonstrate needs, prioritize efforts, track progress and recognize success, the tillage transect program's data enables a county to secure funding and achieve conservation objectives. Derek stated that the database is continually growing, the more information gathered, the more information to dig into, and it's valuable to see the county once a year. Derek stated that other tools include using GIS overlay to show soil loss estimates, gearing this toward northern Minnesota, or a process of satellite imagery to incorporate into the inventory for more accuracy. Ron stated that this is good information; you can see the positive outcomes of this shared BWSR/MES position that Derek holds.

Advisory Comments

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - John Brach, state engineer, gave an update on the Snake River Project. Land rights have been secured and work is in progress on the St. Clair streambank project. John reported that the engineering assistance for joint powers funding is a two-way street between NRCS and the locals.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) - LeAnn Buck reported that a highlight of the MASWCD convention was recognition of the outstanding conservationist, SanMarBo Farms, from Tracy, Minnesota, on the cover of "The Farmer" magazine! LeAnn reported that the MASWCD Environmental Education Award was presented to David Geis, from Sanborn, Minnesota. Dwain Otte is the recipient of the "MASWCD Outstanding Supervisor of the Year Award"; and Allan Oehlke was recognized for his outstanding service to MASWCD.

BWSR Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2000
Page Nine of Nine

Upcoming Meetings

- Next BWSR meeting, January 24, 2001, St. Paul
- NACD Annual meeting, February 4-8, 2001, Fort Worth, Texas

It was stated that MAWD and MASWCD had excellent conventions with great workshops. Char Kahler attended the AMC convention and listened to Doug Thomas' presentation. Jim Dahlvang thanked BWSR staff for their attendance and assistance at the AMC convention.

There will be a series of documentaries on the Minnesota River Watershed on Channel 17. The first broadcast will be December 19, on Channel 17. Check your local listings.

Chair Roer adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Kathleen Roer', written in dark ink.

Kathleen Roer
Chair



DRAFT

DRAFT

DATE: December 13, 2000
TO: Doug Benson, Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation
FROM: Ron Harnack, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Comments regarding Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation (BGIC) Land and Water Management Grant Applications

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SUMMARY

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Metro Region:

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1. The creation of the pilot program and related outreach efforts did succeed in stimulating some good project proposals.
2. The BWSR recommends to the BGIC that three of the eight project proposals merit approval.
3. The BWSR ranks the top three proposals in this priority order: 1) South Central Minnesota Natural Resource Program Delivery; 2) Vermillion River Watershed in Dakota and Scott Counties; and, 3) Tri-county Wetland Conservation Act Implementation in the Red River Valley.
4. The BWSR remains committed to assist the BGIC to implement this pilot program including but not limited to: negotiations to finalize the project proposals, final project selection assistance, contract management for selected projects and provide state liaison during project implementation.
5. The pilot program should be continued as an ongoing effort. This initial application period uncovered a few projects which are ready to go. Many other future opportunities exist for projects that would assist local governments to consolidate their natural resource management responsibilities and authorities into a more efficient and effective structure. In the short term, we see this process as being the most effective way for the state to partner with local governments to discover and promote system improvements that work and are acceptable to the local governments that are implementing land and water programs.

BACKGROUND

The BWSR has conducted a staff level review of the grant applications that you sent to us for comment. I plan to brief the BWSR Board at their meeting which is today.

When your office released the RFP for the "Pilot Projects for Management of Land and Water Resources", the BWSR placed the information on its web site, and worked through its statewide staff to make local governments aware of this opportunity. Our staff presented the information at many local government meetings and meetings of their respective associations across the state. We believe that our outreach efforts stimulated several of the applicants to participate. The feedback that we received from local governments was that, for some, the timing was not right for them to apply now but that there is significant interest in continuing this program in the future.

DRAFT

DRAFT

Of the eight proposals received (your spread sheet is attached for reference) I suggest that the following projects best fit the intent of the pilot program and are worthy of further consideration:

1. **Thirteen Counties and 13 Soil and Water Conservation Districts in South Central MN. Blue Earth, Brown, Cottonwood, Faribault, Freeborn, Jackson, LeSueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Steele, Waseca, and Watonwan.** Grant request \$52,156. The proposal comes from a group of local governments that have a history of cooperative efforts. However, many new responsibilities acquired over the years have resulted in a confusing mix of misunderstood roles, program overlap and perceived inefficiencies. This group is motivated to conduct a thorough study that involves all the participating local governments and their partners and use the study experience to move ahead to make needed changes. It seems to be the responsible way to bring change to an area that is achieving results with its local government programs but is not satisfied with perpetuating the status quo.
2. **Vermillion River Watershed in Dakota and Scott Counties.** Grant request \$80,000. The timing is right for this project. The former joint powers watershed management organization has failed and implementation of the Metropolitan Watershed Management Act responsibilities has reverted to the counties. This large watershed is complex, containing 21 cities and townships and a rich mixture of land uses from very urban to agricultural. Developing lands issues make for complex and contentious water management decisionmaking. The proposal is well written and the parties involved have demonstrated competency and commitment to implement a successful project. The project would result in an agreed to governance structure and a funding mechanism for the watershed.
3. **Tri-county Wetland Conservation Act Implementation in the Red River Valley.** Grant request: \$28,900. At first glance this project appears to simply create yet another governance structure, i.e. a joint powers board. However, given the contentious history of wetland issues in this part of the state, the proposal represents a significant step forward in responsive administration of wetland protection programs. The project would improve service deliver by increasing efficiencies and effectiveness of wetland protection efforts. It would also be a major step forward in cooperative efforts between the participants. It is perhaps a step toward more shared programming in the future. This project could be implemented without the creation of the proposed joint powers board. The applicants should be given the opportunity to fine tune their proposal to best fit the intent of the pilot program.

The three proposals total \$161,056 in grant requests and indicate a match of \$133,770 in cash and in-kind contributions.

I look forward to working with you and your board on successful implementation of the projects you approve for this pilot program.

Cc: BWSR Board
BWSR Staff
MASWCD
AMC
MAWD

Enc.

BOARD OF GOVERNMENT INNOVATION and BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Pilot Projects for Management of Land and Water Resources

	Applicant	Project Description	Total Cost	Local Funds	Grant Request	Requested Funds
1	Lake Superior Soil and Water Conservation District Counties of : Carlton, Cook, Lake, Pine, North / South St. Louis, Itasca, and Aitkin	Conservation District Foreste	\$ 12,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000
2	13 Counties and 13 Soil and Water Conservation Districts in South Central MN Blue Earth, Brown, Cottonwood, Faribault, Freeborn, Jackson, Lesuer, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Steele, Waseca, and Watowan	Natural Resources Program In South Central Minnesota (Blue Earth River Watershed)	\$ 83,486	\$ 31,330	\$ 52,156	\$ 63,156
3	Dakota County, Scott County and the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation Dist	Vermillion River Watersher	\$ 136,000	\$ 56,840	\$ 80,000	\$ 143,156
4	Hennepin County, Minneapolis, MCDA, Mpls. Public Schools, Mpls. Park Board, Lind Bohanon Neighborhood, and Single Creek Neighborhood	Humboldt Greenway Projec	\$ 174,122	\$ 74,122	\$ 100,000	\$ 243,156
5	Anoka Conservation District, Dakota County Envir. Educ. Program., Friends of the Miss. River, Henn. Co. Consev. Dist., Met. Council Enviromental Services, MN DNR, MN PCA, Rice Creek Watershed, Rivers Council of MN, Uiv. of MN River Resources Cnt.	Coordinated Volunteer Streaan Monitoring Program	\$ 575,000	\$ 477,000	\$ 98,000	\$ 341,156
6	East Polk SWCD, Pennington SWCD, Red Lake SWCD, Polk, Pennington and Red Lake Co.	Wetland Conservation Program Administratior	\$ 74,500	\$ 45,600	\$ 28,900	\$ 370,056
7	Stearns Co. Environmental Services, Stearn County Town Officers Assoc., Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District	Communications Equip. to Facilitate Partnership for Managing Land and Water Resources	\$ 260,000	\$ 171,000	\$ 89,000	\$ 459,056
8	Wabasha County SWCD, Wabasha Co. NRCS and Wabasha County Extention Service	Nutrient Management Plans	\$ 30,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 471,056
TOTAL			\$ 1,345,108	\$ 874,892	\$ 471,056	

received
12/04/00
after deadline of 12/01/00



OCT 17 2000

MASWCD

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October 6, 2000

Kathleen Roer

Chair

Board of Water and Soil Resources

2232 Tamarack Drive

Long Lake, MN 55356

Dear Kathleen:

On September 28, 2000 the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Board of Directors adopted the following recommendation to resolve the Non-Point Engineering Assistance projected budget shortfall. The MASWCD is forwarding this to the BWSR Board for your consideration for future funding of this program. This recommendation addresses both short term and long term funding needs.

The recommendation is as follows:

Sequentially ranked

1. The Board of Water and Soil Resources allows each Non-Point Engineering Assistance (NPEA) Joint Powers Board (JPB) to utilize the dollars they receive to provide the technical assistance they believe they need for their JPB. (Not necessarily one engineer /one technician)

2. Equally divide the CURRENT legislative appropriation between the eleven JPB's and allow each JPB to make up the difference between what is available and what they need to operate. (i.e.; contributions, charges for services, grants, etc.). Monies returned (left-overs) to be distributed as presently done by BWSR. This process to be reviewed in two years.

3. Ask the legislature to increase the NPEA appropriation to \$1.4 million with an inflationary index for the duration of the NPEA program.

4. Solicit funding from other programs that have allowed engineering costs in their program to offset additional workload priorities for JPB's. (for instance, CREP has engineering costs built into the program and several JPB's are providing the engineering)

5. Seek funding from other long-term programs that are administered by other agencies and where JPB engineers are providing services, i.e.; EQIP/WHIP, etc. Statistics indicate that since the establishment of the JPB/NPEA program, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Area Engineers are seldom called upon to work District programs and, even in many cases, are not working the Federal programs for the District. The conclusion from these statistics is that NRCS, as well as the Districts has benefited from the program. Therefore, it is appropriate to ask NRCS to help defray the approximate \$365,000 shortfall. If this should happen, then it would not be necessary to ask the legislature for \$1.4 million, but only ask for the inflationary protection to our present appropriation.

The MASWCD conducted strategic planning sessions. Representatives from the eleven non point engineering joint power boards, Greg Larson (BWSR Administrator of the Water and Land Section), Wayne Zellmar (BWSR Grants Coordinator), Arland Moger (MASWCD Area V Director), Carl Annalora (MASWCD Area II Director) and LeAnn Buck (MASWCD Executive Director) attended the strategic sessions.

The NPEA program is an integral component for the implementation of non-point water quality management practices. The Association recognizes the effective engineering assistance at the local level via a partnership between the state and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Owen Knutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Owen" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Knutson".

Owen Knutson
MASWCD President

Cc: Ron Hamack, BWSR
Greg Larson, BWSR
Wayne Zellmar, BWSR
MASWCD Board of Directors
NPEA Joint Power Boards
Bill Hunt, NRCS

NON POINT ENGINEERING ASSISTANCE

ISSUE

The costs of employing these engineers and technicians, along with providing up-to-date survey and design equipment, has reached \$1,400,000 annually. EPA and MPCA funds to BWSR are not viable long term funding sources. Without any changes to BWSR allocations and policies, this Program will not be solvent in FY 2002.

The BWSR Cost Share/Soil Conservation Committee met on November 21, 2000, to consider the enclosed recommendations from MASWCD regarding the projected Program budget shortfall. These recommendations result from several meetings convened by the association during 2000. The following Discussion summarizes the key points and policy issues identified by MASWCD and the Cost Share Committee.

DISCUSSION

MASWCD Recommendation #1

- The current staffing objective of one engineer and one technician in each JPB may not be ideal for all JPBs.
- Workload quantity and type in JPBs are not uniform. For example, JPB 11 would like to employ 2 engineers. JPB 8 prefers to use consultants.
- All JPBs recognized the need to have engineering sign-off authority available to them.
- It is difficult to retain quality staff with uncertain funding.

MASWCD Recommendation #2

- JPBs apparently want to retain 11 areas, potentially through member SWCD contributions or other sources of funding, if necessary. However, it is unclear how many SWCDs are willing to participate. This might depend on the outcome of recommendation #1.
- Reducing the number of JPBs would provide temporary budget relief.
 - For example, 8 JPBs could operate under current funding levels through FY 04
 - 7 JPBs could operate under current funding levels through FY 08
- Hiring the staff as BWSR employees could be advantageous.

MASWCD Recommendation #3

- The Governor's budget is not expected to include an initiative for a legislative appropriation increase.
- An appropriation increase would have to be carried by MASWCD.
- Some funding may be available from the developing feedlot initiative.

MASWCD Recommendation #4

- There are currently no funds available in the CREP or RIM Programs to supplement NPEA. These also are not viable long-term sources of funding.

MASWCD Recommendation #5

- It is widely recognized that the NPEA Program provides assistance across many local,

- state, and federal programs.
- It is not expected that NRCS has funding available to purchase additional engineering assistance this way.

No decisions or recommendations from the Cost Share Committee are forwarded to BWSR at this time. The Cost Share Committee is scheduled to meet January 23, 2001

H:NPEADBM



Board of Water and Soil Resources UPDATE

A publication of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

December 2000

METRO

Late October saw the Metro section beginning to slow down a little. We used the opportunity to take care of

internal things like personnel reviews, position descriptions, adapting to new labor rules, and preparation for the flurry of December annual meetings.

Not everything was internal, and not everything slowed down.

The WCA technical evaluation panel load continued unabated. BCs Doug Snyder and Lynda Peterson were especially active with these.

Ron Struss, Phil Belfiori, and Steve Woods are still helping the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District get through their start up gyrations. We're facilitating their citizens advisory committee until they are self-sufficient and have made three different presentations to their managers/consultants on alternative ways to approach their role and planning process.

Woods participated in PCA's "Think Tank on Smartgrowth Strategies." Good input from DNR, Met Council, and DTED personnel provided outside perspectives as they struggle with how to adapt their current processes to become more effective.

The lone Board of Innovation grant application from this region is likely to be from Dakota County as they seek to examine how the now-defunct Vermillion WMO area can be managed. Interesting rumbles from Scott and Dakota Counties could result in some innovative melding of SWCD and county roles.

Ron Struss was the major organizing force behind the creation of a daylong conference on Dec. 8. He successfully appended a full day on phosphorous management in urban landscapes to the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Federation annual conference. This was a two-year effort designed to help promote awareness of the potential "no-P" legislation and the sources of phosphorus in urban settings. Topics and speakers for the session include: "Sources of phosphorus within the urban landscape," Roger Bannerman, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; "Phosphorus losses from turf-research results," Wayne Kussow, University of Wisconsin-Madison; "Phosphorus runoff from

urban turf-results from field studies," John Barten, Hennepin Parks; "Phosphorus requirement of turf-current recommendations," Carl Rosen, University of Minnesota; and "The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's role in managing phosphorus," Greg Buzicky, MDA.

-Submitted by Steve Woods

SOUTH

With growing interest and activities in nutrient management (new feedlot rules, the EPA TMDL

program, hypoxia, EQIP, CWP implementation, etc.), we are anticipating a spike in demand for nutrient management services across the state. Certainly this will affect local governments, but what role will they play? How can local governments work to ensure that nutrient management achieves conservation goals while best serving the farmer's management and bottom line?

A 319 grant authored by Rick Hansen and MASWCD has been approved to develop and test a model (or models) on how SWCDs can facilitate nutrient management implementation. Two project areas have been selected and each will receive approximately \$100,000 to facilitate successful nutrient management on as many acres as possible. Redwood and Cottonwood SWCDs will partner to work with producers in the Cottonwood River Watershed. Rice and Goodhue SWCDs will partner to work with producers in the Cannon River Watershed. The funding is expected to arrive this winter, and the projects will work with producers during the 2001, 2002, and 2003 cropping seasons.

For each project, a team has already met. It includes staff from the local NRCS, SWCD, and Minnesota Extension, with regional nutrient management specialists from NRCS, BWSR, and Extension. Both teams decided that they would like to rely primarily on the private sector in providing nutrient management services to farmers. The first challenge lies in developing an incentive mechanism that will lead farmers to commit to implementing EQIP-style plans with U of M recommendations. Another challenge involves recruiting co-op and private agronomists to provide these services when, to them, it means learning to sell less fertilizer while making risky recommendations that could tarnish their reputations if yields drop.

Board of Water and Soil Resources Update, Page 2

The identification and delegation of roles is central to LGU facilitation of nutrient management. The Rice SWCD proposes the following roles: training, manure spreader calibration, providing aerial field photos for planning, providing GIS-based maps with sensitive featured identified, spot checking plan quality, assisting plan writers when needed, monitoring plan implementation, and using GIS to report implemented fields. The appropriate SWCD roles will certainly vary by county, depending on each situation.

The outcome of this 319 grant will be the documented case studies describing what did and didn't work as these two projects applied their model for facilitating nutrient management. This experience will be shared with SWCDs across the state to help expand their nutrient management services.

-Submitted by Derek Fischer

L&WS

As liaisons between state and local government, BWSR staff members contact many people with various county and watershed connections. Keeping track of the information as affiliations, addresses, and telephone numbers shift has been an ongoing challenge. Just over a year ago, meetings began to develop a unified database. Such a system would be available to everyone on the network and would eliminate the need for multiple updates with staff or address changes.

The first phase of this effort has been completed and is in use at the central office in St. Paul. The primary core is designed to handle information on people and offices. From this central contact management system, any number of segments may be attached.

Wetland banking was chosen as the first segment to use information from the contact management system. The wetland banking database was designed so that WCA-specific contacts could be designated quickly and easily for every impact and replacement site. Even more useful, however, is the information maintained in the wetland site lists.

Information about any wetland on the list can be used to sort and map sites on a county, watershed, or state level. Impact (and subsequent replacement) activity can be assessed by region or statewide over any given time period. Basic field information may also be entered and sorted to provide an assessment of bank site quality over time. These kinds of data can help to determine the success of BWSR efforts to protect Minnesota wetlands.

In addition to tracking bank activity, the database will be used to project the need for road replacement around the state. BWSR is responsible for replacing wetlands impacted by local road repair; purchases of wetland credits and establishment of our own bank sites has been a high priority. Developing sites in areas underserved by the private, entrepreneurial bank is crucial to maintaining the balance of wetland acres.

Although not yet finalized, a complementary program has been designed to track direct replacement, exempt and no-loss determinations, and enforcement actions. Together with the banking and road information, this could provide a complete picture of wetland losses and replacement activity. Further work on this portion will likely be an element of future work to develop an integrated GIS/internet-based data reporting and record keeping system with Linnet.

-Submitted by Natasha Devoe

The publication *Grazing System Planning Guide* has been written and is soon to be released. Howard Moechnig, grazing lands conservationist, and Jodi DeJong and Kevin Blanchet, extension educators with the University of Minnesota Extension Service, are authors.

Grazing Systems Planning Guide is intended to be used by service providers to assist producers with the development of rotational grazing systems on their farms. The publication guides the reader through the inventory process, plan development, pasture management, and monitoring of grazing systems. It is a companion publication to the popular *Pastures for Profit*.

At this time, many producers are expressing interest in establishing rotational grazing systems. This publication will help them understand the concepts that are the basis of a successful grazing system. It will be useful to service providers when assisting individual producers and is especially suited for producer workshops. This publication is the textbook for the "Planning Prescribed Grazing Systems" course offered in the Partnership Training Database.

It will be available through NRCS/SWCD field offices throughout the state, as well as the U of M Extension Service.

-Submitted by Howard Moechnig

Board of Water and Soil Resources Update, Page 3

ETS

The Engineering and Technical Services Section has been reorganized into the Engineering Section and Conservation Easement Section. **Al Kean**, chief engineer, will serve as the engineering section leader, and **Kevin Lines**, easement program manager, is the new easement section leader. See Kevin's bio below.

Welcome to **Kevin Zytkevich**, conservation engineering technician in the central office. Kevin will be working on CREP wetland restoration survey, design, and construction assistance to SWCDs. He is on a one-year mobility assignment from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Ecological Services. Kevin has been with the DNR since 1987, working as a technician in Engineering (four years) and Ecological Services (nine years).

Welcome to **Jeremy Larson**, also a conservation engineering technician. Jeremy will be located in Montevideo with the SWCD joint powers engineering staff office. He will assist CREP wetland restoration feasibility analyses, surveys, design, and construction assistance to SWCDs. Prior to BWSR, he had worked as a CREP technician with Lyon SWCD and earlier was an engineering technician with the SWCD joint powers organization located in Slayton.

BWSR engineering is proceeding to utilize the state's master roster of engineering consultants to contract for additional engineering capability to design CREP wetland restorations. We have a large design workload that we intend to take a large bite out of before the next construction season.

The conservation partnership training committee met recently to coordinate area training plans and identify state level training for 2001 to help meet the needs identified by the annual training needs inventory. Justin Jeffery, training and design engineer, is the state level engineering representative for BWSR and NRCS. He reports great cooperation between the area training team and central office representatives to develop coordinated training plans to serve SWCD, NRCS, and BWSR staff.

It's grant application time for the Great Lakes Commission and for the state Coastal Program, which is an outgrowth of Minnesota adopting the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) program. Gene Clark, lakeshore engineer, is working with the University of Minnesota Duluth and North Shore SWCDs to submit quality applications.

-Submitted by Al Kean

EASEMENTS

Kevin J. Lines, farmland wildlife program leader at the Department of Natural Resources for the past 10 years, has been named conservation easement program administrator and easement section leader at BWSR. He began in his new position Thursday, Nov. 9.

Lines will direct the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve Program. He worked at BWSR in 1996-1998, when he helped the agency launch CREP.

With the reorganization of the Engineering and Technical Services Section, **Tim Fredbo** will now serve as conservation easement specialist. Tim will remain our easement program eligibility and conservation plan guru, as well as day-to-day processing manager and lead program data provider.

Interviews were recently conducted for two additional BWSR easement processing specialists to help handle the CREP and RIM/WRP workload. Half the time of one of these positions will be funded by a grant from Ducks Unlimited for RIM/WRP easement processing and coordination. These new temporary positions are expected to be filled in soon, pending preparation of work space.

Finally, here's a report on the latest CREP numbers. As of Dec. 8, there are 735 easements recorded for a total of 26,723 acres. Numbers are updated monthly on BWSR's web site: <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/programs/major/crep/index.html>.

BRIEFS

Members of BWSR's web team met for the first time Nov. 20 to begin a redesign process for BWSR's web site. Discussion points at the meeting included the mission of the web site, goals of the web team, and a timeline for the process.

Much of the meeting centered on how to improve the navigation scheme, keeping the needs of our clientele a priority. The team also examined some web sites for models. At the end of the meeting, a proposed top layer of a site map was completed, along with several areas in the second layer. Team members are now going back to their respective sections and asking for input on the third layers.

Members of the team are: Char Sokatch, Derek Fisher, Doug Snyder, Jim Lemmerman, Marybeth Block, and Pete Raeker. Polly Remick attended the meeting on behalf of Char. Next meeting is Dec. 15.



CREP is outcomed-based conservation!

BWSR is known to promote the benefits of CREP, including increased habitat for wildlife. Out on a recent day off to hunt on CREP land in southern Minnesota, the group pictured found great hunting opportunities. Left to right are: Tabor Hoek BWSR CREP coordinator; Clark Lingbeek, Cottonwood SWCD supevisor; Richard Hoek; landowner; Chuck Coners, Mountain Lake; Matt Holland, Pheasants Forever; and Ron Harnack, BWSR executive director.



Dan Shaw signs copies of *Native Vegetation in Restored and Created Wetlands* at a gathering Nov. 7.

Vegetation manual is published

BWSR staff gathered Nov. 7 to acknowledge the work of Dan Shaw and the publication of *Native Vegetation in Restored and Created Wetlands: Its Establishment and Management in Minnesota and the Upper Midwest*. Shaw authored and illustrated the publication in cooperation with BWSR and the University of Minnesota Department of Horticultural Sciences.

The publication has been mailed to BWSR clients and other interested groups. A second printing is under way and copies can be purchased through Minnesota's Bookstore, which agreed to help market the publication.

NORTH

Staff reassignments is the hot news in the North Region. Due to the increasing workload associated with WCA, Dale Krystosek, BC Bemidji, has been reassigned to serve as a second wetland specialist for the North Region. Dale will join Dan Eklund in providing assistance to LGUs and BCs on WCA issues that require a stepped-up level of BWSR involvement. In addition, Jim Lemmerman, BC/forester, Duluth will also be assisting wetland staff in facilitating wetland training activities. The demand for wetland training is constant. Staff have struggled to meet these demands. Jim's assistance should free up Dan and Dale's time to do more of the training and less of the planning. Overall, these staff changes should do two things: provide a higher level of clientele service and allow BWSR to do a better job of technical oversight, especially where violations occur. Dale's BC work area will be backfilled with existing staff in the short term. Plans to hire an additional staff person will hopefully be realized after the next legislative session.

In other WCA news, Bill was on hand to see the Darcy Harbott case go to trial. Darcy had wetland and floodplain violations on the Thief River in Thief River Falls. After about a year of trying to wrestle his way out of the consequences, Darcy finally went to court. The judge was unsympathetic. He ordered a fine, jail time, and restoration to be accomplished by the city charges to be billed back to Darcy. Bill and Dan Eklund both provided significant assistance to the city attorney as he prepared the case and the SWCD who wrote the restoration order. Bill and Dan get a lot of credit for the outcome of this case.

Mark Nelson and Dale spent some time with the city of Hermantown discussing ongoing wetland issues related to the continuing development of the Highway 53 corridor. Mark says they are struggling to keep their wetland planning efforts one step ahead of the development efforts. Mark and Dale will continue to work with this group.

-Submitted by Ron Shelito

**Deadline for next
Update: January 17**

Consent Agenda

1. Aitkin County Request for
Comprehensive Local Water
Plan Extension
DECISION

(FOR BOARD ACTION)

AITKIN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER PLAN EXTENSION

Aitkin County's current Comprehensive Local Water Plan (CLWP) was approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) on December 20, 1995. The effective or end date of this CLWP is December 31, 2000.

The 1995 amendment to the Comprehensive Local Water Management Act, M.S. 103B.301, gives BWSR authority to grant an extension of a CLWP ending date. The County's request, which has a two year limit, must be in writing. On November 15, 2000, the BWSR received a Resolution from the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners.

At the present time, Aitkin County has a number of major planning efforts underway. These planning efforts include a Comprehensive Land Use Management Plan, a Comprehensive Wetland Management Plan, and a Shoreland Management Ordinance. The resolution for the extension requested is based on the need to incorporate these ongoing efforts into the water plan update. In order to allow an adequate amount of time for coordination to take place, Board Conservationist Keith Grow recommends approval of Aitkin County's 18-month extension request until June 30, 2002.

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION OF COUNTY BOARD OF AITKIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA
ADOPTED November 7, 2000

1. By Commissioner: Peterson

110700-134

WHEREAS, 1995 amendments to the Comprehensive Local Water Planning Act, M.S. 103B.301 gave the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) authority to extend the ending date of local water plans for a period not to exceed 2 years; and

WHEREAS, Aitkin County has a current state approved and locally adopted Comprehensive Local Water Plan with an end date of December 31, 2000; and

WHEREAS, Aitkin County is an active participant in other major planning efforts currently underway such as the Comprehensive Land Use Management Plan, the County Wetland Plan and the Shore Land Management Ordinance Update, which require county staff and commissioner time and work effort; and

WHEREAS, These other major planning efforts will result in information that will benefit the county during its Comprehensive Local Water Plan update efforts; and

WHEREAS, To continue as an active participant and obtain information that will benefit the Comprehensive Local Water Plan update, Aitkin County will not be able to complete its Comprehensive Local Water Plan update prior to December 31, 2000.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners request from BWSR a 18 month extension (until June 30, 2002) of their existing Comprehensive Local Water Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Aitkin County will insure continued public participation in the form of Water Plan Advisory Committee and Public Information meetings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, No projects will be ordered or commenced under M.S. 103B.301 subd. 3 and 4 during the extension period.

Commissioner Haug moved the adoption of the resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT

All Members Voting Yes

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
County of Aitkin) ss.
Office of County Auditor,)

I, Kirk Peysar, Auditor, of the County of Aitkin, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in my office on the 7th day of November A.D., 2000, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE at Aitkin, Minnesota, this 7th day of November A.D. 2000


KIRK PEYSAR, County Auditor
BY _____, Deputy

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
One West Water Street
Suite 200
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107

In the Matter of Extending the Comprehensive Local Water Plan
for Aitkin County (1995 Minnesota Session Law, Chapter 184,
Section 24 authorizing BWSR to grant extensions).

Whereas, Aitkin County had a state approved Comprehensive Local Water Plan that is effective until December 31, 2000 pursuant to Minnesota Statute 1990, Section 103B.301, and

Whereas, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution requesting an extension of the Comprehensive Local Water Plan to the Board of Water and Soil Resources on November 7, 2000, pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24, and

Whereas, the Board of Water and Soil Resources has authorization to grant extensions pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24.

Now Therefore, the Board of Water and Soil Resources hereby makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On November 15, 2000, the Board of Water and Soil Resources received a resolution from Aitkin County requesting an extension of their Comprehensive Local Water Plan.
2. On November 16, 2000, the Board of Water and Soil Resources staff reviewed and recommended approval of the extension request by Aitkin County.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled. The Board of Water and Soil Resources has proper jurisdiction in the matter of extending the Comprehensive Local Water Plan of Aitkin County pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24.

ORDER

The Board of Water and Soil Resources hereby approves the extension of the Aitkin County Comprehensive Local Water Plan until June 30, 2002. Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 13th day of December, 2000.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BY: Kathleen Roer, Chair

Consent Agenda

2. **Lyon County Request for
Comprehensive Local Water
Plan Extension
DECISION**

Lyon COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER PLAN (FOR BOARD ACTION)

Lyon County has a Comprehensive Local Water Plan (CLWP) which was approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources on December 18,, 1996. Lyon County then locally adopted their CLWP via a county resolution dated January 21, 1997. The effective date (end date) of this CLWP is December 31, 2001.

The 1995 amendments to the Comprehensive Local Water Management Act, M.S. 103B.301, gives the Board of Water and Soil Resources authority to grant extensions to counties for the purpose of extending the ending date of their water plans. These extensions must be requested in writing and cannot be for more than two years.

At their December 15, 1999, board meeting, the BWSR approved a local water planning document which addressed BWSR expectations, internal actions and multi-planning strategies. Multi-planning strategies addresses granting CLWP extensions to counties where other planning efforts (water or watershed level) are currently underway. These other efforts require the input of the water planner and associated technical advisors in the county. Completion of other water planning efforts would benefit the CLWP update.

Lyon County is currently updating their Land Use Management Plan. This major effort will require county staff time and work effort.

Board Conservationist Tabor Hoek recommends approval of Lyon County's one year extension request.

RESOLUTION

EXTENSION REQUEST FOR COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER PLAN UPDATE COMPLETION DATE

WHEREAS, 1995 amendments to the Comprehensive Local Water Act, M.S. 103B.301 gave the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) authority to extend the ending date of local water plans for a period not to exceed 2 years; and

WHEREAS, Lyon County has a current state approved and locally adopted Comprehensive Local Water Plan with an end date of December 31, 2001; and

WHEREAS, Lyon County will be developing a new comprehensive land use plan over the next 18 months; and

WHEREAS, this planning effort will result in information that will benefit the Comprehensive Local Water Plan update, Lyon County will not be able to complete its Comprehensive Local Water Plan update, prior to December 31, 2001.

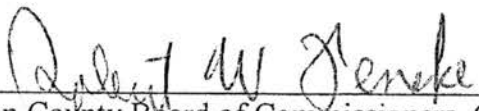
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lyon County Board of Commissioners request from BWSR a one year extension of their existing Comprehensive Local Water Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Lyon County will insure continued public participation in the form of Water Plan Task Force Committee and Public Information meetings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, no projects will be ordered or commenced under M.S. 103B.331, subd. 3 and 4 during the extension period.

Ayes 5

Nays 0



Lyon County Board of Commissioners, Chair

Attest: 

Lyon County Administrator

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
One West Water Street
Suite 200
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107

In the Matter of Extending the Comprehensive Local Water Plan
for Lyon County (1995 Minnesota Session Law, Chapter 184,
Section 24 authorizing BWSR to grant extensions).

Whereas, Lyon County had a state approved Comprehensive Local Water Plan that is effective until December 31, 2001 pursuant to Minnesota Statute 1990, Section 103B.301, and

Whereas, the Lyon County Board of Commissioners requested an extension of the Comprehensive Local Water Plan to the Board of Water and Soil Resources on November 7, 2000, pursuant to Minnesota Session law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24, and

Whereas, the Board of Water and Soil Resources has authorization to grant extensions pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24.

Now Therefore, the Board of Water and Soil Resources hereby makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On November 14, 2000, the Board of Water and Soil Resources received a resolution from Lyon County requesting an extension of their Comprehensive Local Water Plan.
2. On November 14, 2000, the Board of Water and Soil Resources staff reviewed and recommended approval of the extension request by Lyon County.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled. The Board of Water and Soil Resources has proper jurisdiction in the matter of extending the Comprehensive Local Water Plan of Lyon County pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24.

ORDER

The Board of Water and Soil Resources hereby approves the extension of the Lyon County Comprehensive Local Water Plan until December 31, 2002. Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 13th day of December, 2000.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BY: Kathleen Roer, Chairperson

Consent Agenda

3. Nicollet County Request for
Comprehensive Local Water
Plan Extension
DECISION

NICOLLET COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER PLAN (FOR BOARD ACTION)

Nicollet County has a Comprehensive Local Water Plan (CLWP) which was approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources on December 18, 1996. Nicollet County's board of commissioners locally adopted their CLWP on January 28, 1997. The effective date (end date) of this CLWP is December 31, 2000.

The 1995 amendments to the Comprehensive Local Water Management Act, M.S. 103B.301, gives the Board of Water and Soil Resources authority to grant extensions to counties for the purpose of extending the ending date of their water plans. These extensions must be requested in writing and cannot be for more than two years.

At their December 15, 1999, board meeting, the BWSR approved a local water planning document which addressed BWSR expectations, internal actions and multi-planning strategies. Multi-planning strategies addresses granting CLWP extensions to counties where other planning efforts (water or watershed level) are currently underway. These other efforts require the input of the water planner and associated technical advisors in the county. Completion of other water planning efforts would benefit the CLWP update.

Nicollet County is an active player in two watershed level efforts currently underway: the Middle Minnesota River Watershed; and the Lower Minnesota River Watershed. These two watersheds are undergoing the initial growing pains associated with structural organization. Participation in these activities require county staff time and work effort.

On October 26, 1999, the Nicollet County board of commissioner authorized staff to begin the third generation CLWP updating process. Staff began the process in early 2000, but will not be able to complete it by December 31, 2000. A request has been made to grant a one-year extension which would allow adequate time to fully complete the third generation CLWP.

Board Conservationist Tom Fischer recommends approval of Nicollet County's one-year extension request. The existing plan would be extended until December 31, 2001.

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
One West Water Street
Suite 200
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107

In the Matter of Extending the Comprehensive Local Water Plan
for Nicollet County (1995 Minnesota Session Law, Chapter 184,
Section 24 authorizing BWSR to grant extensions).

Whereas, Nicollet County has a state approved Comprehensive Local Water Plan that is effective until December 31, 2000 pursuant to Minnesota Statute 1990, Section 103B.301, and

Whereas, the Nicollet County Board of Commissioners requested an extension of the Comprehensive Local Water Plan to the Board of Water and Soil Resources on October 10, 2000, pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24, and

Whereas, the Board of Water and Soil Resources has authorization to grant extensions pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24.

Now Therefore, the Board of Water and Soil Resources hereby makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On October 10, 2000, the Board of Water and Soil Resources received a resolution from Nicollet County requesting an extension of their Comprehensive Local Water Plan.
2. On October 16, 2000, the Board of Water and Soil Resources staff reviewed and recommended approval of the extension request by Nicollet County.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled. The Board of Water and Soil Resources has proper jurisdiction in the matter of extending the Comprehensive Local Water Plan of Nicollet County pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24.

ORDER

The Board of Water and Soil Resources hereby approves the extension of the Nicollet County Comprehensive Local Water Plan until December 31, 2001. Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 13th day of December, 2000.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BY: Kathleen Roer, Chairperson

Consent Agenda

4. Pine County Request for
Comprehensive Local Water
Plan Extension
DECISION

(FOR BOARD ACTION)

PINE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER PLAN EXTENSION

Pine County's current Comprehensive Local Water Plan (CLWP) was approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) on December 16, 1992. The effective, or end date, of this CLWP is December 31, 2000.

The 1995 amendment to the Comprehensive Local Water Management Act, M.S. 103B.301, gives BWSR authority to grant an extension of a CLWP ending date. A County's request which has a two-year limit must be in writing. On October 17, 2000, the BWSR received a Resolution from the Pine County Board of Commissioners.

At the present time, Pine County is attempting to coordinate a number of planning efforts within the County. This includes a Clean Water Partnership on Cross Lake, an Askov sinkhole study, the Pine Lake Township ISTI study, and the completion of the Pine County Atlas.

Data resulting from the on-going studies will strengthen the assessment, goals, and objectives portion of the County Water Plan update. The resolution extension requested is based on the need to incorporate these activities. In order to allow for a coordinated effort, Board Conservationist Keith Grow recommends approval of Pine County's 18-month Extension request until June 30, 2002.

Water Plan Administrator

Resolution Requesting Extension of Pine County Comprehensive Local Water Plan

Commissioner Montbriand offered the following resolution No. WP-10.03.00 and moved its adoption.

WHEREAS, 1995 Amendments to the Comprehensive Local Water Planning Act, M.S. 103B.301 gave the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) authority to extend the ending date of local water plans for a period not to exceed 2 years; and

WHEREAS, Pine County has a current state approved and locally adopted Comprehensive Local Water Plan with an end date of December 31, 2000; and

WHEREAS, Pine County is an active participant in other major planning efforts currently underway (i.e. Cross Lake Clean Water Partnership Phase 1, Askov Sinkhole Study, the Pine County Geologic Atlas, and the Pine Lake Township ISTS Study) which require county staff and commissioner time and work effort; and

WHEREAS, these other major planning efforts will result in information that will benefit the county during its Comprehensive Local Water Plan update efforts; and

WHEREAS, to continue as an active participant and obtain information that will benefit the Comprehensive Local Water Plan update, Pine County will not be able to complete its Comprehensive Local Water Plan update prior to December 31, 2000.

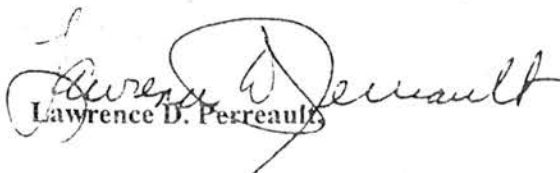
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Pine County Board of Commissioners request from BWSR an eighteen (18) month extension of their existing Comprehensive Local Water Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Pine County will continue public participation in the form of Water Plan Task Force Committee and Public Information meetings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, no projects will be ordered or commenced under M.S. 103B.331, subd. 3 and 4 during the extension period.

Commissioner Lindquist seconded the motion for adoption of the resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote: Ayes 5 Nays 0

Certification: I, Lawrence D. Perreault, Clerk of the Pine County Board of Commissioners do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of a resolution presented to and adopted by the County of Pine at a duly authorized meeting thereof held on the 3rd day of October, 2000


Lawrence D. Perreault

RECEIVED

OCT 17 2000

BD OF WATER & SOIL
RESOURCES - BRAINERD

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
One West Water Street
Suite 200
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107

In the Matter of Extending the Comprehensive Local Water Plan
for Pine County (1995 Minnesota Session Law, Chapter 184,
Section 24 authorizing BWSR to grant extensions).

Whereas, Pine County had a state approved Comprehensive Local Water Plan that is effective until December 31, 2000 pursuant to Minnesota Statute 1990, Section 103B.301, and

Whereas, the Pine County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution requesting an extension of the Comprehensive Local Water Plan to the Board of Water and Soil Resources on October 3, 2000, pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24, and

Whereas, the Board of Water and Soil Resources has authorization to grant extensions pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24.

Now Therefore, the Board of Water and Soil Resources hereby makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On October 17, 2000, the Board of Water and Soil Resources received a resolution from Pine County requesting an extension of their Comprehensive Local Water Plan.
2. On October 18, 2000, the Board of Water and Soil Resources staff reviewed and recommended approval of the extension request by Pine County.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled. The Board of Water and Soil Resources has proper jurisdiction in the matter of extending the Comprehensive Local Water Plan of Pine County pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24.

ORDER

The Board of Water and Soil Resources hereby approves the extension of the Pine County Comprehensive Local Water Plan until June 30, 2002. Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 13th day of December, 2000.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BY: Kathleen Roer, Chair

Consent Agenda

5. Sibley County Request for
Comprehensive Local Water
Plan Extension

DECISION

SIBLEY COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER PLAN (FOR BOARD ACTION)

Sibley County has a Comprehensive Local Water Plan (CLWP) which was approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources on June 26, 1996. Sibley County's board of commissioners locally adopted their CLWP on July 9, 1996. The effective date (end date) of this CLWP is December 31, 2000.

The 1995 amendments to the Comprehensive Local Water Management Act, M.S. 103B.301, gives the Board of Water and Soil Resources authority to grant extensions to counties for the purpose of extending the ending date of their water plans. These extensions must be requested in writing and cannot be for more than two years.

At their December 15, 1999, board meeting, the BWSR approved a local water planning document which addressed BWSR expectations, internal actions and multi-planning strategies. Multi-planning strategies addresses granting CLWP extensions to counties where other planning efforts (water or watershed level) are currently underway. These other efforts require the input of the water planner and associated technical advisors in the county. Completion of other water planning efforts would benefit the CLWP update.

Sibley County is an active player in two watershed level efforts currently underway: the Middle Minnesota River Watershed; and the Lower Minnesota River Watershed. These two watersheds are undergoing the initial growing pains associated with structural organization. Sibley County is also an active player in the Crow River Watershed Clean Water Partnership Project (began in 1999) and is the coordinator in a two-year Clean Water Partnership Project for the High Island Creek Watershed (began in early 2000). Participation in these activities require county staff time and work effort. Also, information gathered from the two Clean Water Partnership Projects should be beneficial to the county's third generation CLWP.

On February 8, 2000, the Sibley County board of commissioner authorized staff to begin the third generation CLWP updating process. Staff began the process in early 2000, but will not be able to complete it by December 31, 2000. A request has been made to grant a one-year extension which would allow adequate time to fully complete the third generation CLWP.

Board Conservationist Tom Fischer recommends approval of Sibley County's one-year extension request. The existing plan would be extended until December 31, 2001.

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
One West Water Street
Suite 200
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107

In the Matter of Extending the Comprehensive Local Water Plan
for Sibley County (1995 Minnesota Session Law, Chapter 184,
Section 24 authorizing BWSR to grant extensions).

Whereas, Sibley County has a state approved Comprehensive Local Water Plan that is effective until December 31, 2000 pursuant to Minnesota Statute 1990, Section 103B.301, and

Whereas, the Sibley County Board of Commissioners requested an extension of the Comprehensive Local Water Plan to the Board of Water and Soil Resources on October 12, 2000, pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24, and

Whereas, the Board of Water and Soil Resources has authorization to grant extensions pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24.

Now Therefore, the Board of Water and Soil Resources hereby makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On October 12, 2000, the Board of Water and Soil Resources received a resolution from Sibley County requesting an extension of their Comprehensive Local Water Plan.
2. On October 16, 2000, the Board of Water and Soil Resources staff reviewed and recommended approval of the extension request by Sibley County.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled. The Board of Water and Soil Resources has proper jurisdiction in the matter of extending the Comprehensive Local Water Plan of Sibley County pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24.

ORDER

The Board of Water and Soil Resources hereby approves the extension of the Sibley County Comprehensive Local Water Plan until December 31, 2001. Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 13th day of December, 2000.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BY: Kathleen Roer, Chairperson

Consent Agenda

6. **Stevens County Request for
Comprehensive Local Water
Plan Extension
DECISION**

STEVENS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER PLAN (FOR BOARD ACTION)

Stevens County has a Comprehensive Local Water Plan (CLWP) approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) on December 18, 1996. Stevens County then locally adopted their CLWP via a county resolution dated February 20, 1997. The effective date (end date) of this CLWP is December 18, 2001.

The 1995 amendments to the Comprehensive Local Water Management Act (M.S. 103B.301) gives the Board of Water and Soil Resources authority to grant extensions to counties for the purpose of extending the ending date of their water plans. These extensions must be requested in writing and cannot be for more than two years.

At their December 15, 1999, board meeting, the BWSR approved a local water planning document which addressed BWSR expectations, internal actions and multi-planning strategies. Multi-planning strategies address granting CLWP extensions to counties where other planning efforts (water or watershed level) are currently underway. These other efforts require the input of the water planner and associated technical advisors in the county. Completion of other water planning efforts would benefit the CLWP update.

Stevens County is an active player in the Chippewa River Watershed Project, Pomme de Terre River Watershed Project, and the Bois de Sioux Watershed District Overall Plan update.

Board Conservationist Pete Waller recommends approval of Stevens County's two-year extension request to December 18, 2003.

STEVENS COUNTY, MINNESOTA

DATE: October 24, 2000

RESOLUTION NO. 24

Motion by Loher

Seconded by Kloos

RESOLUTION NO. 20001016-24
REQUESTING EXTENSION OF
COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER PLAN

WHEREAS, 1995 amendments to the Comprehensive Local Water Planing Act, M.S. 103B.301 gave the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) authority to extend the ending date of local water plans for a period not to exceed 2 years; and

WHEREAS, Stevens County has a current state approved and locally adopted Comprehensive Local Water Plan with an end date of December 18, 2001; and

WHEREAS, Stevens County is an active participant in other major planning efforts currently underway such as the Chippewa River Watershed Project, Pomme de Terre River Watershed Project, and the Bois de Sioux Watershed Plan Update;

WHEREAS, these other major planning efforts will result in information that will benefit the county during its Comprehensive Local Water Plan update efforts; and

WHEREAS, to continue as an active participant and obtain information that will benefit the Comprehensive Local Water Plan update Stevens County will not be able to complete its Comprehensive Local Water Plan update prior to December 18, 2001.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Stevens County Board of Commissioners request from BWSR a 2 year extension of their existing Comprehensive Local Water Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Stevens County will ensure continued public participation in the form of Water Plan Task Force and Public Information meetings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, no projects will be ordered or commenced under M.S. 103B.331 subd.. 3 or 4 during the extension period.

Name	Yes	No	Name	Yes	No
Stevenson	Y		Sherstad	Y	
Kloos	Y		Loher	Y	

STATE OF MINNESOTA)

) ss.

COUNTY OF STEVENS)

I, Duane Hebert, County Coordinator for the County of Stevens, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of a resolution with the original minutes of the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners, Stevens County, Minnesota at their session held on the 16th day of October, 2000, now on file in my office, and have found the same to be a true and correct copy thereof.


Duane Hebert, County Coordinator

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
One West Water Street
Suite 200
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107

In the Matter of Extending the Comprehensive Local Water Plan
for **Stevens** County (1995 Minnesota Session Law, Chapter 184,
Section 24 authorizing BWSR to grant extensions).

Whereas, Stevens County has a state approved Comprehensive Local Water Plan that is effective until December 18, 2001 pursuant to Minnesota Statute 1990, Section 103B.301, and

Whereas, the Stevens County Board of Commissioners requested an extension of the Comprehensive Local Water Plan to the Board of Water and Soil Resources on October 16, 2000, pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24, and

Whereas, the Board of Water and Soil Resources has authorization to grant extensions pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24.

Now Therefore, the Board of Water and Soil Resources hereby makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On October 31, 2000, the Board of Water and Soil Resources received a resolution from Stevens County requesting an extension of their Comprehensive Local Water Plan.
2. On November 2, 2000, the Board of Water and Soil Resources staff reviewed and recommended approval of the extension request by Stevens County.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled. The Board of Water and Soil Resources has proper jurisdiction in the matter of extending the Comprehensive Local Water Plan of Stevens County pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24.

ORDER

The Board of Water and Soil Resources hereby approves the extension of the Stevens County Comprehensive Local Water Plan until December 18, 2003. Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 13th day of December, 2000.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BY: Kathleen Roer, Chairperson
December 13, 2000

Committee Recommendations

1. **Fillmore County Comprehensive
Local Water Plan Update
DECISION**

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
One West Water Street
Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55107

**FILLMORE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE
LOCAL WATER PLAN UPDATE 2000**

FOR BOARD ACTION

The Fillmore County Comprehensive Local Water Plan (Plan) was adopted by Fillmore County on April 10, 1990, a revision was adopted on February 6, 1996, and approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) on January 26, 1996. Fillmore County submitted a Local Water Plan 2000 Update (Plan Update) to the BWSR and the final ninety-day state review process began on October 12, 2000. The final review period ends January 9, 2001.

The BWSR Staff prepared a written overview of the Plan Update on November 20, 2000 for information and review. This is included in the BWSR December agenda packet.

On November 29, 2000, the BWSR Water Plan Review Committee is scheduled to meet with the BWSR Staff and Representatives of Fillmore County to review and discuss the Plan Update. The review committee will make their recommendations to the BWSR at the December 13, 2000 board meeting. The draft Board Order will be sent to all board members for your review following the November 29, 2000 committee meeting and prior to the BWSR December board meeting. Board decision on the Fillmore County Plan Update will be requested.

OVERVIEW OF THE FILLMORE COMPREHENSIVE WATER PLAN UPDATE FOR THE DECEMBER 13, 2000 BWSR MEETING

INTRODUCTION

Fillmore County has prepared a Comprehensive Water Management Plan (Plan) in accordance to Minnesota Statutes 103B and Minnesota Rule Chapter 9300. The Water Plan Update (Plan Update) covers a period of five years, 2000 to 2005.

Fillmore County is a member of the nine county Southeastern Minnesota Water Resources Joint Powers Board (JPB). The JPB is supported by a technical committee made up of county water plan coordinators and cooperating resource agency staff.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF COUNTY

Fillmore County is located in southeastern Minnesota in the southernmost tier of counties along the Iowa Border. The county has a total area of 864 square miles: 65% of the land is used for croplands, 21% is used for pasture or timberland, 5% is developed, and 9% is used for other activities. Fillmore County has 13 cities along with numerous small unincorporated communities of varying size. Industry is mostly agricultural based with an increasing number of businesses relying on tourism.

Fillmore County is a gently rolling or rolling upland plain, deeply dissected in places by stream valley resulting in no remaining natural basins for lakes. Narrow valleys and limestone bluffs are typical of the highly dissected areas in the eastern half of the county. The western half of the county is gently rolling drift plain, only slightly dissected by streams. In the extreme northwest and southwest, on the broad divides between streams, the relief is level and smooth because of the leveling and filling action of glaciers. In this area extensive flats and large poorly drained depressions are common. The soils and land types of Fillmore county formed primarily in the deposits laid down by wind, water, and ice during the glacial period with an extensive mantle of loess, ranging from a few inches to more than 20 feet deep.

Fillmore County is drained almost entirely by the eastward flowing tributaries of the Root River with a small portion being drained by the Upper Iowa River. Many small tributary streams are fed by springs, but surface water often drains into sinks or sinkholes and thence to underground drainage channels.

Fillmore County relies primarily on the Prairie Du Chien - Jordan aquifer for its drinking water. Other aquifers of importance are the Upper Carbonate and the Franconia - Iron-ton - Galesville aquifers. Fillmore County's landscape is characterized by its karst topography. Shallow soil cover in about two-thirds of the county and the karst features, such as sinkholes, springs, caves, combine to create an area highly sensitive to ground water contamination from pollution sources at the land's surface.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Fillmore county and cooperating agencies have accomplished a number of successful implementation activities. Just a few of the accomplishments of this partnership include:

- 1) The initiation of a targeted watershed project in the South Branch of the Root River in 1996 resulting in an approved Clean Water Partnership Grant being awarded for data collection and watershed assessment. An active steering committee has been assisting local, state and federal agency partners with project implementation and education activities.
- 2) Fillmore County has taken a lead in addressing feedlot and manure management issues outlined in the water plan. This leadership has resulted in a full-time feedlot officer being hired in 2000 to help direct, coordinate and implement the planned activities.
- 3) Ground water issues have been actively addressed with activities such as well testing clinics, well sealing demonstrations, wellhead protection assistance to city, dye trace studies, "Report-a-Dump" campaign and ISTS installation demonstrations.
- 4) Sinkhole treatment and land use management issues continue to be addressed by the partners. A result was the Wykoff sinkhole treatment project that diverted stormwater runoff from a sinkhole through a constructed grassed waterway system. This was funded by a BWSR special project grant. The city of Canton had a similar project funded in the past.
- 5) The County and SWCD's decision to fund and use state-of-the-art GIS technology to help define, plan and implement good land and water management principals and practices.

The county, technical advisory committee and citizen's advisory committee have demonstrated a major commitment toward water management protection.

STAFF REVIEW

The Fillmore County Water Plan Update is well organized. The table of contents includes all requirements of a stand-alone document and effective dates are stated as 2001 to 2005. The overall goal of the Plan Update is the protection of the county's ground and surface waters from point and non-point sources of pollution at or near the lands surface. The Plan Update is organized around ten water quality issues. Under each policy issue, the county's goals is stated followed by a setting that describes present conditions and assessment of the particular issued. The Plan Update clearly lays out the implementation plans of the county for the next five years. A county water plan matrix (2001-2005) summarizes the implementation actions by year.

The ten priority policy issues for this version of the water plan has changed from the last version based on the comments and prioritization process from the public information meeting and are as follows: 1) land use, development and zoning; 2) feedlots and manure management; 3) karst topography; 4) fertilizer and pesticide use; 5) erosion and runoff control; 6) public and private water supplies and source water protection; 7) sewage and wastewater storage and transportation; 8) solid waste management; 9) fuel and hazardous materials storage and transportation and 10) wetlands, floodplains and shore lands.

The Plan Update was submitted to BWSR for final review that began on October 12, 2000.

Committee Recommendations
**2. Houston County Comprehensive
Local Water Plan Update
DECISION**

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
One West Water Street
Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55107

**HOUSTON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE
LOCAL WATER PLAN UPDATE 2000**

FOR BOARD ACTION

The original Houston County Comprehensive Local Water Plan (Plan) was adopted by Houston County on April 10, 1990, a revision to that plan was adopted on January 30, 1996, and approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) on January 25, 1996. Houston County submitted a Local Water Plan Update (Plan Update) to the BWSR on September 28, 2000, at which time the final ninety-day state review process began. The final review period ends December 26, 2000.

The BWSR Staff prepared a written overview of the Plan Update on November 29, 2000 for information and review. This is included in the BWSR December agenda packet.

On November 29, 2000, the BWSR Water Plan Review Committee will meet with the BWSR Staff and Representatives of Houston County to review and discuss the Plan Update. The review committee will make their recommendations to the BWSR at the December 13, 2000 board meeting. The draft Board Order will be sent to all board members for your review following the November 29, 2000 committee meetings and prior to the BWSR December board meeting. Board decision on the Houston County Plan Update will be requested.

OVERVIEW OF THE HOUSTON COMPREHENSIVE WATER PLAN UPDATE FOR THE DECEMBER 13, 2000 BWSR MEETING

INTRODUCTION

Houston County has prepared a Comprehensive Water Management Plan (Plan) in accordance to Minnesota Statutes 103B and Minnesota Rule Chapter 9300. The Water Plan Update covers a period of five years, 2000 to 2005.

Houston County is a member of the nine-county Southeastern Minnesota Water Resources Joint Powers Board (JPB). The JPB is supported by a technical committee made up of county water plan coordinators and cooperating resource agency staff.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF COUNTY

Houston County is in the southeast corner of the state. It has an area of about 570 square miles and consists of 17 townships, seven incorporated communities and 13 unincorporated communities. The land use of the County is predominately agriculture. The population and towns are dependent on agriculture and associated agricultural operations for their livelihood. Apples are an important crop in the northeastern part of the County. Small industries include food processing, a metal plating industry and timber mills.

Houston County is at the western edge of the driftless region of the upper Mississippi valley and has the most extreme topography of any county in the southern part of Minnesota. Differences in elevations between ridge tops and flood plains range as much as 600 feet. The upland consists of a high narrow ridge and lower lying dissected plain. The ridge and plain consist of sedimentary rock deposited in former inland seas. The bedrock has a mantle of loamy to clayey erosional sediment on its surface in most places. This is blanketed by a mantle of loess that covers all but the steep to very steep slopes along river and creeks. The lower lying plain, making up most of the County, has been carved into an intricate pattern of deep valleys and ridges. The valleys formed by the dissection of the plain have terraces along the major creeks and streams that are as high as 80 feet above the valley floor. The landforms in the County have no natural depressions of significance to trap runoff. The runoff that cannot be absorbed by the soil drains into the many creeks, which lead to three major rivers: Root River, Mississippi River and the Iowa River.

Houston County is located in the karst region. The terrain is made up mainly of shallow soils over fractured limestone bedrock. The most commonly used aquifers in Houston County are sandstone and limestone of the following formations: Prairie Du Chien Group, Jordan, Ironton-Galesville, and to a lesser extent, the Farnconian. There is little separation between these aquifers by confining layers; consequently contaminants would tend to be introduced through recharge conduits.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Houston County and cooperating agencies have accomplished a number of successful implementation activities identified through their Plan. Some of the accomplishments include:

1. Ninety Push-Up Ponds constructed, reducing sediment delivery downstream as well as providing erosion control, wildlife habitat and flood control.
2. Sixteen tons of household hazardous waste have been collected and properly disposed on in 7 separate household waste collections.

3. Seven abandoned wells have been properly sealed.
4. A successful education campaign has resulted in an annual fair booth display, annual sixth grade environmental education day, award recognition of outstanding individuals and businesses, an on-farm conservation tour and hayride, and a manure calibration and nutrient management program.
5. Water testing for 80 private families with infants and children.
6. One hundred fifty thousand dollars of state and private funds leveraged for management practices on forestlands.

The County, technical advisory committee and citizen's advisory committee have demonstrated a substantial commitment toward water management and protection.

STAFF REVIEW

Houston County has revised its Plan in three substantial areas.

1. Format: The document has been restructured to include action items, objectives, and goals based on the target resource (i.e. ground water, surface water) rather than the issue threatening those resources as previously identified. This Water Plan Update was meant to serve as a stand-alone for plan implementers and a companion to the 1995 and 1990 water plans to serve as the official Comprehensive Water Plan.
2. Updates: Action items have been reviewed. Completed actions have been removed. Actions requiring further implementation have been continued and actions that were ineffective were revised or eliminated. Assessments of the required indices of water management are also included.
3. Structure: The Water Plan Update identifies goals, objectives and actions; however, addenda were added to include agency and department work plans as well as mandates.

These changes were meant to improve the functionality of the Plan and are not consider major shifts in public policy or direction in water management. Administrative duties of the Houston County Water Plan have been transferred to the Root River SWCD since January 1999.

Goals and priority resource issues addressed by the Water Plan Update include: 1) Improving surface water quality through reducing delivery of sediments, livestock and municipal waste, and rural and urban fertilizer and pesticides to the rivers and streams through education, GIS technology transfer, and land and water treatment; 2) Manage storm water runoff to minimize risk to human life, property and the environment by providing BMP incentives, enforcing existing regulations, assisting with watershed projects, and continuing emergency preparedness procedures to reduce risk to public safety from storm water; 3) Protect ground water in order to maintain an adequate supply of safe drinking water for current and future generations by proper management of wells and wellhead protection areas, testing drinking water to insure portability, update rural septic systems, conducting education campaign, continuing county recycling program, monitoring springs and public waters, and exploring the need for a public health environmentalist position; and 4) Optimize recreational uses of water resources by improving access and facilities for recreation, encourage sound fisheries/wildlife management by management of river islands and promoting riparian buffers, reduce impact/spread of exotic species by enforcing regulations, and exploring alternative methods for control. The state mandate additions of wetland priority areas in Houston County Water Plan Update was included in Goal #5 but was not identified as a priority action at the local level.

The Water Plan Update was submitted to BWSR for final review on September 28, 2000.

Committee Recommendations
**3. Todd County Comprehensive
Local Water Plan Update**
DECISION

OVERVIEW

TODD COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER PLAN UPDATE THIRD GENERATION

Background

Todd County began development of their original water plan in September 1989. The county board adopted the original Plan in 1991. In 1995 the county completed its first plan update. The original Plan was developed through the county extension office. The county has looked to the Todd SWCD for coordination of implementation since the first plan was completed.

Local Comprehensive Water Plan Update Process and Plan Strengths

The county passed a resolution to begin work on their third generation update on September 21, 1999. Over the next eight months and ten task force meetings the county put together their draft plan update. From the outset the county coordinated development of their water plan update with development of their first comprehensive land use plan. The county hired the same consultant to assist them with both plans. The county is interested in applying the local water plan categories for implementation to the comp plan process. The county placed great importance on receiving lots of input from the public. A strength of the Plan is how every citizen comment was followed up on, every comment is listed in document and ranked by the task force for relative priority. Another strength of the Plan is its actions correlate well with watershed context. Examples of watershed context include small lakes in the Swan River watershed, water quality in the Long Prairie River watershed, and working with the Sauk River Watershed District on the lake water quality issues with Sauk Lake, Lake Osakis and the Horseshoe Chain. The Plan was sent out for local government and state review in May 2000. Agencies were well represented on the task force, which helped the county minimize plan review issues. On August 15, 2000 the county held their required public hearing on the Plan. On August 29, 2000 final agency review was begun.

County Description

Todd County is located in central Minnesota. The county is a largely rural county with an area of 1,000 square miles. The county is a rural county with a population of 24,000. The county seat of Todd County is Long Prairie. Todd County is located in the state's transition area. The county has areas of prime agricultural land as well as large acreages of recreational lands. Cropland is twice as common as forestland, but transitional ag lands are also a large component.

The major watersheds of the county are the Long Prairie, Crow Wing and the Sauk. The entire county drains to the upper Mississippi River basin. The southern quarter of the county is within the Sauk River Watershed District. The county has about 200 lakes, with the largest being Lake Osakis. Major geomorphic regions of the county include the Todd Drumlin Area, the St. Croix Moraine Complex, and the Park Rapids-Staples Outwash Plain.

DRAFT

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
One West Water Street
Suite 200
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107

DRAFT

ORDER
APPROVING
COMPREHENSIVE
WATER PLAN

In the Matter of Reviewing the Comprehensive Water Plan Update
for **Todd County** (Minnesota Statutes 1990, Section 103B.311,
Subdivision 4 and Section 103B.315, Subdivision 5 and Minnesota
Rules 9300.0170)

Whereas, the Todd County Board of Commissioners adopted a Comprehensive Water Plan (Plan) on November 19, 1991, under authority of M.S. 1990, Section 103B.301, which was approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) on December 18, 1991, pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 5, and

Whereas, the Plan provided for updating in 1995 pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.311, Subd. 4, and

Whereas, the Todd County Board of Commissioners submitted a Comprehensive Water Plan Update (Plan Update) to the Board on August 29, 2000, pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 5, and

Whereas, the Board has completed its review of the Plan Update.

Now Therefore, the Board hereby makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. M.S. 1990, Section 103B.311, Subd. 4, requires adopted Comprehensive Water Plans to be updated on a recurring basis.
2. On September 21, 1999, Todd County passed a resolution to develop a Comprehensive Water Plan Update to meet the Plan update requirements.
3. Todd County completed a draft Plan Update on May 17, 2000, and submitted it to affected local units of government for review and comment pursuant to Section 103B.315, Subd. 1.
4. On May 17, 2000, Todd County submitted a draft Plan Update to the Departments of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources, the Pollution Control Agency, the State Planning Agency and the Minnesota Geological Survey for preliminary review and comment.
5. On August 15, 2000, Todd County held a public hearing on the Plan Update pursuant to Section 103B.315, Subd. 4, for the purpose of obtaining public input into the Plan Update.
6. On August 29, 2000, Todd County submitted its Plan Update along with all written comments received on the Plan Update, and a record of the public hearing to the Board for final State review pursuant to Section 103B.315, Subd. 5.

7. On November 20, 2000, a written overview of the Todd County Plan Update was presented to the Board for their information and review.
8. **Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Review:** No written preliminary or final review comments were received from the MDA.

9. **Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Review:** In its preliminary review dated June 19, 2000, MDH recommended the County include the updated wellhead protection listing for public water suppliers in the county. The MDH offered other comments related to sealing unused wells and data reporting.

In its final review comments dated October 16, 2000, the MDH commented that the Plan presents a great opportunity to further public health protection. The MDH recommended approval of the Todd County Plan.

10. **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Review:** In its preliminary review dated July 14, 2000, the DNR provided written comments on the Plan Update. Comments included three items related to Trails and Waterways and water based recreation.

On September 29, 2000, in its final review comments to the Board, the DNR made two final comments. One comment related to federally administered WMA's, and the other with the need for an index of figures and maps. The DNR commended the County on their water resource planning efforts.

11. **Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Review:** In its preliminary review dated June 26, 2000, the MPCA provided written comments on the Plan Update. Comments included: ground water quality information, water quality education programs, and best management practices along agriculture drainage ditches.

On September 26, 2000, in its final comments to the Board, MPCA recommended approval of the Plan Update.

12. **Minnesota State Planning Agency/Environmental Quality Board (EQB) Review:** No written comments were received.

13. **Minnesota Geological Survey (MGS) Review:** In its review dated July 11, 2000, the MGS provided written comments on the Plan Update. MGS's main comments were in regard to the Otter Tail Regional Atlas and Regional Hydrogeologic Assessment. MGS also provided information on the options available for County Well Index.

On October 17, 2000, the MGS provided final comments on the Plan. MGS recommended approval of the Plan.

14. **Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR):** On June 29, 2000, the BWSR provided written comments on the Plan Update. Comments provided included new surface water quality information, watershed context, public input, and local funding options.

15. **County Response to Agency Comments:** In its final Plan Update submitted to the Board on August 29, 2000, Todd County incorporated many of the changes and additions to the Plan Update as recommended in the agency and local comments. The BWSR concluded its final review of the Plan Update and state agencies' comments on November 22, 2000.
16. **Board Water Plan Review Committee Meeting:** On December 7, 2000, the Board committee met in Brainerd with Board staff and representatives from Todd County to review and discuss the Plan Update. Those in attendance were Darrell Bruggman, Ginny Imholte, and of the Board of Water & Soil Resources Board; Ron Shelito and Dan Steward of the Brainerd Regional Office; Todd County Water Planning Task Force, and Sandy Rohr, manager of the Todd Soil & Water Conservation District. The water plan review committee met to determine whether all relevant law and rule requirements had been met and to hear comments from the county on the planning process.
17. On December 7, 2000, the BWSR water plan review committee recommended that the Board of Water & Soil Resources Board approve the Todd County Plan Update.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of approving a Comprehensive Water Plan Update of Todd County pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 1990, 103B.311, Subd. 4, and Minnesota Rules 9300.0170, Subp. 4.
2. The Todd County Plan Update attached to this Order states water and water-related problems within the county, possible solutions, general goals, objectives and actions of the county, and an implementation program. The attached Plan Update is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes 1990, 103B.301 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 9300.

ORDER

The Board hereby approves the attached Plan as the Comprehensive Water Plan Update of Todd County. Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this thirteenth day of December, 2000.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BY: Kathleen Roer, Chair