



Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.
Minutes.

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DATE: May 20, 2003

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

FROM: Ronald D. Harnack, Executive Director

SUBJECT: May 28th Board Meeting

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will meet on Wednesday, May 28, 2003, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in the BWSR conference room, lower level, at One West Water Street, St. Paul. Parking is available across the street from the building. Please display the enclosed "temporary parking permit" on your vehicle's dashboard.

The following information pertains to agenda items:

Committee Recommendations

Metro Water Plan Review Committee

1. South Washington Watershed District Boundary Change - The South Washington Watershed District filed a boundary change petition with the Board on April 14, 2003. The Notice of Filing was published in the South Washington County Bulletin and the Woodbury Bulletin once each week for two consecutive weeks. No requests for hearing were received and no comments were received during the specified time period. All the cities, towns and watershed management organizations affected by the boundary change adopted resolutions in support of the boundary change. The Metro Water Plan Review Committee met on May 12 and unanimously recommended approval of the boundary change per the attached draft order. *Decision Item*

Southern Region Water Plan Review Committee

1. Big Stone County Comprehensive Local Water Plan – see attached. *Decision Item*
2. Chippewa County Comprehensive Local Water Plan – see attached. *Decision Item*
3. Lac Qui Parle County Comprehensive Local Water Plan – see attached. *Decision Item*
4. Swift County Comprehensive Local Water Plan – see attached. *Decision Item*

Bemidji 17 Bemidji Avenue N. Bemidji, MN 56601 phone (218) 755-4235 fax (218) 755-4201	Brainerd 217 S. 7th Street Suite 202 Brainerd, MN 56401 phone (218) 828-2383 fax (218) 828-6036	Duluth 394 S. Lake Avenue Room 403 Duluth, MN 55802 phone (218) 723-4752 fax (218) 723-4794	Fergus Falls 413 W. Stanton Avenue Fergus Falls, MN 56537 phone (218) 736-5445 fax (218) 736-7215	Marshall 1400 E. Lyon Street Box 267 Marshall, MN 56258 phone (507) 537-6060 fax (507) 537-6368	New Ulm 261 Highway 15 S. New Ulm, MN 56073 phone (507) 359-6074 fax (507) 359-6018	Rochester 40 16th Street S.E. Suite A Rochester, MN 55904 phone (507) 285-7458 fax (507) 280-2875	Saint Paul One West Water Street Suite 250 Saint Paul, MN 55107 phone (651) 282-9969 fax (651) 284-0000
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Northern Region Water Plan Review Committee

1. Beltrami County Comprehensive Local Water Plan – see attached. *Decision Item*
2. Morrison County Comprehensive Local Water Plan – Morrison County submitted an updated county water plan dated January 2, 2003 to BWSR for review. The Northern Region Water Plan Review Committee met on May 2, 2003 to review the revised plan. Mr. Tom Casey, an attorney representing the Round Lake Association, brought several issues forward to the county and to the committee (see three Casey letters attached). A BWSR staff report dated April 30, 2003 (see attached) addressed Mr. Casey's concerns. The committee voted unanimously to recommend the plan for approval per the attached draft order. *Decision Item*
3. Pope County Comprehensive Local Water Plan – see attached. *Decision Item*
4. Thirty Lakes Watershed District Revised Watershed Management Plan - The Revised Watershed Management Plan of the Thirty Lakes Watershed District dated November 4, 2002 was filed with the Board. Notice of filing was published in the Brainerd Daily Dispatch and the Lake Country Echo. The North Region Water Plan Review Committee met on May 2, 2003 in Detroit Lakes to review the revised plan. The committee passed a unanimous resolution to recommend approval of the Plan per the attached draft order. *Decision Item*
5. Overview of Red River Mediation – see attached. *Information Item*
6. Bois de Sioux Watershed District Revised Watershed Management Plan - The Revised Watershed Management Plan of the Bois de Sioux Watershed District dated January 6, 2003 was filed with the Board. Notice of public hearing was published in several newspapers and a public hearing was held. The North Region Water Plan Review Committee met on May 2, 2003 in Detroit Lakes to review the revised plan. The committee passed a unanimous resolution to recommend approval of the Plan per the attached draft order. *Decision Item*
7. Wild Rice Watershed District Revised Watershed Management Plan - The Revised Watershed Management Plan of the Wild Rice Watershed District dated April, 2003 was filed with the Board. Notice of public hearing was published in several newspapers and a public hearing was held. The North Region Water Plan Review Committee met on May 2, 2003 in Detroit Lakes to review the revised plan. The committee passed a unanimous resolution to recommend approval of the Plan per the attached draft order. *Decision Item*

Old Business

1. Shell Rock River Watershed District Establishment Petition - A citizen petition to establish the Shell Rock River Watershed District was filed with BWSR on March 9, 2000. A public hearing was held on June 5, 2000 in Albert Lea. Many citizens spoke in favor of, and many citizens spoke against, formation of a watershed district. Also opposed were the Freeborn County Board, Freeborn SWCD, the City of Albert Lea and

several townships. On June 21, 2000, the Freeborn County Board, by resolution, requested BWSR to hold the establishment proceedings in abeyance. The BWSR Board adopted an Order dated July 26, 2000 that placed the proceedings in abeyance and an agreement was established. On September 26, 2001, the BWSR Board adopted another Order that continued the proceedings to be held in abeyance and a second agreement was established. The second agreement ended on February 1, 2003.

A BWSR committee convened in Albert Lea on May 13, 2003. The committee heard testimony from the SWCD, City of Albert Lea, Freeborn County, the Chamber of Commerce Lake Committee, the Petitioners, and some citizens. BWSR staff presented an advisory report that recommended the watershed district be established (See attached May 8, 2003 staff advisory report). It is staff's opinion that the second agreement was not fully complied with and county funding in the Shell Rock River watershed remained an issue. The committee decided on a 3-1 vote to recommend establishment of the watershed district. The committee is seeking approval from the full board to proceed with manager selection and other items necessary to bring a completed watershed district establishment order to the June board meeting for approval. *Decision Item*

New Business

1. Grants Primer - The budget process is growing to a close and the Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources budget is on its way to the Governor for final action. As we approach the beginning of the fiscal year and the grants allocation to local governments we will need to formalize the policies that will direct those allocations. This grants primer will provide a good orientation for the grants policy discussion to follow. *Information Item*
2. 2004-2005 Local Water Management Planning Challenge Grants – The LCMR has proposed to the Legislature that Local Water Management Planning Challenge Grants receive \$500,000 to accelerate implementation of local water plans. Staff is requesting that the board approve an application period for eligible local units of government June 2-20, 2003 according to the proposed guidelines. Board action on projects proposed for funding will be sought at the July 2003 meeting. *Decision Item*
3. Natural Resources Block Grant Administrative Policy – The NRBG has been administered on a calendar year basis. Paper forms have been used by LGUs for applying for the NRBG and LARS has provided limited database functions. Staff recommends the NRBG should be administered on a fiscal year basis and all application and report functions should be performed by eLINK. *Decision Item*
4. Conservation Easement Service Grants FY 04 - Service grants were computed using the service grant formula that was adopted by the Board in 1994. The only change to the allocation formula is that each SWCD will no longer receive the \$1,000 base grant amount. Past easement activity (last three calendar years, 2002, 2001, 2000) and the number of site inspections for 2003 in each county are used to determine the service grant amount for each SWCD. The conservation easement database is programmed to

run this formula. Past easement activity equates to the number of funded applications for all easement types in each SWCD, over the past three years. Statewide total funded applications have gone from 426 in 2000, 1,121 in 2001, and 548 in 2002. These three years are weighted 20%, 30% and 50% in the formula. The site inspection amount of the formula is based on the number of easements slated for inspection in the current year. The formula uses \$60 per site inspection. Conservation easement service grants are for the implementation activities associated with all conservation easement programs; CREP, RIM Reserve and PWP. *Decision Item*

5. RIM Reserve Easement Alteration – see attached. *Decision Item*
6. Two Rivers Watershed District PL566 Approval and Priority Ranking – The Two Rivers Watershed District submitted an application for a Public Law 566 project. After a pre-application phase was completed with the NRCS, the NRCS recommended that the watershed district submit a formal application for PL566 assistance. Resolutions of support from the Kittson SWCD, the City of Karlstad and Springbrook Township accompanied the application. The project would fund works of improvement to the watercourse. Staff recommend the application be approved and a high priority ranking assigned per the attached draft order. *Decision Item*
7. Change in Location of Chisago SWCD – As required by M.S. 103C.221 – “change of location of principal office” the Chisago SWCD has a resolution for change in headquarters. See attached. *Decision Item*

If you have any questions regarding the agenda, please feel free to give me a call at 651-296-0878. The meeting is likely to go until 2:00 p.m. We will take a half hour lunch break; box lunches will be provided. I look forward to seeing you on May 28th!

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
ONE WEST WATER STREET
LOWER LEVEL CONFERENCE ROOM
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55107
WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2003**

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

9:00 a.m. Call Meeting to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Adopt Agenda

Minutes of April 23, 2003

Open Mike (10-minute agenda time, two-minute limit/person)

Reports

- Chair – Lee Coe
- Executive Director – Ron Harnack
- Dispute Resolution Committee – Lee Coe
- Wetlands Committee – Darrell Bruggman
- Cost-Share/Soil Conservation Committee – Dwain Otte
- Education and Public Relations Committee – Paul Krabbenhoft
- Administrative Advisory Committee – Lee Coe

Agency Reports

- Minnesota Department of Agriculture – Perry Aasness
- Minnesota Department of Health – Dan Wilson
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Gene Merriam
- Minnesota Extension Service – Jim Anderson
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Lisa Thorvig

Committee Recommendations

Metro Water Plan Review Committee

1. South Washington Watershed District Boundary Change – *Decision Item*

Southern Region Water Plan Review Committee

1. Big Stone County Comprehensive Local Water Plan – *Decision Item*

2. Chippewa County Comprehensive Local Water Plan – *Decision Item*
3. Lac Qui Parle County Comprehensive Local Water Plan – *Decision Item*
4. Swift County Comprehensive Local Water Plan – *Decision Item*

Northern Water Planning Subcommittee

1. Beltrami County Comprehensive Local Water Plan – *Decision Item*
2. Morrison County Comprehensive Local Water Plan – *Decision Item*
3. Pope County Comprehensive Local Water Plan – *Decision Item*
4. Thirty Lakes Watershed District Revised Watershed Management Plan – *Decision Item*
5. Overview of Red River Mediation – Phil Belfiori – *Information Item*
6. Bois de Sioux Watershed District Revised Watershed Management Plan – *Decision Item*
7. Wild Rice Watershed District Revised Watershed Management Plan – *Decision Item*

Old Business

1. Shell Rock River Watershed District Establishment Petition – Jim Haertel – *Decision Item*

New Business

1. Grants Primer – Doug Thomas – *Information Item*
2. 2004-2005 Local Water Management Planning Challenge Grants – Marybeth Block – *Decision Item*
3. Natural Resources Block Grant Administrative Policy – Wayne Zellmer – *Decision Item*
4. Conservation Easement Service Grants FY04 – Kevin Lines – *Decision Item*
5. RIM Reserve Easement Alteration – Tim Fredbo – *Decision Item*
6. Two Rivers Watershed District PL566 Approval and Priority Ranking – Jim Haertel – *Decision Item*

7. Change in Location of Chisago SWCD – Lynda Peterson
Decision Item

Advisory Comments

- Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) – Dave Weirens
- Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees (MACDE) – Rick Reimer
- Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) – LeAnn Buck
- Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) – Sandy Hooker
- Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) – Ray Bohn
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – Tim Koehler

Upcoming Meetings

- Next BWSR Meeting, June 25, 2003, St. Paul
- NACD North Central Region Meeting, July 14-16, Madison, WI
- BWSR Meeting, July 23, 2003
- BWSR Tour and Meeting, August 27-28, 2003, Red River Valley

Adjourn

Dispute Resolution Report
April 11, 2003
by Jim Haertel

There are presently nine appeals pending. All of the appeals involve WCA. There are no new appeals since the last report of April 11.

There is an appeal of an exemption decision and a no-loss decision made by Middleville Township in Wright County. The appeal is in abeyance since it was remanded to the township for a TEP and other administrative procedures.

There is an appeal of a no-loss decision and two exemption decisions made by the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization in Vadnais Heights, Ramsey County. The proposed project is for a residential development. The appeal is in abeyance since it was remanded to the WMO for an expanded TEP.

There is an appeal of a no-loss decision in Douglas County. An agreement has been mediated that should resolve the appeal this summer.

There is an appeal of a restoration order in Douglas County. An agreement has been mediated that should resolve the appeal this summer.

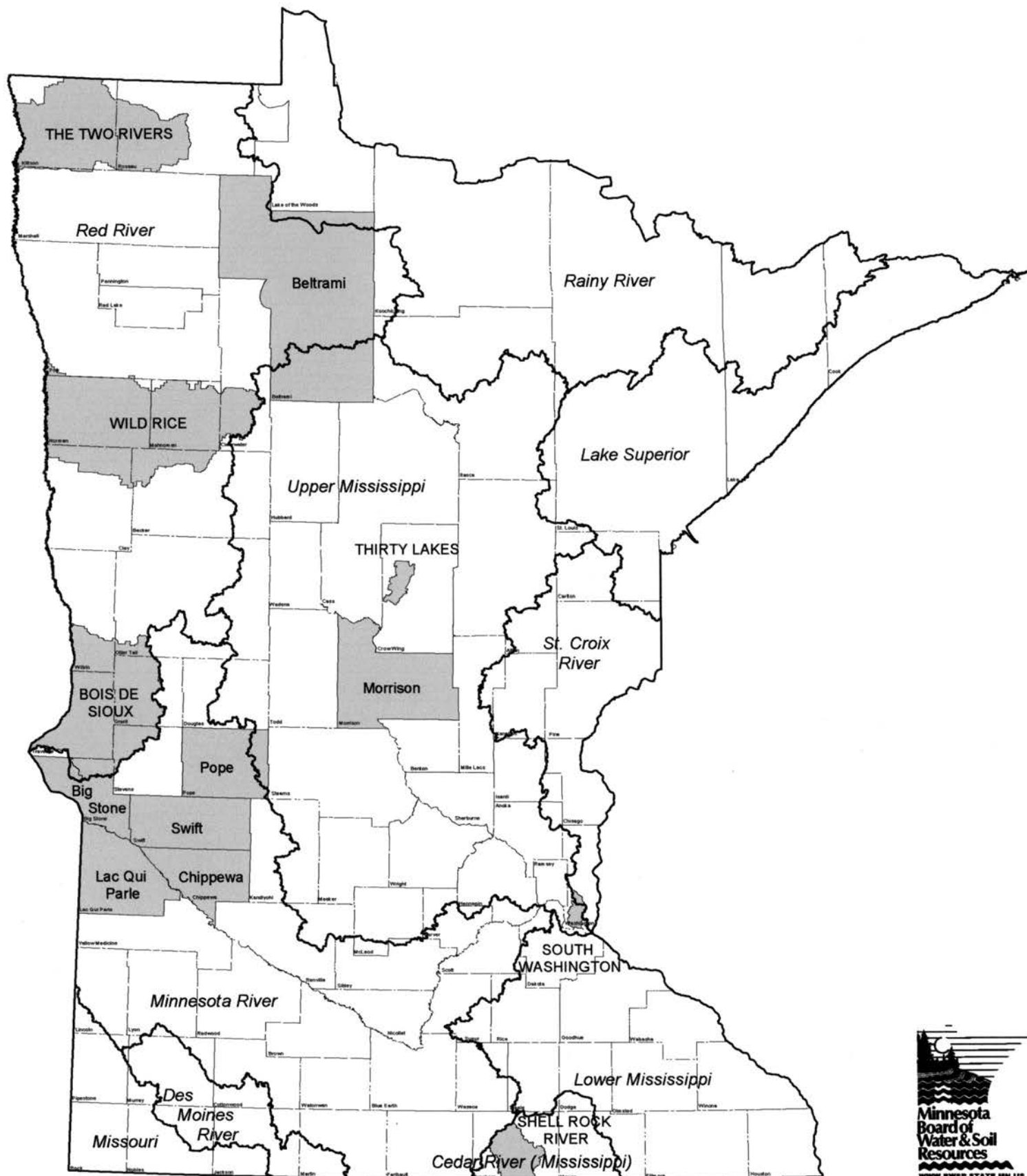
There are two appeals of a replacement plan decision made by the Shingle Creek WMO in Brooklyn Center. These two appeals were previously heard by the DRC and remanded. The WMO conducted a new public hearing, made the same decision as before, and the same appellants have filed new appeals. The appeals have been accepted, a pre-hearing conference was held on April 11, and a hearing before the DRC is scheduled for June 18.

There is an appeal of a no-loss decision in Meeker County. At issue is the wetland delineation. The appeal is being held in abeyance pending further technical evaluation work, however, it appears a settlement agreement may be reached between the county attorney and the landowner.

Another appeal is of a replacement plan in the City of Albertville in Wright County. The appeal is in abeyance since it has been remanded to the city because a TEP was not held.

Another appeal is of a replacement plan denial in Stearn's County. The appeal involves a single family dwelling site near the Mississippi River. The appeal has been accepted, a pre-hearing was held and the appeal is in abeyance pending the results of a lawsuit between the landowner and the county.

May 28th BWSR Board Agenda Reference Map



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

In the Matter of the Boundary Change
for the South Washington Watershed District
in Washington County, Minnesota, pursuant
to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.215.

**ORDER
BOUNDARY CHANGE
SOUTH WASHINGTON
WATERSHED DISTRICT**

Whereas, the Board of Managers of the South Washington Watershed District filed a Petition with the Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) dated March 11, 2003, to change the boundary of the South Washington Watershed District pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103B.215, and;

Whereas, the Board has completed its review of the Petition;

Now Therefore, the Board hereby makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions, and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. **Boundary Change Petition.** The Petition to change the boundary of the South Washington Watershed District dated March 11, 2003, was filed by the watershed district with the Board on April 14, 2003.
2. **Property Description.** The territory to be included in the South Washington Watershed District, the Petitioned Area, attached hereto as Exhibit A and fully incorporated herein, is contiguous to the watershed district and is located entirely within the metropolitan area. The Petitioned Area includes land that is now under the East Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, which consists of a total of 17.35 square miles in the Cities of Cottage Grove, St. Paul Park, Newport, Maplewood, Woodbury and Grey Cloud Township. The Petitioned Area also includes technical adjustments to the boundary of the South Washington Watershed District, adding property to or transferring from, one of the following watershed management organizations: Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District, Valley Branch Watershed District, and the Lower St. Croix Watershed Management Organization.

3. **Reasons for Change.** The Petition lists the following:
- A. The East Mississippi Watershed Management Organization has not adopted a storm water management plan since the inception of the organization.
 - B. The East Mississippi Watershed Management Organization is small in size and has limited tax capacity.
 - C. The East Mississippi Watershed Management Organization communities have agreed to be added to the South Washington Watershed District, subject to certain conditions listed in the Petition.
 - D. The Washington County Governance Study in May of 1998 recommended the addition of the East Mississippi Watershed Management Organization to the South Washington Watershed District.
 - E. The technical adjustments to the boundary of the South Washington Watershed District are necessary to have territory included in a watershed district as determined by drainage characteristics.
 - F. The technical adjustments to the boundary of the South Washington Watershed District have been agreed upon by the affected watershed management organizations.
4. **Concurrence.** Accompanying the Petition are all the statements of concurrence from the cities, towns, and watershed management organizations having jurisdiction over the Petitioned Area, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103B.215, Subd. 2 (c).
5. **Termination Effect on Benefits and Damages.** The Petition represents that, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103B.225, the territory to be added or transferred will be free of financial liabilities at the time of the boundary change.
6. **Notice of Filing.** Legal Notice of Filing pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103B.215, Subd. 3 was published in the South Washington County Bulletin on April 23 and 30, 2003, and in the Woodbury Bulletin on April 23 and 30, 2003. The Legal Notice of Filing was also mailed on April 21, 2003 to several addressees as required in Minn. Stat. § 103B.215, Sud. 3 (a).

7. **Public Hearing.** The legal notice was published pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103B.215, Subd. 3, which requires within 20 days of the last date of publication of the notice of filing of the Petition that at least one request for hearing be received by the Board before a hearing will be held. No requests for hearing were received during the specified period of time and no hearing was held.
8. **Comments Received.** There were no comments received during the specified period of time.
9. **Board Staff Report.** Board staff recommend the boundary change be approved.
10. **Metro Water Plan Review Committee.** The Board's Metro Water Plan Review Committee met on May 12, 2003 and, based on all the information on file and the oral testimony of watershed district staff, unanimously recommend the boundary change be approved per the Petition.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The Petition for boundary change of the South Washington Watershed District is valid in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 103B.215.
2. Proper notice of filing was given and a public hearing was not held in accordance with applicable laws.
3. All relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled.
4. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of ordering a watershed district boundary change.
5. The boundary change of the South Washington Watershed District as proposed in the Petition is consistent with the purposes and requirements of the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act, Minn. Stat. §§ 103B.201 to 103B.255, and will be for the public welfare and public interest.
6. All the cities, towns, and watershed management organizations having jurisdiction over the Petitioned Area concur in the Petition.
7. The boundary change can be accomplished in conformance with Minn. Stat. § 103B.225 since all territory to be added or transferred will be free of financial liabilities at the time of the boundary change.
8. The South Washington Watershed District boundary change should be approved per the Petition.

ORDER

The Board hereby orders that the South Washington Watershed District boundary is changed to add and transfer the area described in the Petition and depicted on the map attached to the Petition as Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and fully incorporated herein.

Dated at Saint Paul, Minnesota this 28th day of May, 2003.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

By: _____
Leland G. Coe, Chair

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

May 2003 BWSR Board Meeting

OVERVIEW – BIG STONE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER PLAN

Background

Big Stone County has a Comprehensive Local Water Plan, which was approved by the BWSR on April 25, 1996. Big Stone County submitted its third generation Plan to the BWSR on January 22, 2003. The ninety-day final state review process began on January 22, 2003, and ended on April 21, 2003.

On March 26, 2003, and again on April 24, 2003 brief information regarding the Big Stone County Plan Update was provided to the Board for their review.

On April 10, 2003, the BWSR Water Plan Review Committee met in the City of Montevideo with BWSR staff and representatives from Big Stone County to review and discuss the third generation Comprehensive Local Water Plan.

For the May 28, 2003 BWSR Board meeting, two items in addition to this Overview have been provided for board member information. The first item is a copy of the County Profile and Executive Summary (Chapter One) of the Big Stone County Water Plan. This briefly provides an introduction to the County and the planning process, and describes some major accomplishments in the past ten years. The second item is a board order for the Big Stone County Water Plan, which provides additional background information.

Outcomes

The focus of the planning process for Big Stone County's third generation plan was on implementation. This was accomplished through seeking the involvement of local and state agencies early in the update process, with an emphasis on identifying a reduced number of priority issues. The collection of data in Big Stone's Plan was reduced, with a significantly greater emphasis placed on the resource issues and their assessment. The specific issues identified were then addressed through goals, objectives and measurable actions. As a result, this Plan has a "bias to action", with a clear implementation focus!

Big Stone's Plan identifies four priority issues in the following categories:

- **Water-Based Education** – Most of the issues identified throughout the water planning process would be greatly improved by simply raising public awareness. The plan lays out steps (actions) to do this.
- **Water Management** – Managing water resources is critical, this category included sections on drainage, groundwater and storm water with specific management actions identified for each.
- **Reducing Priority Pollutants** – The Plan identifies action steps to minimize or eliminate priority pollutants (nutrients, sediment, etc.). By targeting the Stoney Run Sub-Watershed, the plan concentrates and further focuses implementation efforts.
- **Surface Water Use** – This issue addresses shore land development, wetland restoration, inventorying land locked water basins, and developing a recreation and wildlife plan.

BWSR staff reviewed the Big Stone County Water Plan and found that all relevant requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled and it is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes 1990, 103B and Minnesota Rules Chapter 9300. BWSR staff recommends approval of the Big Stone County 2003 – 2013 ten year Comprehensive Local Water Plan. (*The Implementation Section covers a five-year period 2003 – 2008.*)

The BWSR Water Plan Review Committee will make its approval recommendation to the full BWSR Board at the May 28, 2003 meeting.

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

In the Matter of Reviewing the Comprehensive Water Plan Update
for **Big Stone** County (Minnesota Statutes 1990, Section 103B.311,
Subdivision 4 and Section 103B.315, Subdivision 5 and Minnesota
Rules 9300.0170)

ORDER
APPROVING
COMPREHENSIVE
WATER PLAN

Whereas, the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners adopted a Comprehensive Local Water Plan (Plan) on October 7, 1997, under authority of Minnesota Statutes (M.S.) 1990, Section 103B.301, which was approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) on April 25, 1996 pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 5, and

Whereas, the Plan provided for updating in 2002 pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.311, Subd. 4, and

Whereas, the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners submitted a Comprehensive Local Water Plan Update (Plan Update) to the Board on January 22, 2003, 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 April 18, 2000, the Board received from Big Stone County a resolution requesting an extension of their existing Comprehensive Local Water Plan.
3. On May 24, 2000, the Board approved the extension of the existing Big Stone County Comprehensive Local Water Plan until April 25, 2003. (The Board has authorization to grant extensions pursuant to Minn. Session Law 1995, Chapter 184 Section 24.)
4. On January 8, 2002, Big Stone County passed a resolution to develop a Comprehensive Water Plan Update to meet the plan update requirements.
5. Big Stone County held a public information meeting on April 2, 2002, for purposes of gaining public input into the Plan Update.

6. On September 20, 2002, Big Stone County completed a draft Plan Update and submitted it to affected local units of government for preliminary review and comment pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 1.
7. On September 23, 2002, Big Stone County submitted a draft Plan Update to the Minnesota Departments of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources, Pollution Control, Minnesota Geological Survey, and Minnesota Environmental Quality Board for preliminary review and comment pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 5.
8. On November 19, 2002, Big Stone County held a public hearing on the Plan Update pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 4, for the purpose of obtaining public input into the Plan Update.
9. On January 22, 2003, Big Stone 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 M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 5.
10. On January 22, 2003 the Board distributed notification of the official 90-day state review and a copy of the Big Stone County Plan Update to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Environmental Quality Board, and Minnesota Geological Survey for their review and comment pursuant to Minnesota Rules, Chapter 9300.0170. The notification stated that each agency had 45 days from receipt of the notification to submit written comments to the Board.
11. On March 26, 2003 and again on April 24, 2003, brief information regarding the Big Stone County Plan Update was provided to the Board for their review.
12. **Individual Comments:** No individual written comments were received.
13. **County Response to Individual Comments:** Not applicable.

Local Government Unit (LGU) Comments: Written preliminary review comments were received in November 2002 from the Bois de Sioux Watershed District. They suggested adding several actions to install specific BMPs in the Bois de Sioux Watershed within Big Stone County with the Watershed District, SWCD and County working together.

14. **County Response to LGU Comments:** Big Stone County responded to the LGU on January 10, 2003 and incorporated their recommendations and additions in the Plan.
15. **Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Review:** MDA did provide preliminary written comments in November 2002. MDA encouraged the County to closely integrate their County Water Plan with their Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Also comments identifying Agricultural Best Management Practice Loan information for the County was provided. Final written comments (dated February 6, 2003) commended the County on the development of their Water Plan. It further stated several areas where the MDA may be able to coordinate and provide assistance to Big Stone County including: pesticides and fertilizer management issues, nitrate testing, low interest Ag BMP loans, and information for planners and producers in addressing feedlot issues.

16. **Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Review:** MDH did provide written preliminary review comments in October 2002. MDH stated the Plan addresses three MDH issues: public water suppliers that are required to conduct wellhead protection were recognized as to their current status in that program; the goals, objectives and actions recognized wellhead protection, including the County's willingness to assist with development of these plans; and the water plan provides support to abandoned well sealing and support to better understanding groundwater resources. In addition several edits were made regarding Community Public Water Suppliers, the discussion on Health Risk Limits was slightly revised, and the third category of public water suppliers was changed to read transient noncommunity public water supply. Final written comments (dated November 1, 2002) stated MDH found no inconsistencies in the Plan with law or regulations of MDH. MDH commended the County for consideration of their comments early in the process and supports approval of the Plan.
17. **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Review:** DNR did not provide written preliminary review comments, but did participate in the planning process through task force meetings, and by providing input and information during the updating of data elements. No final written comments were provided.
18. **Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Review:** MPCA did provide written preliminary review comments on November 15, 2002. The MPCA commended the County for doing an excellent job, and for including the four MPCA Southwest Regional priority items in the Plan. Final written comments (dated February 18, 2003) stated their review was done to ensure continuity of approach with MPCA programs and identify any inconsistencies that may exist between the plan recommendations or planned activities, state statutes or MPCA rules and policies. MPCA recommends that BWSR give final approval to the Plan.
19. **Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) / State Planning Agency Review:** EQB did not provide any written preliminary review comments. No final written comments were provided.
20. **Minnesota Geological Survey (MGS) Review:** MGS did not provide any written preliminary comments. No final written comments were provided.
21. **Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR):** BWSR did provide written preliminary review comments on November 6, 2002. The BWSR suggested adding some financial information to the Executive Summary of the Plan; suggested identifying the location / source of any local monitoring data that has been completed; suggested the Plan include a map of the Stoney Run Sub-Watershed; noted the Plan needs to identify high priority wetland preservation areas in the county; and noted a need to include state cost-share program definitions in the text of the Plan. Final written comments (dated February 13, 2003) thanked the County for their effort on the Water Plan Update. It also encouraged the County to include a map of the Stoney Run Sub-Watershed (map was being developed), and suggested more explanation regarding wetland preservation areas for the County.
22. **County Response to State Agency Comments:** On January 10, 2003, Big Stone County made written responses to state agencies regarding the preliminary comments. In its final Plan Update submitted to the Board on January 22, 2003, Big Stone County incorporated many of the changes, additions, and recommendations to the Plan update as provided in the agencies' comments.

23. **Board Water Plan Review Committee Meeting:** On April 10, 2003, the Board committee met in Montevideo, Minnesota with Board staff and representatives from Big Stone County to review and discuss the Plan Update. Those in attendance were Victor Ormsby (SWCD member), Jerome Deal (WD member), Becky Balk (MDA member), Dan Wilson (MDH member) and Char Kahler (citizen member) of the Board; the Board's southern region supervisor Jeff Nielsen and board conservationists David Sill and Pete Waller; water plan coordinator Darren Wilke; and Matthew Johnson of Midwest Community Planning (consultant). The water plan review committee met to determine whether all relevant law and rule requirements had been met; to discuss past accomplishments; to discuss resource issues and needs; to review the proposed Plan Update; and to hear comments from Big Stone County on the planning process.
24. On April 10, 2003, the Board Water Plan Review Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Board approve the Big Stone County 2003-2013 ten-year Comprehensive Local Water Plan Update, with the Goals, Objectives and Action Steps (Implementation Section) covering a five year period 2003 - 2008.

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 Big Stone County pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 1990, 103B.315, Subd. 5, and Minnesota Rules 9300.0170, Subp. 4.
2. The Big Stone 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 Update as the Comprehensive Local Water Plan of Big Stone County with a required update to the Implementation section (Goals, Objectives and Action Steps) by May 28, 2008. Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 28th day of May, 2003.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BY: _____
Leland Coe, Chair

CHAPTER ONE: COUNTY PROFILE AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Chapter One Contains...

Chapter One provides an introduction to Big Stone County and its Comprehensive Local Water Plan. This Chapter includes the following information:

- ✓ The Role of the County Board, Water Planning Committee and Citizen Participation
- ✓ Big Stone County's Population and Location
- ✓ Previous Big Stone County Water Plan Accomplishments
- ✓ Clean Water Partnerships/Watershed Projects
- ✓ Watershed Districts

The Role of the County Board, Water Planning Committee and Citizen Participation

In January 2002, the Minnesota River Headwaters Joint Powers Board (consisting of Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Pope and Swift Counties) cooperatively agreed to update the member counties' Comprehensive Local Water Plans. After reviewing a number of proposals, the Joint Powers Board entered into a contract with the local Regional Development Commission, the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission (UMVRDC), to coordinate the development of the five individual water plans. The UMVRDC thereafter subcontracted with Midwest Community Planning, LLC, to assist with the planning, facilitation and writing portion of the contract (the UMVRDC remaining responsibilities included mapping and various data collection). Midwest Community Planning, LLC, then assisted the individual counties with developing the specific contents of this Water Plan.

The water planning process for Big Stone County started with a Public Informational Meeting, held on April 2, 2002. The primary purpose of the meeting was to invite the public, local governmental units and various governmental agencies to identify and discuss local water planning issues. The issues identified were then discussed during regular meetings with a Local Water Plan Committee (created by the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners). The Committee included the following participants:

Water Plan Committee Members:

John Cunningham	U of MN Extension	Dave Soehren	DNR – Wildlife
Don Diekman	Citizen	Wade Gillingham	MN PCA
David Sill	MN BWSR	Skip Wright	DNR – Waters
Norm Haukos	DNR – Fisheries	Mayti Sundheim	Bonanza Education Center
Jeanne Krueger	County Commissioner	Brett Wehrle	US Fish & Wildlife Refuge
Dave Torgerson	County Commissioner	Jon Roeschlien	Bois De Sioux Watershed
Mark Dybdahl	NRCS	Patricia Hyatt	Citizen
Wanda Holker	SWCD	Roger Sandberg	Citizen
Gary Hoffman	SWCD	Darren Wilke	Environmental Services
Steve Delehanty	US Fish & Wildlife	Citizens for Big Stone Lake (Citizens)	
Dianne Radermacher	Upper MN River Watershed District		

The first draft of the Comprehensive Local Water Plan went out for public review on September 20, 2002. This review process included the general public, local governmental units (i.e., cities and townships) and governmental agencies. A public hearing was held with the County Board on November 19, 2002, to solicit public comment and to discuss all of the written comments received during the public review period. The Water Planning Committee then met one more time to incorporate the public and governmental comments into the final draft water plan. On January 10, 2003, the final draft was submitted to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for final state agency 90-day review. The final Big Stone County Comprehensive Local Water Plan went for final approval by BWSR on May 28, 2003.

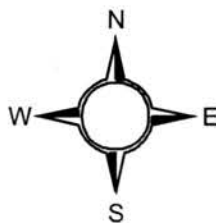
Big Stone County's Population and Location

According to the 2000 Census, Big Stone County had 5,820 residents living in 2,377 households. The City of Ortonville is the County's largest City, with approximately 2,158 residents (Appendix A contains Big Stone County's complete demographic profiles, including the following: General Demographic Profile, Selected Social Characteristics Profile, Selected Economic Characteristics Profile and Selected Housing Characteristics Profile). The County is located in West Central Minnesota along the South Dakota Border, approximately 170 miles west of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area and 100 miles south of Fargo-Moorhead. Map 1A shows the location of Big Stone County's cities and townships, along with the County's location in the State. The County is characterized by the Minnesota River and Big Stone Lake, which forms the County's western and southern borders. The County also shares borders with Traverse County to the north, Stevens County to the north and east, Swift County to the east, Lac Qui Parle County to the south, and the South Dakota Border to the west. The County is characterized by rolling hills, vast agricultural land and Big Stone Lake, the headwaters of the Minnesota River.

Map 1A: Big Stone County's Cities and Townships

Legend

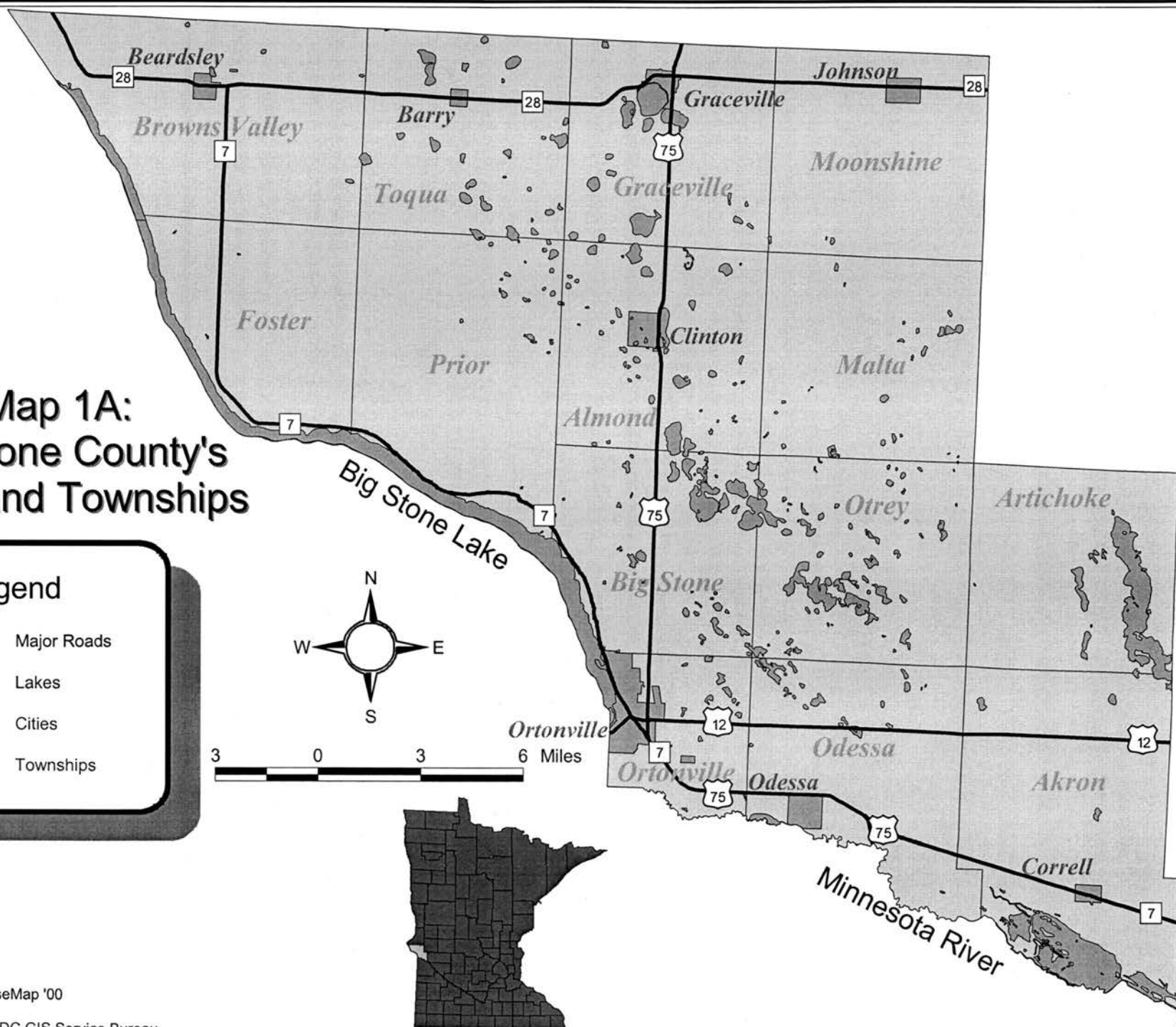
-  Major Roads
-  Lakes
-  Cities
-  Townships



3 0 3 6 Miles



Source: MNDOT BaseMap '00
Date: 12/20/02
Produced By: UMRDC GIS Service Bureau



Previous Big Stone County Water Planning Accomplishments

The original Big Stone County Water Plan was approved in 1991 and updated in 1995. As a result, this Plan is considered Big Stone County's third generation Comprehensive Local Water Plan (CLWP). The entire Plan will cover a ten-year period (2003–2013), with the action steps (or implementation steps) covering a five-year period (2003–2008). In 2008, the action steps will need to be updated by simply crossing out the County's accomplishments and adding new action steps to be implemented between 2008 and 2013.

The CLWP is reviewed annually when the Natural Resource Block Grant reports are due. The Water Plan Advisory Committee makes recommendations on projects to be funded. A two-year work plan is then written based on the Committee's input and recommendations, with the County Board of Commissioners ultimately deciding where money will be spent.

Implementation progress is communicated to the public through the Environmental Newsletter, which typically goes out three times a year. It is also reviewed at the Water Plan Committee's meetings, which are held three to four times a year. At least one County Commissioner is usually present, who then reports back to the full County Board.

During this revision, the Water Plan Advisory Committee met regularly to review issues and priorities that should be addressed throughout the next ten years. A public informational meeting was held on April 2, 2002 where citizens discussed issues that should be addressed in the Plan. The following list contains a summary of some of Big Stone County's main water planning accomplishments during both its first and second generation Water Plans:

First Generation Accomplishments, 1991-1995

Education and Information

- ✓ Realtor/Contractor Seminars
- ✓ Undesirable Vegetation Signs Established at Public Accesses
- ✓ Lakeshore Owners Educational Campaigns on Sewage Treatment
- ✓ Public Service Announcements on Water Quality/Proper Solid Waste Management
- ✓ Tree Planting Promotions

Monitoring and Data Collection

- ✓ Citizen Lake Monitoring/Secchi Disk Programs Initiated
- ✓ Random Individual Septic Treatment System Inspection on Big Stone Lake (33%)
- ✓ Wetland Restoration Benefits Study

Inventory and Mapping

- ✓ Road Salt Storage Inventory

Land and Water Treatment

- ✓ Well Sealing Cost Share Program
- ✓ Pesticide Collections

Regulation, Ordinances and Planning

- ✓ Shoreland Management Ordinance
- ✓ Land and Related Resources Management Ordinance
- ✓ Floodplain Management Ordinance
- ✓ Feedlot Task Force Established
- ✓ Delegated Feedlot County

Technical Staff

- ✓ Feasibility Study of Sewage Treatment Options along Big Stone Lake
- ✓ County Wide Cleanup Coordination

Plan Coordination and Administration

- ✓ Established Full Time Environmental Services Office to Implement Water Planning
- ✓ Created Water Plan Advisory Committee

Miscellaneous

- ✓ Member of the five county Minnesota River Headwaters Joint Powers Board
- ✓ Member of the thirty-seven county Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board

Second Generation Accomplishments, 1995-2001

Education and Information

- ✓ Transportation for students to the Regional Environmental Fair (Annually)
- ✓ Matching Funds to Fourth Grade Class for Wetland Restoration Projects (Annually)
- ✓ Streambank Erosion Model Constructed
- ✓ *Environmental Newsletter* to County Residents (three to four times per year)
- ✓ Supporting Funds for the Bonanza Education Center
- ✓ Fair Booths on Feedlot Management, Solid Waste Management and Water Quality

Inventory and Mapping

- ✓ Level I Feedlot Inventory
- ✓ Gravel Pit Inventory

Monitoring and Data Collection

- ✓ Annual Rural Well Testing Program for Nitrates and Coliform Bacteria (4 Townships per year with Spring and Fall Rotation)

Land and Water Treatment

- ✓ Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collections (Annually)
- ✓ Matching Funds for Mound Systems in Correll to replace City Sewer Discharging to MN River
- ✓ Wetland Restorations the USF&W and Upper MN River Watershed District
- ✓ Manure Management Planning Program (Annually)
- ✓ Willow Posting for Severe Erosion Sites on Several County Lakes
- ✓ Environmental Trust Fund Grants for Voluntary Sewer or Feedlot Upgrades (Annually)
- ✓ Well Sealing Cost Share Program (Annually)

Regulation, Ordinances and Planning

- ✓ Feedlot Management Ordinance
- ✓ Aggregate Mining Ordinance

Plan Coordination and Administration

- ✓ Registered Employees for ISTS Inspection
- ✓ Certified in Demolition Landfill Operations
- ✓ Certified in Feedlot Management

MDA State Revolving Loan

Since 1995, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture has allocated \$336,876 in Agriculture Best Management Practice Loans for Big Stone County. The County, in turn, has spent \$342,217 on the following revolving loans:

- ✓ 11 for Conservation Tillage
- ✓ 39 for Septic Systems

Summary of Water Planning Funds 1990-2002

<u>Grant Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
NRBG-Water Plan 1990-2002	\$412,710.83	
NRBG-Shoreland 1990-2002	\$ 37,568.51	
NRBG-WCA	\$ 87,500.00	
NRBG-Feedlot	\$ 34,063.00	
NRBG-ISTS	\$ 4,432.00	
NRBG-Water Plan rolled into ETF	<u>\$ 18,584.88</u>	
NRBG Total	\$594,859.22	
Challenge Grants 1993	\$ 8,500.00	
Challenge Grant 1994	\$ 38,750.00	
Challenge Grant 1995-WCA	\$ 3,500.00	
-Feedlot	<u>\$ 7,500.00</u>	
Challenge Grant Total	\$ 58,250.00	
Other Non-BS County Funds		
1993 – Other County Match	\$ 6,800.00	Challenge Grant (Pope, Swift, Chippewa & Swift)
1994 – Shoreland	\$ 9,750.00	DNR, Ortonville City, Graceville City
1999 – Water Plan Match	\$ 3,500.00	SWCD
Big Stone County Matching Funds		
1990-Water Plan (In Kind)	\$ 3,600.00	
1993-2002 Water Plan	\$ 14,423.00	
1994-1995 WCA	\$ 10,000.00	
1993-1995 Challenge	\$ 7,700.00	
2002-Feedlot	\$ 7,500.00	
1995-Challenge Add'l Levy	\$ 1,226.00	
HHW 1993	\$ 9,000.00	
HHW Stipend from Kandiyohi 1993-2002	\$ 22,800.00	
Water Plan Totals 1990-2002 =	\$717,608.22	
SCORE Grant 1990-2002	\$712,502.00	
BSC Matching Funds		
1994-95 HHW Add'l Levy	\$ 3,000.00	
2002 SCORE Add'l Levy	\$ 20,000.00	
1993-2002 SCORE	\$137,500.00	

Big Stone County Clean Water Partnerships/Watershed Projects

The Clean Water Partnership (CWP) Program was created in 1987 to address pollution problems associated with runoff from agricultural and urban areas. The program is funded by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and provides local governments with resources to protect and improve lakes, streams and groundwater.

CWP projects begin with a desire by a local government to improve a water resource that has been polluted by land-use-related activities. Local leadership and expertise, combined with technical and financial resources from the State, create an effective program for controlling pollution and restoring water quality.

Funding for CWPs is awarded in two phases. In the first, or resource investigation phase, a diagnostic study and implementation plan are completed. As part of the diagnostic study, local sponsors work with the MPCA to collect data and information on the water resource and its watershed. This information is used to identify pollution problems and their causes and define water quality goals and objectives. The final step of the resource investigation phase is the development of an implementation plan that identifies the combination of education, management practices and other activities needed to protect or restore water quality.

The second phase of a CWP, called project implementation, involves the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) identified in the first phase. BMPs may include sedimentation ponds, manure management, conservation tillage, terraces, new ordinances, wetland restoration, fertilizer management, education or other methods designed to reduce nonpoint-source pollution.

Projects may be completed either partially or completely through the CWP program. To be eligible for CWP funding, the entire project must meet program requirements. This means that if the project sponsor intends to seek CWP funding for later phases, the MPCA must first approve a diagnostic study and an implementation plan.

The financial assistance available through the program falls into two categories: grants and low-interest loans. Grants are available for up to 50 percent of project costs. Loans can only be used for the project implementation phase and can cover the entire cost of implementation or supplement a grant. Local governments can also use loans to set up their own programs to provide pass-through loans to private parties. Local governments with the authority to generate cash revenues and adopt and enforce official controls are eligible to sponsor CWP projects and receive grant funding. To be eligible for a loan, a local government must also be able to secure the loan with a general obligation promissory note. In addition, the water of concern must be addressed in an approved local water plan.

According to the MPCA, the following two CWP projects have been funded in Big Stone County:

- ***Beardsley Groundwater Project.*** Phase I CWP of shallow drift aquifers in the Minnesota River Headwaters Watershed. The Project has been closed out. For more information, contact the MPCA project manager, Dave Well, at (651) 296-1251.

- **Big Stone Lake Restoration Project.** Phase II CWP of Big Stone Lake. The Project has been closed out. For more information, contact the MPCA project manager, Mark Tomasek, at (651) 296-7260.

Watershed Districts

Upper Minnesota River Watershed District

342 NW 2nd Street
Ortonville, MN 56278
(320) 839-3411

The Upper Minnesota River Watershed District was formed on September 7, 1967. The District is located primarily in Big Stone County, with smaller areas in Lac qui Parle, Stevens, Swift and Traverse Counties. The mission of District is to “serve its residents by wisely and judiciously managing water, in a manner that sustains and enhances the social, economic and natural resources of the District. The District prefers the use of innovative water management methods, which recognize the unique agricultural, community, lake and stream and natural resources within the District. These innovative approaches as reflected by the policies of the District should be oriented toward ensuring the economic viability of the District’s agriculture community.”

Each of the Counties located within the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District plays a vital role in the District’s activities. The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners appoints three of the District’s Board Managers, while the County Board of Commissioners for Swift and Traverse Counties each appoint one Board Manager. Each appointed Board Manager must be a resident of the District and is prohibited from being a public official of the County, State or Federal government. Each Manager serves a three-year term, which is renewable by approval of the County Board of Commissioners.

To enforce its adopted rules and regulations, the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District utilizes a permit system. Permits are required for a wide variety of construction activities that affect the water resources of the District. Any individual landowner, public entity, or governmental unit that contemplates a project impacting the water resources of the District, must secure a permit. Permit applications are considered at the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Managers. Board members and office staff are available to assist applicants in the permitting process. In addition to “in house” assistance, staff regularly assist applicants in field investigations to obtain recommendations on construction techniques and use of best management practices.

Bois De Sioux Watershed District

1002 Broadway
Wheaton, MN 56296
(320) 563-4185

recreated from: <http://www.mnwatershed.org/bois.htm>

The District is located in west central Minnesota and includes the entire drainage basin of the Bois de Sioux River located in Minnesota. The Counties included in this area are Traverse, Grant, Wilkin, Stevens, Big Stone, and Otter Tail. The total area is about 1,412 square miles. The Bois de Sioux River and its source, Lake Traverse, form the boundary between Minnesota and South and North Dakota. The river flows north from Lake Traverse to Breckenridge, where it joins with the Otter Tail River to form the Red River of the North. The major tributaries in Minnesota are the Mustinka River and the Rabbit River. Tributaries in North and South Dakota contribute drainage from an additional 549 square miles.

The Bois de Sioux Watershed District was established on March 11, 1988, by order of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103D, otherwise referred to as "The Minnesota Watershed Act." The original mission of the District was: "To provide coordinated water resource management over the entire hydrologic basin of the Bois de Sioux River lying within the State of Minnesota." This mission has not changed to date.

The Bois de Sioux Watershed District was established and is operated for the following purposes:

- I. To provide coordinated water resource management over the entire hydrologic basin of the Bois de Sioux River lying within the State of Minnesota.
- II. For all the purposes provided for in Minnesota Statutes 103D as they may apply now and in the future, as follows:
 - A. Control or lessen damage by floodwaters.
 - B. Improve stream channels for drainage, navigation, and any other public purpose.
 - C. Reclaim or fill wet and overflowed lands.
 - D. Provide water supply for irrigation.
 - E. Regulate the flow of streams and conserve their waters.
 - F. Divert or change watercourses in whole or part.
 - G. Provide and conserve water supply for domestic, industrial, recreational, agricultural, or other public use.

- H. Provide for sanitation and public health and regulate the use of streams, ditches, or watercourses for disposal of waste.
- I. Repair, improve, relocate, modify, consolidate and abandon, in whole or part, drainage systems within a watershed district.
- J. Impose preventative or remedial measures to control or reduce land and soil erosion and siltation of watercourses or bodies of water affected by erosion.
- K. Regulate improvements by riparian landowners of the beds, banks, and shores of lakes, streams, and marshes by permit or otherwise to preserve them for beneficial use.
- L. Provide for the generation of hydroelectric power.
- M. Protect or enhance the quality of water in watercourses or bodies of water.
- N. Protect groundwater and regulate its use to preserve it for beneficial use.

The District has adopted rules and policies to meet its goals and objectives and has a successful history of implementing projects and completing permit reviews that have positively impacted draining and flooding issues within the District. A key to future success will hinge on the efforts of the District to follow the principles of the Mediation Agreement and to work within the guidelines of the Red River Flood Damage Reduction Work Group when developing projects. The purpose of the Mediation Agreement process was to reach agreements on long-term solutions for reducing flood damage and for protection and enhancement of natural resources. The focus of the agreements is to balance economic, environmental and social considerations when developing and pursuing flood damage reduction and natural resource enhancement projects. The District has developed a Water Plan by inviting all of the members of the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, local, state and federal agencies, environmental organizations and citizens to be "at the table" in an effort to follow the spirit and intent of the Mediation Process. The actions and projects proposed in the plan reflect consensus of this diverse working group and the Bois de Sioux Watershed District Board of Managers.

Lake Associations

A lake association is an organized group of people who have come together because of their common interest in a specific lake. Lake associations serve as an organized voice of their members to township and county government and are often a watchdog for enforcement of local ordinances. An association may monitor the condition of a lake, develop a lake management plan, educate shoreland property owners about individual and collective actions to protect a lake and provide volunteers to assist in lake and watershed projects. They may also work with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to improve fish habitat or fish stocking, get permits for aquatic plant

removal, or maintain a lake access. Listed below is the lone lake association in Big Stone County that is a member of the Minnesota Lakes Association. A contact person for the association has been provided for additional information.

Citizens for Big Stone Lake
Wilfred Hansen, 324 Park Avenue
Ortonville, MN 56278
(320) 839-3027

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

May 2003 BWSR Board Meeting

OVERVIEW – CHIPPEWA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER PLAN

Background

Chippewa County has a Comprehensive Local Water Plan, which was approved by the BWSR on April 25, 1996. Chippewa County submitted its third generation Plan to the BWSR on January 22, 2003. The ninety-day final state review process began on January 22, 2003, and ended on April 21, 2003.

On March 26, 2003, and again on April 24, 2003 brief information regarding the Chippewa County Plan Update was provided to the Board for their review.

On April 10, 2003, the BWSR Water Plan Review Committee met in the City of Montevideo with BWSR staff and representatives from Chippewa County to review and discuss the third generation Comprehensive Local Water Plan.

For the May 28, 2003 BWSR Board meeting, two items in addition to this Overview have been provided for board member information. The first item is a copy of the County Profile and Executive Summary (Chapter One) of the Chippewa County Water Plan. This briefly provides an introduction to the County and the planning process, and describes some major accomplishments in the past ten years. The second item is a board order for the Chippewa County Water Plan, which provides additional background information.

Outcomes

The focus of the planning process for Chippewa County's third generation plan was on implementation. This was accomplished through seeking the involvement of local and state agencies early in the update process, with an emphasis on identifying a reduced number of priority issues. The collection of data in Chippewa's Plan was reduced, with a significantly greater emphasis placed on the resource issues and their assessment. The specific issues identified were then addressed through goals, objectives and measurable actions. As a result, this Plan has a "bias to action", with a clear implementation focus!

Chippewa's Plan identifies six priority issues in the following categories:

- **Groundwater Protection** – Actions to protect and enhance groundwater supplies are identified.
- **Storm Water Management** – Both urban and rural runoff impacts the County's water resources. Actions to address storm water management in municipalities are in the implementation plan.
- **Reducing Priority Pollutants** – The Plan identifies action steps to minimize or eliminate priority pollutants (nutrients, sediments, etc.). Priority sub-watershed management areas identified through the Chippewa River Watershed CWP and the Hawk Creek Watershed CWP give implementation focus and direction to this section of the County's Water Plan.
- **Water/Drainage Management** – Several actions are identified to examine drainage management systematically in an effort to develop a strategy to address this issue and pursue opportunities.
- **Flooding** – Several actions are identified to proactively address flooding, including wetland inventory work and water storage opportunities.
- **Public Education & Outreach** – Most of the issues identified throughout the water planning process would be greatly improved by simply raising public awareness. The plan lays out steps (actions) to do this.

BWSR staff reviewed the Chippewa County Water Plan and found that all relevant requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled and it is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes 1990, 103B and Minnesota Rules Chapter 9300. BWSR staff recommends approval of the Chippewa County 2003 – 2013 ten year Comprehensive Local Water Plan. (*The Implementation Section covers a five-year period 2003 – 2008.*)

The BWSR Water Plan Review Committee will make its approval recommendation to the full BWSR Board at the May 28, 2003 meeting.

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

In the Matter of Reviewing the Comprehensive Water Plan Update
for **Chippewa** County (Minnesota Statutes 1990, Section 103B.311,
Subdivision 4 and Section 103B.315, Subdivision 5 and Minnesota
Rules 9300.0170)

ORDER
APPROVING
COMPREHENSIVE
WATER PLAN

Whereas, the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners adopted a Comprehensive Local Water Plan (Plan) on June 4, 1996 under authority of Minnesota Statutes (M.S.) 1990, Section 103B.301, which was approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) on April 25, 1996 pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 5, and

Whereas, the Plan provided for updating in 2002 pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.311, Subd. 4, and

Whereas, the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners submitted a Comprehensive Local Water Plan Update (Plan Update) to the Board on January 22, 2003, 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 April 18, 2000, the Board received from Chippewa County a resolution requesting an extension of their existing Comprehensive Local Water Plan.
3. On May 24, 2000, the Board approved the extension of the existing Chippewa County Comprehensive Local Water Plan until April 25, 2003. (The Board has authorization to grant extensions pursuant to Minn. Session Law 1995, Chapter 184 Section 24.)
4. On January 22, 2002, Chippewa County passed a resolution to develop a Comprehensive Water Plan Update to meet the plan update requirements.
5. Chippewa County held a public information meeting on March 25, 2002, for purposes of gaining public input into the Plan Update.

6. On September 20, 2002, Chippewa County completed a draft Plan Update and submitted it to affected local units of government for preliminary review and comment pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 1.
7. On September 23, 2002, Chippewa County submitted a draft Plan Update to the Minnesota Departments of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources, Pollution Control, Minnesota Geological Survey, and Minnesota Environmental Quality Board for preliminary review and comment pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 5.
8. On December 3, 2002, Chippewa County held a public hearing on the Plan Update pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 4, for the purpose of obtaining public input into the Plan Update.
9. On January 22, 2003, Chippewa 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 M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 5.
10. On January 22, 2003 the Board distributed notification of the official 90-day state review and a copy of the Chippewa County Plan Update to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Environmental Quality Board, and Minnesota Geological Survey for their review and comment pursuant to Minnesota Rules, Chapter 9300.0170. The notification stated that each agency had 45 days from receipt of the notification to submit written comments to the Board.
11. On March 26, 2003 and again on April 24, 2003, brief information regarding the Chippewa County Plan Update was provided to the Board for their review.
12. **Individual Comments:** No individual written comments were received.
13. **County Response to Individual Comments:** Not applicable.
14. **Local Government Unit (LGU) Comments:** The Chippewa County Water Plan Task Force provided some written comments of their own, providing some additional detail, correction or clarity in December 2002. Added a section on the County's canoe and boating routes; identified the implementation schedule for the Chippewa River Watershed Project's high priority sub-watersheds; and provided some amended (more balanced) language on drainage management.
15. **County Response to LGU Comments:** In its final Plan Update submitted to the Board on January 22, 2003, Chippewa County incorporated these changes, additions, and recommendations to the Plan update as provided by the Water Plan Task Force's comments.
16. **Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Review:** MDA did provide preliminary written comments in November 2002. MDA encouraged the County to closely integrate their County Water Plan with their Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Also comments identifying Agricultural Best Management Practice Loan information for the County was provided. Final written comments (dated February 6, 2003) commended the County on the development of their Water Plan. It further stated several areas where the MDA may be able to coordinate and provide assistance to Chippewa County including: pesticides and fertilizer management issues, nitrate testing, low interest Ag BMP loans, and information for planners and producers in addressing feedlot issues.

17. **Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Review:** MDH did provide written preliminary review comments in October 2002. MDH stated the Plan addresses three MDH issues: public water suppliers that are required to conduct wellhead protection were recognized as to their current status in that program; the goals, objectives and actions recognized wellhead protection, including the County's willingness to assist with development of these plans; and the water plan provides support to abandoned well sealing and support to better understanding groundwater resources. In addition several edits were made regarding Community Public Water Suppliers, the discussion on Health Risk Limits was slightly revised, and the third category of public water suppliers was changed to read transient noncommunity public water supply. Final written comments (dated November 1, 2002) stated MDH found no inconsistencies in the Plan with law or regulations of MDH. MDH commended the County for consideration of their comments early in the process and supports approval of the Plan.
18. **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Review:** DNR did not provide written preliminary review comments, but did participate in the planning process through task force meetings, and by providing input and information during the updating of data elements. Final written comments (dated February 21, 2003) stated DNR appreciated the opportunity to be involved in the planning process, and believe the overall plan is sound and is backed by ten years of implementation. DNR suggested wording changes to several action steps in the implementation section to provide greater clarity.
19. **Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Review:** MPCA did provide written preliminary review comments on November 15, 2002. The MPCA commended the County for doing an excellent job, and for including the four MPCA Southwest Regional priority items in the Plan. Final written comments (dated February 18, 2003) stated their review was done to ensure continuity of approach with MPCA programs and identify any inconsistencies that may exist between the plan recommendations or planned activities, state statutes or MPCA rules and policies. MPCA recommends that BWSR give final approval to the Plan.
20. **Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) / State Planning Agency Review:** EQB did not provide any written preliminary review comments. No final written comments were provided.
21. **Minnesota Geological Survey (MGS) Review:** MGS did not provide any written preliminary comments. No final written comments were provided.
22. **Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR):** BWSR did provide written preliminary review comments on November 6, 2002. The BWSR suggested identifying the location / source of any local monitoring data that has been completed; suggested the Plan include maps of any high priority sub-watersheds identified in the Plan; noted the Plan needs to identify high priority wetland preservation areas in the county; and noted a need to include state cost-share program definitions in the text of the Plan. Final written comments (dated March 3, 2003) thanked the County for their effort on the Water Plan Update and suggested providing additional explanation regarding wetland preservation areas in the County.
23. **County Response to State Agency Comments:** On January 10, 2003, Chippewa County made written responses to state agencies regarding the preliminary comments. In its final Plan Update submitted to the Board on January 22, 2003, Chippewa County incorporated many of the changes, additions, and recommendations to the Plan update as provided in the agencies' comments.

24. **Board Water Plan Review Committee Meeting:** On April 10, 2003, the Board committee met in Montevideo, Minnesota with Board staff and representatives from Chippewa County to review and discuss the Plan Update. Those in attendance were Victor Ormsby (SWCD member), Jerome Deal (WD member), Becky Balk (MDA member), Dan Wilson (MDH member) and Char Kahler (citizen member) of the Board; the Board's southern region supervisor Jeff Nielsen and board conservationist David Sill; water plan coordinator JoAnn Bloome, SWCD Manager Jean Diggins, NRCS technician Joe Keller, and County Commissioners Kenneth Koenen and Jeff Lopez; Matthew Johnson of Midwest Community Planning (consultant). The water plan review committee met to determine whether all relevant law and rule requirements had been met; to discuss past accomplishments; to discuss resource issues and needs; to review the proposed Plan Update; and to hear comments from Chippewa County on the planning process.
25. On April 10, 2003, the Board Water Plan Review Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Board approve the Chippewa County 2003-2013 ten-year Comprehensive Local Water Plan Update, with the Goals, Objectives and Action Steps (Implementation Section) covering a five year period 2003 - 2008.

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 Chippewa County pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 1990, 103B.315, Subd. 5, and Minnesota Rules 9300.0170, Subp. 4.
2. The Chippewa 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 Update as the Comprehensive Local Water Plan of Chippewa County with a required update to the Implementation section (Goals, Objectives and Action Steps) by May 28, 2008. Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 28th day of May, 2003.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BY: _____
Leland Coe, Chair

CHAPTER ONE: COUNTY PROFILE AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Chippewa River, 1900

Chapter One Contains...

Chapter One provides an introduction to Chippewa County and its Comprehensive Local Water Plan. This Chapter includes the following information:

- ✓ Role of the County Board, Water Planning Committee and Citizen Participation
- ✓ Chippewa County's Population and Location
- ✓ Previous Chippewa County Water Plan Accomplishments
- ✓ Clean Water Partnerships/Watershed Projects
- ✓ Watershed Districts

Role of the County Board, Water Planning Committee and Citizen Participation

In January 2002, the Minnesota River Headwaters Joint Powers Board (consisting of Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Pope and Swift Counties) cooperatively agreed to update the member counties' Comprehensive Local Water Plans. After reviewing a number of proposals, the Joint Powers Board entered into a contract with the local Regional Development Commission, the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission (UMVRDC), to coordinate the development of the five individual water plans. The UMVRDC thereafter subcontracted with Midwest Community Planning, LLC, to assist with the planning, facilitation and writing portion of the contract (the UMVRDC remaining responsibilities included mapping and various data collection). Midwest Community Planning, LLC, then assisted the individual counties with developing the specific contents of this Water Plan.

The water planning process for Chippewa County started with a Public Informational Meeting, held on March 25, 2002. The primary purpose of the meeting was to invite the public, local governmental units and various governmental agencies to identify and discuss local water planning issues. The issues identified were then discussed during regular meetings (an average of one per month) with a Local Water Plan Committee, created by the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners. The Committee included the following participants:

Water Plan Committee Members:

Voting Members:

Audrey Arner, Ag. Landowner & Land Stewardship
Ronald Ochsendorf, Landowner & Agri-Business
Ron Stevens, Ag. Landowner
Kyle Petersen, Ag. Landowner
Dennis Gibson, Ag. Landowner
Mike "Elvin" Berends, Ag. Landowner
Steve Sunderland, Ag. Landowner and SWCD
Kenneth Koenen, Ag. Landowner and County Board
Jeffrey Lopez, Ag. Landowner and County Board

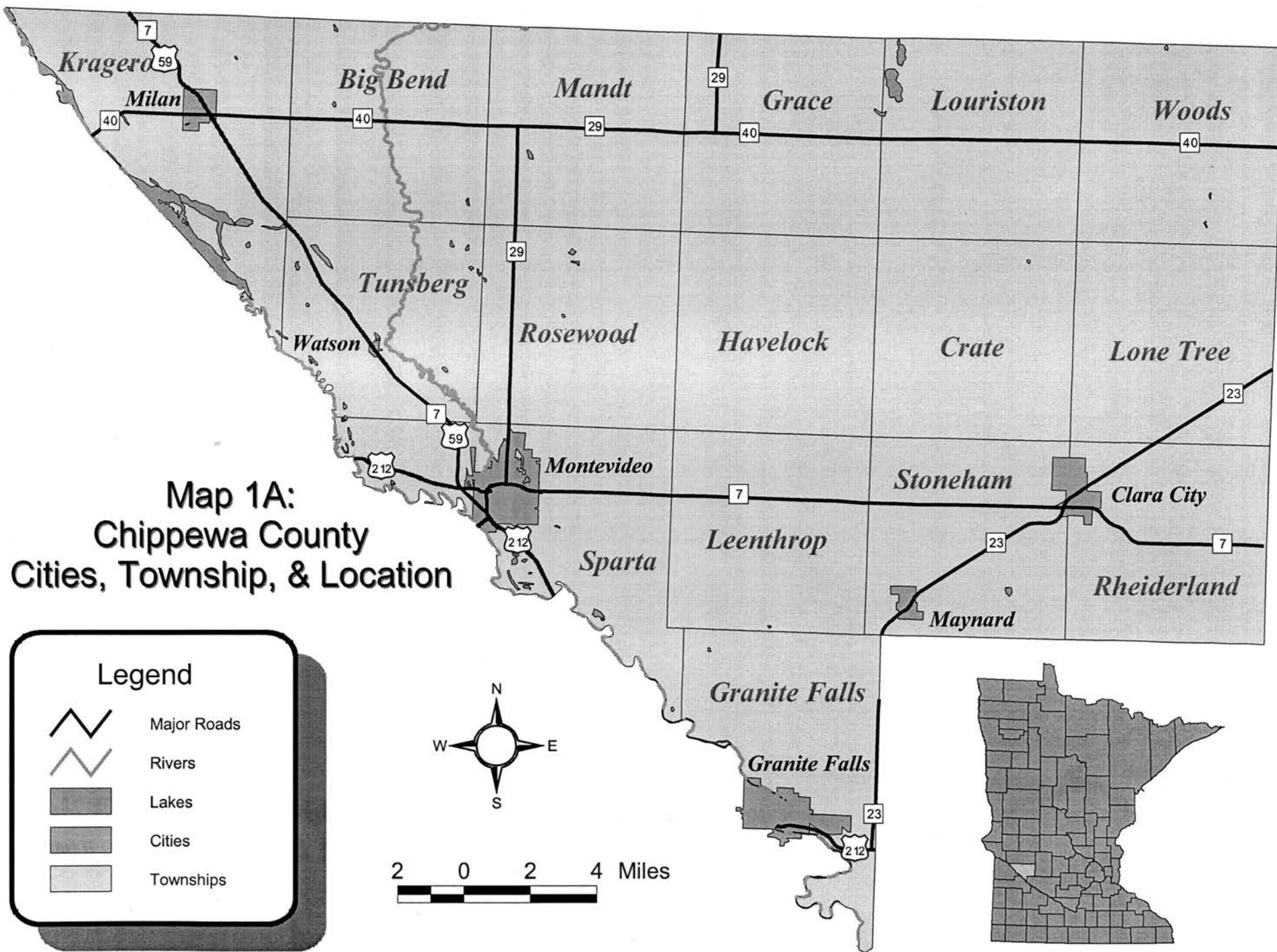
Non-Voting Members:

Jean Diggins, SWCD District Manager
Joe Keller, NRCS
Jim Ridler, NRCS
Kenny Nash, County Ditch Inspector
Steve Jones, Montevideo City Manager
Jeff Miller, DNR Wildlife
David Sill, BWSR Board Conservationist
Scott Williams, Land & Resource Management
JoAnn Blomme, Environmental Technician

The first draft of the Comprehensive Local Water Plan went out for public review on September 20, 2002. This review process included the general public, local governmental units (i.e., cities and townships) and governmental agencies. A public hearing was held with the County Board on December 3, 2002, to solicit public comment and to discuss all of the written comments received during the public review period. The Water Planning Committee then met one more time to incorporate the public and governmental comments into the final draft water plan. On January 10, 2003, the final draft was submitted to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for final state agency 90-day review. The final Chippewa Comprehensive Local Water Plan went for final approval by BWSR on May 28, 2003.

Chippewa County's Population and Location

According to the 2000 Census, Chippewa County had approximately 13,088 residents living in 5,361 households. The City of Montevideo is the County's largest City, with approximately 5,346 residents (Appendix A contains Chippewa County's complete demographic profiles, including the following: General Demographic Profile, Selected Social Characteristics Profile, Selected Economic Characteristics Profile and Selected Housing Characteristics Profile). The County is located in West Central Minnesota, approximately 120 miles west of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area and 40 miles southwest of the City of Willmar. Map 1A shows the location of Chippewa County's cities and townships, along with the County's location in the State. The Minnesota River helps to form the County's southwestern border. In addition, the County shares borders with Swift County to the north, Kandiyohi County to the east, Renville County to the southeast, Yellow Medicine County to the southwest and Lac qui Parle County to the west.



Previous Chippewa County Water Planning Accomplishments

“With Minnesota’s residents using an estimated 700 million gallons of groundwater per day, knowing more about this rich resource is well worth the efforts that we put into this Plan”

~JoAnn Blomme, Chippewa County Water Planner~

The history of the Chippewa County Comprehensive Local Water Plan has addressed many water quality and quantity issues. The goals and actions reflect the current and future years to come. As actions were identified, grants were applied for and goals were met. It always has been the County’s policy that if goals were met, the County would accomplish it by operating on a voluntary basis. This has worked exceedingly well. The County will continue to operate this way, prioritizing incentives and educational efforts to keep achieving our goals.

Over the past ten years, many things have progressed, making goal setting more effective and easier to quantify. Through the GIS involvement and the tracking capability of past practices, the County has a better understanding of what is happening on the land. Another big change has been the addition of the Chippewa River Watershed Project and the Hawk Creek Watershed Project. Through the Clean Water Partnership Grants for each of these projects, a Phase I Diagnostic Study has been completed and both projects are now in the Phase II Implementation Phase. They continue to do monitoring as a way to track accomplishments and to better understand what is happening with the County’s surface water quality and quantity. The Water Plan Committee will use these results to continue to address future issues. A few of our past grants, such as the Conservation Credit Initiative (CCI) program and the Spring Creek Watershed grant, have targeted a watershed to cover a variety of existing water quality issues using monitoring tools. In addition, many best management practices were cost-shared through the Water Plan, such as fencing for rotational grazing practices, tree planting incentives, manure management plans, buffers, reduced tillage incentives, construction crop loss, pipe structures into county ditches, septic system upgrades, water testing and abandoned well sealing.

The Water Plan has reached the landowners and residents in Chippewa County through many adult and youth educational events and through local advertising. The Water Plan will continue to seek the involvement of its citizens and build stronger relationships to work together as a whole to reach the ultimate goal of improved water quality and quantity throughout Chippewa County.

Water Planning 1992 – 2002: First and Second Generation Accomplishments

Education and Information

- ▶ Water Plan Newsletters were mailed out quarterly for 4 years.
- ▶ Many newspaper articles and radio ads were run. Topics highlighted the water plan actions.

- ▶ Groundwater contamination booklets were sent or delivered to all residents in 16 townships.
- ▶ A water plan topic was targeted annually and displayed at the Chippewa County Fair.
- ▶ A water plan topic was targeted biannually and displayed at the Health and Wellness Fair.
- ▶ Participated in the 5th Grade Environmental Field Days annually.
- ▶ Did several elementary education projects at the schools such as: “edible landfill” – where does your garbage go and how are landfills built; recycling projects such as making their own gift bags and gift boxes, old light bulb snowmen ornaments, and cardboard picture frames.
- ▶ Completed a storm sewer marking project in Clara City in 2001 which included delivering door knocker information to every resident and business on best management practices for urban areas, how to handle household hazardous waste and business waste, and watershed information. Project completed in cooperation with the Hawk Creek Watershed Project.
- ▶ A public demonstration day/tour was held supporting no-till practices.
- ▶ Participated in an annual MN River Headwaters Joint Powers Board Annual Conference. Completed a “Conservation Partnerships” tour with 4 other agencies highlighting a wetland restoration, septic installation, riparian buffer strips, watershed monitoring and watershed projects.
- ▶ Participated in SWCD tour days.
- ▶ Worked with four other counties (Big Stone, LQP, Swift and Pope) on writing a grant and developing educational tools to help teach students and adults about water quality. The group still meets periodically to exchange educational ideas.
- ▶ Developed and distributed household hazardous waste magnets countywide.
- ▶ Worked with Chippewa River Watershed, Hawk Creek Watershed and CROW River Watershed Projects and their partners in holding a winter seminar on the new farm bill and nutrient management.
- ▶ Septic system models were purchased and four classes were held on septic operation and maintenance and alternative septic systems. A septic display was developed and used for adult education and youth education.
- ▶ Scholarship opportunities were offered to the area schools. Two projects received funding for youth education. One was for the 6th grade field trip to Deep Portage Environmental Education Camp and the other for the High School Minnesota River Research Expedition.
- ▶ Conducted a survey with residence in the Spring Creek Watershed.

Monitoring and Data Collection

- ▶ A cost-share program to test for the presence of nitrates, bacteria and pesticide was offered twice resulting in 85 water samples tested.
- ▶ Provided funding to the Chippewa River Watershed Project and the Hawk Creek Watershed Project to begin the Phase I Diagnostic Study and the Phase II Implementation Phase.
- ▶ Additional funding was given to the Chippewa River Watershed Project to monitor a new lateral in Ditch 22 that was installed. A pre-survey was completed before the lateral was complete. Funding was also given to the Hawk Creek Watershed Project to monitor the storm sewers in Clara City.
- ▶ Conducted transect survey's bi-annually.

Inventory and Mapping

- ▶ A Geographic Information System (GIS) was researched and purchased. We currently use the ArcView program.
- ▶ Completed Phase II Feedlot Inventory.
- ▶ Inventoried past Septic Systems and continue to inventory new systems installed.
- ▶ Did countywide voluntary inventory of septic systems, active and abandoned wells and underground storage tanks. Data was entered into the county AS-400 data base.
- ▶ Established a County Data Base through the GIS and AS-400 data base.
- ▶ Have GIS Parcel Based Mapping and are currently working on digitizing the county ditches.

Land and Water Treatment

- ▶ The Conservation Credit Initiative Program targeted a corridor along the Chippewa River. Conservation plans were written with 37 landowners and showed treatment on 11,750 acres. Our main goals through the CCI program were to reduce soil loss to "T", reduce nutrient runoff into the surface water, manage the application of manure fertilizers to reduce phosphorous loading and nitrogen leaching within the soil and "long-term maintenance" of all implemented practices.
- ▶ Spring Creek Challenge Grant Project.

- ▶ Funded the Manure Management Program run through the University of Minnesota Extension. Manure Management Plans were developed, and educational classes were held.
- ▶ 8 landowners installed 33,272 feet of fencing through a rotational grazing incentive program.
- ▶ 21 landowners installed 68.26 acres of grass/tree buffers.
- ▶ 94,221 feet of tree fabric was installed through a cost-share program for tree maintenance.
- ▶ Two landowners received cost-share for using conservation tillage equipment on 66 acres leaving 30% - 40% residue after the tillage pass on corn and close to 20% after soybeans.
- ▶ Six landowners received cost-share to repair erosion in ditches. The different practices consisted of sloping and adding rip-rap and installing drop pipe structures.
- ▶ Ten landowners upgraded their septic systems through an added incentive cost-share program.
- ▶ One landowner completed a cover-crop practice on 12 acres of land.
- ▶ Two landowners received construction crop loss payments on 19.6 acres to install terraces during growing season.
- ▶ 57 landowners certified that a no till planter or system was used for the first time and left 30% residue on the surface after planting. 1331.6 acres were enrolled in the no-till soybean cost-share program.
- ▶ Sealed 326 wells through the Abandoned Well Sealing Cost-Share Program.
- ▶ Held 5 household hazardous waste collections throughout the county and support and promote the use of the Regional Facility in Kandiyohi County, which can be used by Chippewa County residence year round.
- ▶ Held empty pesticide container collections annually and did educational articles.
- ▶ Participated with the MN Department of Agriculture on the biannual pesticide collection.

Regulations, Ordinances and Planning

- ▶ Shoreland Ordinance was amended.
- ▶ Feedlot Ordinance was amended.
- ▶ Individual Sewage Treatment System Ordinance was amended.

Technical Staff Service

- ▶ Several interns were hired throughout the past 10 years. We have hired assistance to help with the following:

- Imputing GIS / AS-400 inventory data
 - Completing a Phase I and Phase II Feedlot Inventory
 - Septic Inventory
 - Septic Inspections
 - Best Management Practices
 - Bonanza Education Center for environmental education
 - Technical Assistance to administer a challenge grant

- ▶ To administer the water plan, we receive technical assistance from many state and federal agencies. We stress partnerships in our water plan and continue to grow off the solid foundation we have built.

Plan Coordination

- ▶ The Water Plan is coordinated through the Chippewa County Land and Resource Management Office. The County seeks outside involvement and have maintained a very strong water plan committee. Currently, the County has nine voting members and nine ex-officio members on the Committee. Throughout the past ten years, the committee has had a variety of people, including the following: landowners and farmers, agricultural business representatives, city representatives, county commissioners, SWCD and NRCS representatives, drainage inspector, township officers, DNR, County Extension Service, Lac qui Parle Lake Association, Countryside Public Health, Sportsman Club, Consulting Engineer, non-profit organizations and a BWSR representative.
- ▶ The County has held 62 meetings over the past ten years and established a set of Committee Guidelines in 1995. The County stresses strong participation from our voting members. They continue to meet quarterly for general business. The Executive Committee (made up of five members of the larger Committee) meet annually to set the draft budgets for the following year.
- ▶ The water plans goals and objectives will become the basis for the SWCD Annual Comp Plan, the Watershed Projects, MN River Headwater Joint Powers Board, and the Minnesota River Basin Plan.

Other

- ▶ Chippewa County participates in the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's State Revolving Low Interest Loan Program. Since 1995, Chippewa County has used \$435,001 of these funds in the following areas (spending a total of \$737,422):

- ✓ 7 agriculture waste systems were upgraded
 - ✓ 2 erosion control structures
 - ✓ 81 septic systems were upgraded
 - ✓ 15 pieces of conservation tillage equipment were purchased
 - ✓ 5 BMP practices were installed
- Equipment was purchased to support the implementation of best management practices, help with education tools and assist with work. The following pieces of equipment were purchased:
- ✓ 2 display boards
 - ✓ laminator
 - ✓ Finn Crimper
 - ✓ bale chopping/mulching machine with seed sowing attachments
 - ✓ computer for interns
 - ✓ digital camera for septic inspections

SUCCESS!

The success of our water plan is based on achievement of goals and objectives and building partners so we can continue to grow and be unified in our ultimate goals of improved water quality. Our success has been accomplished on a volunteer basis and the list of accomplishments above shows our cooperative efforts and landowner involvement, to help achieve the goals and objections, is quite successful. Water Planning has brought a large amount of funds into Chippewa County. Without the funds, we would have faced limitations in reaching our goals and objectives to improve water quality and quantity issues in Chippewa County.



Chippewa County Local Water Plan...locally driven to work for you!

Summary of Accomplishments 1992 – 2002

Funds brought into Chippewa County through Water Planning efforts:

Project/Grant Name	Amount Funded
NRBG 1992 – 2002 Local Water Planning	\$ 372,796.00
NRBG 1994 – 2002 Wetland Conservation Act	\$ 132,500.00
NRBG 1994 – 2002 Shoreland Administrative	\$ 27,113.67
NRBG 1999 – 2002 ISTS	\$ 4,432.00
DNR Shoreland Ordinance	\$ 8,500.00
1995 Feedlot Challenge Grant	\$ 5,000.00
1997 Feedlot Challenge Grant	\$ 3,000.00
2001 Spring Creek Challenge Grant	\$ 25,000.00
1993 Living Snow Fence Challenge Grant	\$ 6,000.00
1995 Conservation Credit Initiative Challenge Grant	\$ 40,000.00
Well Sealing Challenge Grants	\$ 40,000.00
1995 – 2001 Septic Revolving Loan and ISTS Ag BMP	\$ 453,327.08
1998 Flood Recovery Challenge Grant	\$ 15,000.00
Total Funds Received 1992 – 2002:	\$1,132,668.75

County's contributions from 1992 – 2002:

Cash contributions	\$ 115,704.00
In-kind contributions	\$ 124,113.67
Total Funds Contributed 1992 – 2002:	\$ 239,817.67

Funds Returned:

1997 Feedlot Challenge Grant (the goals of the grant were met, but all the funds were not used).	\$ 1,500.00
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Grants submitted and not funded:

1998 Feedlot Water Quality Management Grant: Ag Waste projects
1999 Water Plan Challenge Grant: purchasing a set of learning models
1999 Challenge Grant: Enhanced Conservation Credit Initiative Program

Chippewa County Clean Water Partnerships/Watershed Projects

(see Data Item 6 in Chapter Two for a profile of Chippewa County's watersheds)

The Clean Water Partnership (CWP) Program was created in 1987 to address pollution problems associated with runoff from agricultural and urban areas. The program is funded by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and provides local governments with resources to protect and improve lakes, streams and groundwater. CWP projects begin with a desire by a local government to improve a water resource that has been polluted by land-use-related activities. Local leadership and expertise, combined with technical and financial resources from the State, create an effective program for controlling pollution and restoring water quality.

Funding for CWPs is awarded in two phases. In the first, or resource investigation phase, a diagnostic study and implementation plan are completed. As part of the diagnostic study, local sponsors work with the MPCA to collect data and information on the water resource and its watershed. This information is used to identify pollution problems and their causes and define water quality goals and objectives. The final step of the resource investigation phase is the development of an implementation plan that identifies the combination of education, management practices and other activities needed to protect or restore water quality. The second phase of a CWP, called project implementation, involves the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) identified in the first phase. BMPs may include sedimentation ponds, manure management, conservation tillage, terraces, new ordinances, wetland restoration, fertilizer management, education or other methods designed to reduce nonpoint-source pollution. Projects may be completed either partially or completely through the CWP program, however, if the project sponsor intends to seek CWP funding for later phases, the MPCA must first approve a diagnostic study and an implementation plan.

The financial assistance available through the program falls into two categories: grants and low-interest loans. Grants are available for up to 50 percent of project costs. Loans can only be used for the project implementation phase and can cover the entire cost of implementation or supplement a grant. Local governments can also use loans to set up their own programs to provide pass-through loans to private parties. Local governments with the authority to generate cash revenues and adopt and enforce official controls are eligible to sponsor CWP projects and receive grant funding. To be eligible for a loan, a local government must also be able to secure the loan with a general obligation promissory note. In addition, the water of concern must be addressed in an approved local water plan.

According to the MPCA, there have been two CWP funded projects in Chippewa County. The following provides a brief description of each of the projects.

- Hawk Creek Watershed Project. Funding for this project is provided through a 319 implementation grant. Start date: October 18, 2001. End date: September 30, 2004. Grant amount: \$233,439. MPCA project manager: Wade Gillingham, Phone # (507) 537-7163.
- Chippewa River Watershed Project. Phase II CWP. Start date: February 13, 2001. End date: February 13, 2004. Grant amount: \$469,372. MPCA project manager: Wade Gillingham, Phone # (507) 537-7163.

Chippewa River Watershed Project

629 North 11th Street
Montevideo, MN 56265
(320) 269-2139 extension 116

The Chippewa River Watershed Project (CRWP) is a cooperative effort of over 25 organizations, from County, State and Federal agencies, to non-profit organizations, lake associations, citizens and landowners throughout the 1.3 million acre watershed. Counties involved in the project include parts of Kandiyohi, Chippewa, Douglas, Grant, Ottertail, Pope, Stevens and Swift. The CRWP began in March 1998, when the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) awarded the project a Clean Water Partnership grant to conduct a three-year Phase I Diagnostic Study of the watershed. Extensive water quality monitoring and land use assessment was conducted from 1998 through 2001 (contact the Chippewa River Watershed Project for the full report). The data collected was used in the development of an Implementation Plan for the watershed. The project received funding in the spring of 2001 for the first three years of implementation through the MPCA's Clean Water Partnership grant program.

Through the Diagnostic Study, it was found that the Chippewa River carries high levels of sediment, nutrient (phosphorus and nitrogen) and bacteria pollutants, derived from rainfall-driven polluted runoff that occurs throughout most of the watershed. The usefulness and aesthetic qualities of the river are impaired and conditions are unlikely to improve unless changes are made in land use and water management practices within the watershed. Change can be accomplished through an implementation plan that reflects real problems occurring on the landscape and clearly identified solutions to those problems, while developing and organizing sufficient resources to attain meaningful and effective solutions.

In setting goals and objectives, consideration is given to four important watershed characteristics. First, agriculture is the predominant land use in the watershed and improvements to water quality will require changes in agricultural practices, which requires education and presenting solutions that are economically viable to the agricultural community. Second, pollutant transport in the watershed is primarily affected by uncontrolled runoff through the many hydrologic pathways present (i.e. the extensive drainage system). Third, the Chippewa River holds enormous potential for being a recreational resource, but past and present conditions prevent it from being used to its full potential. And fourth, watershed residents, through their involvement and actions, hold the key to protecting and enhancing the Chippewa River. To achieve each of these goals, continued and increased education of urban and rural watershed residents is needed. The ten-year goals of the CRWP are:

1. To achieve the highest water quality attainable for ecoregion streams;
2. To increase the number of watershed residents taking an active role in enhancing and protecting the Chippewa River;
3. To continue to have the watershed community of agencies and organizations bonded together (across county boundaries) as a group working toward the common goal of improved water quality in the Chippewa River Watershed; and
4. To develop the Chippewa River as a major recreational resource within the Minnesota River Basin.

The long-term goal of the CRWP is to improve the water quality and flooding problems in the watershed, while also promoting a healthy agricultural, industrial and recreation-based economy for the region. The best management practices (BMPs) to be utilized include nutrient management, residue management, wetland restoration, buffer strips, water and sediment control basins, livestock waste management, individual sewage treatment systems, grassed waterways, streambank restoration, terraces, contour farming, grade control structures, pasture management, alternative tile inlets, RIM, CRP and shoreline naturalization. Urban practices to be promoted include recycling, directing downspouts to lawns, phosphorus free fertilizer for lawn care, construction site erosion control and storm water management. Implementation of these practices on the landscape will be accomplished through the work of the cooperating partners and through grant applications for funds targeted for specific sub-basins of the watershed.

Because the Chippewa River is so large, it is necessary to prioritize sub-basins for the development of the Implementation Plan. The major tributaries of the Chippewa River create natural sub-basins making this delineation possible. Water quality monitoring data, watershed assessments and judgments about reasonable expectations for rivers and streams in this area of the State were used in ranking the sub-basins. Due to the high levels of nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen), sediment and fecal coliform bacteria, the Shakopee Creek Headwaters (SCH) area has been ranked as the Chippewa River Watershed's first priority sub-basin (see below).

Chippewa River Watershed Sub-Basin Implementation Schedule

	<u>Target Year</u>
1. Shakopee Creek and Shakopee Headwaters	2001-04
2. East Branch Chippewa River	2002-05
3. Lower Main Stem	2003-06
4. Little Chippewa River	2004-07
5. Dry Weather Creek, Spring Creek, Lines Creek and Cottonwood Creek	2005-08
6. Upper Main Stem Chippewa River	2006-09

The monitoring program established in the watershed during the Diagnostic Study will continue throughout the Implementation Phase. Water quality monitoring plays a key role in identifying priority areas and documenting changes, as well as gaining a greater understanding of the complexities of a watershed. In addition, a bio-monitoring program has been developed to engage high school students throughout the watershed.

The outreach and education program of the CRWP is based on the concept of "connecting people through their river". The Citizen Monitoring Network of the CRWP engages landowners in watershed activities. Other education efforts include a newsletter, annual meeting, monthly meetings, bus tours, seminars, workshops and creating new partnerships. Education efforts revolve around urban and rural BMPs to enhance water quality and water quantity issues, hydrology, watershed concepts and the connection of land use to the river.

Hawk Creek Watershed Project

Renville County Courthouse, Lower Level
500 East DePue Avenue
Olivia, MN 56277
(320) 523-3672

The Hawk Creek Watershed Project began in the summer of 1998, when a phase I Clean Water Partnership grant was allocated from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). A diagnostic study was conducted to determine the health of the watershed. Water quality samples were collected from area streams and ditches during the summers of 1999 and 2000. A Tailored Integrated Stream Watershed Assessment (TISWA) was also conducted during this study to determine the areas of the watershed with the highest pollution potential.

Six primary locations within the Hawk Creek Watershed were sampled and monitored during the diagnostic study. Samples collected were tested for total suspended solids, total phosphorus, orthophosphate, nitrate-nitrite, ammonia, total Kjeldahl nitrogen and fecal coliform bacteria. High levels of nutrients and sediment were found throughout the watershed. Nitrogen was found to be high in Chetomba and Beaver Creeks. Elevated levels of phosphorus were found in Hawk Creek, especially in the upper portion of the watershed. Bacteria counts were found to be high across the watershed, with the highest levels found in the Beaver Creek sub-watershed. Major issues to be addressed, as identified through the diagnostic study, include erosion and runoff from agricultural and developed areas, as well as failing septic systems.

In the spring of 2001, the Hawk Creek Watershed Project was awarded further funding from the MPCA for a phase II study. This second phase focuses on the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) to help reduce pollutant loadings. The project will also focus its efforts on education and awareness activities, including the understanding of storm drain systems, septic systems, urban and agricultural runoff and the watershed concept.

Watershed Districts

There are no watershed districts located within Chippewa County.

Lake Associations

A lake association is an organized group of people who have come together because of their common interest in a specific lake. Lake associations serve as an organized voice of their members to township and county government and are often a watchdog for enforcement of local ordinances. Currently, the Lac qui Parle Lake/Watershed Project Association is the only lake association in Chippewa County. The Association can be contacted in the following location:

Lac qui Parle Lake/Watershed Project Association
1114 South 1st Street West; P.O. Box 66; Montevideo, MN 56265
(320) 269-5624 or www.lqpvlake.org

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

May 2003 BWSR Board Meeting

OVERVIEW – LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER PLAN

Background

Lac qui Parle County has a Comprehensive Local Water Plan, which was approved by the BWSR on April 25, 1996. Lac qui Parle County submitted its third generation Plan to the BWSR on January 22, 2003. The ninety-day final state review process began on January 22, 2003, and ended on April 21, 2003.

On March 26, 2003, and again on April 24, 2003 brief information regarding the Lac qui Parle County Plan Update was provided to the Board for their review.

On April 11, 2003, the BWSR Water Plan Review Committee met in the City of Montevideo with BWSR staff and representatives from Lac qui Parle County to review and discuss the third generation Comprehensive Local Water Plan.

For the May 28, 2003 BWSR Board meeting, two items in addition to this Overview have been provided for board member information. The first item is a copy of the County Profile and Executive Summary (Chapter One) of the Lac qui Parle County Water Plan. This briefly provides an introduction to the County and the planning process, and describes some major accomplishments in the past ten years. The second item is a board order for the Lac qui Parle County Water Plan, which provides additional background information.

Outcomes

The focus of the planning process for Lac qui Parle County's third generation plan was on implementation. This was accomplished through seeking the involvement of local and state agencies early in the update process, with an emphasis on identifying a reduced number of priority issues. The collection of data in Lac qui Parle's Plan was reduced, with a significantly greater emphasis placed on the resource issues and their assessment. The specific issues identified were then addressed through goals, objectives and measurable actions. As a result, this Plan has a "bias to action", with a clear implementation focus!

Lac qui Parle's Plan identifies six priority issues in the following categories:

- **Education** — Most of the issues identified throughout the water planning process would be greatly improved by simply raising public awareness. The plan lays out steps (actions) to do this.
- **Water Management** — The County would like to examine drainage and wetland issues and develop a strategy to address problems and pursue opportunities. Actions are identified.
- **Groundwater Protection** — Actions to protect and enhance groundwater supplies.
- **Reducing Priority Pollutants** — The Plan identifies action steps to minimize or eliminate priority pollutants (nutrients, sediments, etc.). The Lac qui Parle/Yellow Bank CWP will help prioritize areas for implementation.
- **Erosion** — Actions to minimize wind and water erosion are identified.
- **Recreation** — Actions identified to address water-based recreation activities.

BWSR staff reviewed the Lac qui Parle County Water Plan and found that all relevant requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled and it is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes 1990, 103B and Minnesota Rules Chapter 9300. BWSR staff recommends approval of the Lac qui Parle County 2003 – 2013 ten year Comprehensive Local Water Plan. (*The Implementation Section covers a five-year period 2003 – 2008.*)

The BWSR Water Plan Review Committee will make its approval recommendation to the full BWSR Board at the May 28, 2003 meeting.

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

In the Matter of Reviewing the Comprehensive Water Plan Update
for **Lac qui Parle** County (Minnesota Statutes 1990, Section 103B.311,
Subdivision 4 and Section 103B.315, Subdivision 5 and Minnesota
Rules 9300.0170)

ORDER
APPROVING
COMPREHENSIVE
WATER PLAN

Whereas, the Lac qui Parle County Board of Commissioners adopted a Comprehensive Local Water Plan (Plan) on June 4, 1996 under authority of Minnesota Statutes (M.S.) 1990, Section 103B.301, which was approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) on April 25, 1996 pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 5, and

Whereas, the Plan provided for updating in 2002 pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.311, Subd. 4, and

Whereas, the Lac qui Parle County Board of Commissioners submitted a Comprehensive Local Water Plan Update (Plan Update) to the Board on January 22, 2003, 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 May 2, 2000, the Board received from Lac qui Parle County a resolution requesting an extension of their existing Comprehensive Local Water Plan.
3. On May 24, 2000, the Board approved the extension of the existing Lac qui Parle County Comprehensive Local Water Plan until April 25, 2003. (The Board has authorization to grant extensions pursuant to Minn. Session Law 1995, Chapter 184 Section 24.)
4. On November 6, 2001, Lac qui Parle County passed a resolution to develop a Comprehensive Water Plan Update to meet the plan update requirements.
5. Lac qui Parle County held a public information meeting on March 18, 2002, for purposes of gaining public input into the Plan Update.

6. On September 20, 2002, Lac qui Parle County completed a draft Plan Update and submitted it to affected local units of government for preliminary review and comment pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 1.
7. On September 23, 2002, Lac qui Parle County submitted a draft Plan Update to the Minnesota Departments of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources, Pollution Control, Minnesota Geological Survey, and Minnesota Environmental Quality Board for preliminary review and comment pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 5.
8. On November 19, 2002, Lac qui Parle County held a public hearing on the Plan Update pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 4, for the purpose of obtaining public input into the Plan Update.
9. On January 22, 2003, Lac qui Parle 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 M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 5.
10. On January 22, 2003 the Board distributed notification of the official 90-day state review and a copy of the Lac qui Parle County Plan Update to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Environmental Quality Board, and Minnesota Geological Survey for their review and comment pursuant to Minnesota Rules, Chapter 9300.0170. The notification stated that each agency had 45 days from receipt of the notification to submit written comments to the Board.
11. On March 26, 2003 and again on April 24, 2003, brief information regarding the Lac qui Parle County Plan Update was provided to the Board for their review.
12. **Individual Comments:** Several individual comments were received in November 2002. The comments suggested adding an action step supporting the River Friendly Farmer Program; adding a section in the Plan regarding the county's cross-over flooding problems; and suggested several map edits.
13. **County Response to Individual Comments:** Lac qui Parle County responded to the individual comments on January 10, 2003 and incorporated these recommendations, suggestions and additions in the Plan.

Local Government Unit (LGU) Comments: No written Local Government Unit comments were received.

14. **County Response to LGU Comments:** Not applicable.
15. **Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Review:** MDA did provide preliminary written comments in November 2002. MDA encouraged the County to closely integrate their County Water Plan with their Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Also comments identifying Agricultural Best Management Practice Loan information for the County was provided. Final written comments (dated February 6, 2003) commended the County on the development of their Water Plan. It further stated several areas where the MDA may be able to coordinate and provide assistance to Lac qui Parle County including: pesticides and fertilizer management issues, nitrate testing, low interest Ag BMP loans, and information for planners and producers in addressing feedlot issues.

16. **Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Review:** MDH did provide written preliminary review comments in October 2002. MDH stated the Plan addresses three MDH issues: public water suppliers that are required to conduct wellhead protection were recognized as to their current status in that program; the goals, objectives and actions recognized wellhead protection, including the County's willingness to assist with development of these plans; and the water plan provides support to abandoned well sealing and support to better understanding groundwater resources. In addition several edits were made regarding Community Public Water Suppliers, the discussion on Health Risk Limits was slightly revised, and the third category of public water suppliers was changed to read transient noncommunity public water supply. Final written comments (dated November 1, 2002) stated MDH found no inconsistencies in the Plan with law or regulations of MDH. MDH commended the County for consideration of their comments early in the process and supports approval of the Plan.
17. **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Review:** DNR did provide written preliminary comments on November 15, 2002. The DNR supported a number of items identified in the Plan. The basic format of the letter was written to provide support on a number of key action steps. The letter did request that the County consider creating a drought contingency plan. As a result the County will add an action step reviewing and considering such a plan. No final written comments were provided.
18. **Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Review:** MPCA did provide written preliminary review comments on November 15, 2002. The MPCA commended the County for doing an excellent job, and for including the four MPCA Southwest Regional priority items in the Plan. Final written comments (dated February 18, 2003) stated their review was done to ensure continuity of approach with MPCA programs and identify any inconsistencies that may exist between the plan recommendations or planned activities, state statutes or MPCA rules and policies. MPCA recommends that BWSR give final approval to the Plan.
19. **Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) / State Planning Agency Review:** EQB did not provide any written preliminary review comments. No final written comments were provided.
20. **Minnesota Geological Survey (MGS) Review:** MGS did not provide any written preliminary comments. No final written comments were provided.
21. **Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR):** BWSR did provide written preliminary review comments on November 6, 2002. The BWSR suggested identifying the location / source of any local monitoring data that has been completed; noted the Plan needs to identify high priority wetland preservation areas in the county; and noted a need to include state cost-share program definitions in the text of the Plan. Final written comments (dated February 24, 2003) thanked the County for their effort on the Water Plan Update and noted no additional comments.
22. **County Response to State Agency Comments:** On January 10, 2003, Lac qui Parle County made written responses to state agencies regarding the preliminary comments. In its final Plan Update submitted to the Board on January 22, 2003, Lac qui Parle County incorporated many of the changes, additions, and recommendations to the Plan update as provided in the agencies' comments.

23. **Board Water Plan Review Committee Meeting:** On April 11, 2003, the Board committee met in Montevideo, Minnesota with Board staff and representatives from Lac qui Parle County to review and discuss the Plan Update. Those in attendance were Victor Ormsby (SWCD member), Jerome Deal (WD member), Char Kahler (citizen member), Dan Wilson (MDH member), Becky Balk (MDA member) of the Board; the Board's southern region supervisor Jeff Nielsen and board conservationist David Sill; water plan coordinator John Rebehn; Matthew Johnson of the Mid-Minnesota Development Commission (consultants). The water plan review committee met to determine whether all relevant law and rule requirements had been met; to discuss past accomplishments; to discuss resource issues and needs; to review the proposed Plan Update; and to hear comments from Lac qui Parle County on the planning process.
24. On April 11, 2003, the Board Water Plan Review Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Board approve the Lac qui Parle County 2003-2013 ten-year Comprehensive Local Water Plan Update, with the Goals, Objectives and Action Steps (Implementation Section) covering a five year period 2003 - 2008.

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 Lac qui Parle County pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 1990, 103B.315, Subd. 5, and Minnesota Rules 9300.0170, Subp. 4.
2. The Lac qui Parle 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 Update as the Comprehensive Local Water Plan of Lac qui Parle County with a required update to the Implementation section (Goals, Objectives and Action Steps) by May 28, 2008. Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 28th day of May, 2003.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BY: _____
Leland Coe, Chair

CHAPTER ONE: COUNTY PROFILE AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Lac qui Parle Lake

Chapter One Contains...

Chapter One provides an introduction to Lac qui Parle County and its Comprehensive Local Water Plan. This Chapter includes the following information:

- ✓ The role of the County Board, Water Planning Committee and Citizen Participation
- ✓ Lac qui Parle County's Population and Location
- ✓ Previous Lac qui Parle County Water Plan Accomplishments
- ✓ Clean Water Partnerships/Watershed Projects
- ✓ Watershed Districts

The role of the County Board, Resource Commission and Citizen Participation

In January 2002, the Minnesota River Headwaters Joint Powers Board (consisting of Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Pope and Swift Counties) cooperatively agreed to update the member counties' Comprehensive Local Water Plans. After reviewing a number of proposals, the Joint Powers Board entered into a contract with the local Regional Development Commission, the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission (UMVRDC), to coordinate the development of the five individual water plans. The UMVRDC thereafter subcontracted with Midwest Community Planning, LLC, to assist with the planning, facilitation and writing portion of the contract (the UMVRDC remaining responsibilities included mapping and various data collection). Midwest Community Planning, LLC, then assisted the individual counties with developing the specific contents of this Water Plan.

The water planning process for Lac qui Parle County started with a Public Informational Meeting, held on March 25, 2002. The primary purpose of the meeting was to invite the public, local governmental units and various governmental agencies to identify and discuss local water planning issues. The issues identified were then discussed during regular meetings (an average of one per month) with the local Resource Commission, created by the Lac qui Parle County Board of Commissioners. The Resource Commission included the following participants:

Resource Commission Members:

Morris Hjelm	Planning & Zoning	John Rebehn	Local Water Planner
Donald Stolpmann	LqP-YB Watershed	Brad Olson	DNR
Jeff Johnson	Resident	Arvid Gollnick	County Commissioner
Tom Graham	Planning & Zoning	Burt Hendrickson	NRCS
Wendel Gubrud	Planning & Zoning	Albert Hoffman	County Commissioner
Sonja Farmer	SWCD	Nancy Breberg	Resident
LeRoy Anderson	Highway Engineer	Mary Homan	LqP-YB Watershed
David Craigmile	Planning & Zoning	Trudy Hastad	Environmental Services
Ed Radermacher	Resident	Darryl Ellefson	Zoning Administrator

The first draft of the Comprehensive Local Water Plan went out for public review on September 20, 2002. This review process included the general public, local governmental units (i.e., cities and townships) and governmental agencies. A public hearing was held with the County Board on November 19, 2002, to solicit public comment and to discuss all of the written comments received during the public review period. The Water Planning Committee then met one more time to incorporate the public and governmental comments into the final draft water plan. On January 10, 2002, the final draft was submitted to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for final state agency 90-day review. The final Lac qui Parle Comprehensive Local Water Plan went for final approval by BWSR on May 28, 2003.

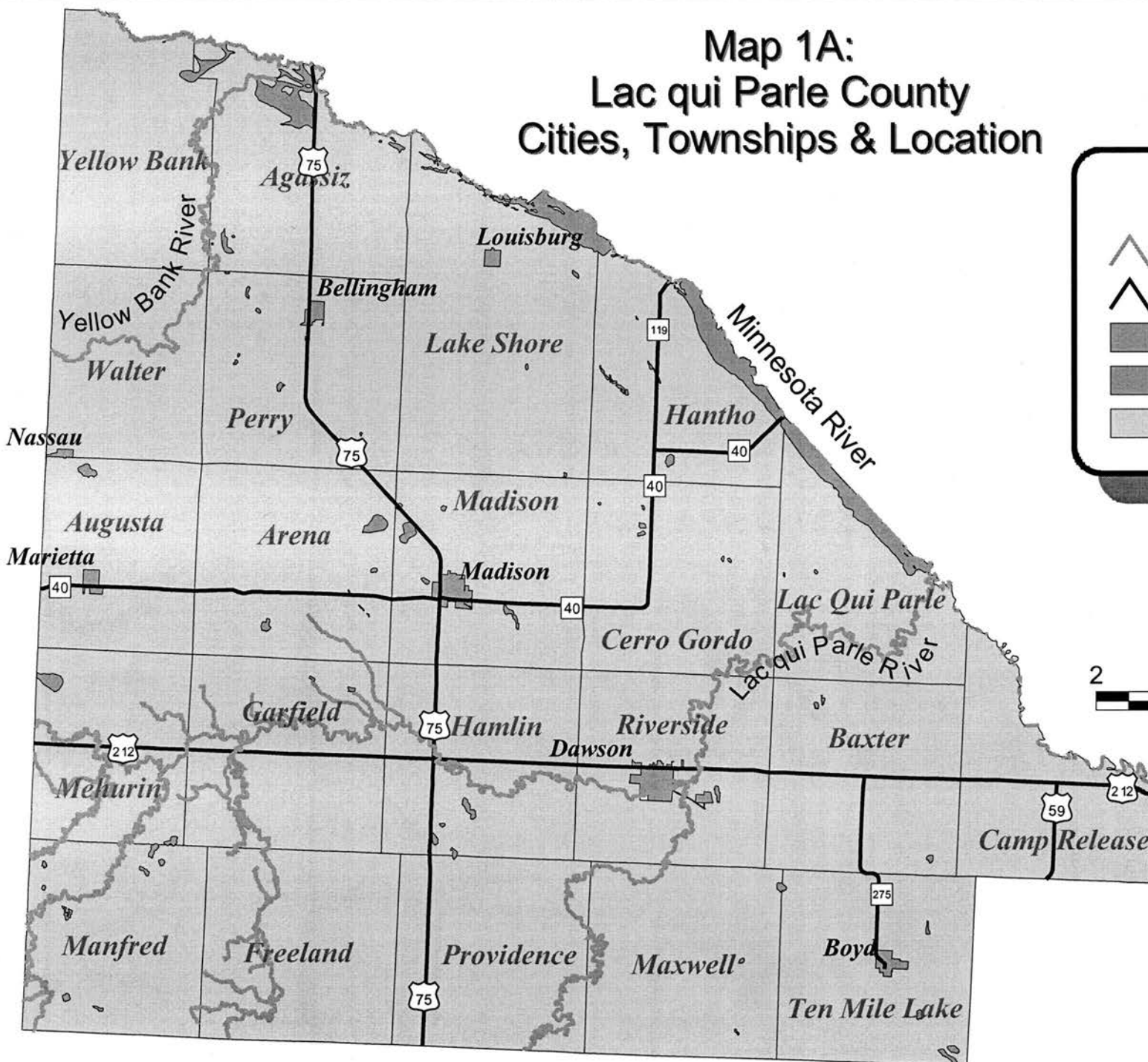
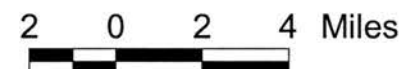
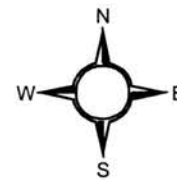
Lac qui Parle County's Population and Location

According to the 2000 Census, Lac qui Parle County had approximately 8,067 residents living in 3,316 households. The City of Madison is the County's largest City, with approximately 1,768 residents (Appendix A contains Lac qui Parle County's complete demographic profiles, including the following: General Demographic Profile, Selected Social Characteristics Profile, Selected Economic Characteristics Profile and Selected Housing Characteristics Profile). The County is located in West Central Minnesota, approximately 150 miles west of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area along the South Dakota border. Map 1A shows the location of Lac qui Parle County's cities and townships, along with the County's location in the State. The Minnesota River helps to form the County's northeastern border. In addition, the County shares borders with Swift and Chippewa Counties to the northeast; Yellow Medicine County to the south; Deuel and Grant Counties to the west in South Dakota; and Big Stone County to the north.

Map 1A: Lac qui Parle County Cities, Townships & Location

Legend

-  Rivers
-  Major Roads
-  Cities
-  Lakes
-  Townships



Previous Lac qui Parle County Water Planning Accomplishments: 1991 – 2001

This Comprehensive Local Water Plan (CLWP) is the second revision and the third generation of the Water Plan. The third generation will become effective April 2003. The CLWP is reviewed annually when the annual work plan is prepared for the Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG) application to the State of Minnesota's Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). Priorities are reviewed as they are approved for the annual work plan as issues may have changed since the revised CLWP was adopted. The annual work plan is worked on by the coordinator with assistance from the Lac qui Parle County Resource Commission (LqPRC). The LqPRC may amend the plan as issues and priorities change.

Progress of the plan is reported to the LqPRC and the Lac qui Parle County Board of Commissioners as well as news articles throughout the year. The LqPRC meets monthly or bi-monthly and is open to the public.

The third generation places emphasis on a watershed approach and shows that issues have shifted since 1991.

Water Planning 1991 - 1996 First Generation Accomplishments

EDUCATION and INFORMATION

- News articles and presentations on water quality, programs and projects
- Challenge Grant 1993
 - ✓ Radio spots
 - ✓ Water trunk – educational tools
- Challenge Grant 1995
 - ✓ Radio spots
 - ✓ PBS TV Channel 10 – 7 week run on “Prairie Sportsman” program
- Brochure on nitrates in drinking water
- Annual Fair Booth

MONITORING and DATA COLLECTION

- Nitrate testing clinics – 2 conducted
- Water quality in County Ditch 3 and County Ditch 13

INVENTORY and MAPPING

- Building sites no longer in use or existence for well locations
- Feedlot locations – 441 identified

LAND and WATER TREATMENT

- Well sealing cost-share program – 283 wells sealed
- Chemical container collections
- Household hazardous waste collection

REGULATIONS, ORDINANCES and PLANNING

- Worked with Resource Commission to make sound environmental decisions

PLAN COORDINATION

- Creation of a Water Plan Coordinator Position and Resource Commission
- Participant in the 5 county Minnesota River Headwaters Joint Powers Board
- Participant in the 37 county Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board

The first plan was approved by BWSR in 1991 and adopted by the Lac qui Parle County Board of Commissioners on December 3, 1991.

Water Planning 1997 - 2001 Second Generation Accomplishments

EDUCATION and INFORMATION

- Annual Fair Booth
- Provided financial assistance to the 6th grade Environmental Fair annually
- Purchased Enviroscape to be used in local schools
- Radio spots – aired daily on KLQP
- Supported and contributed to quarterly SWCD newsletter with articles and postage
- Supported the Extension Service Manure Management Program
- Heron Lake Environmental Bus to Dawson-Boyd and Lac qui Parle Valley High Schools

LAND and WATER TREATMENT

- Abandoned well sealing cost-share program – 299 wells sealed during this period
- Chemical container and household hazardous waste collections
- Worked with SWCD on the Ag Best Management Practices Program through MDA. Spent a total of \$316,518 on the following 51 loans:
 - ✓ 1 Agriculture Waste Management System
 - ✓ 16 Erosion Control Structures
 - ✓ 4 Conservation Tillage
 - ✓ 30 Septic System
- Assisted and promoted the RIM, CRP, CREP, WRP, Living Snowfence programs

REGULATION and PLANNING

- Lac qui Parle-YellowBank Clean Water Partnership
- Feedlot Ordinance
- Community Based Comprehensive Plan

MONITORING and DATA COLLECTION

- Assisted LqP Valley Biology Club to acquire water monitoring equipment, along with the Lac qui Parle Lake Association
- Water Plan and its coordinator were key players in assembling the Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Clean Water Partnership with the Watershed District, SWCD, Environmental Office, NRCS, RC&D, and MPCA

PLAN COORDINATION

- Lac qui Parle Resource Commission
- Participant in the 5 county Minnesota River Headwaters Joint Powers Board
- Participant in the 37 county Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board

The second generation CLWP was approved on April 25, 1996, by BWSR and adopted by the Lac qui Parle County Board of Commissioners on June 4, 1996. The success of the Water Plan is based on achievement of goals and objectives. This is shown above by the list of accomplishments that have occurred with water planning. Limitations to the ability in achieving goals and objectives include lack of appropriate funding, thus creating a lack of staff time to accomplish these goals.

Funds Brought into Lac qui Parle County Through the Water Plan:

<u>Project/Grant Name</u>	<u>Amount Funded</u>
NRBG 1990-2001 CLWP	\$365,674
NRBG 1995-2001 WCA	60,000
NRBG 1994-2001 Shoreland	24,142
NRBG 1996-1999 Feedlot	17,820
NRBG 1999-2001 ISTS	3,444
NRBG subtotal	\$471,080
Well Sealing Grants 1992, 1995, 1999	23,165
Challenge Grants 1993 & 1995	19,900
Challenge Grant 1997 Feedlot	27,500
Grant subtotal	\$70,565
Total Nonlocal Funds	\$541,645
Local dollars into Water Planning	
Required levy	\$26,931
Additional levy	22,457
Total Local Funds	\$49,388
Total Water Planning Funds 1990 – 2001	\$591,033

Lac qui Parle County Clean Water Partnerships/Watershed Projects
(see Data Item 6 in Chapter Two for a profile of Lac qui Parle County's watersheds)

The Clean Water Partnership (CWP) Program was created in 1987 to address pollution problems associated with runoff from agricultural and urban areas. The program is funded by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and provides local governments with resources to protect and improve lakes, streams and groundwater.

CWP projects begin with a desire by a local government to improve a water resource that has been polluted by land-use-related activities. Local leadership and expertise, combined with technical and financial resources from the State, create an effective program for controlling pollution and restoring water quality.

Funding for CWPs is awarded in two phases. In the first, or resource investigation phase, a diagnostic study and implementation plan are completed. As part of the diagnostic study, local sponsors work with the MPCA to collect data and information on the water resource and its watershed. This information is used to identify pollution problems and their causes and define water quality goals and objectives. The final step of the resource investigation phase is the development of an implementation plan that identifies the combination of education, management practices and other activities needed to protect or restore water quality.

The second phase of a CWP, called project implementation, involves the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) identified in the first phase. BMPs may include sedimentation ponds, manure management, conservation tillage, terraces, new ordinances, wetland restoration, fertilizer management, education or other methods designed to reduce nonpoint-source pollution.

Projects may be completed either partially or completely through the CWP program. To be eligible for CWP funding, the entire project must meet program requirements. This means that if the project sponsor intends to seek CWP funding for later phases, the MPCA must first approve a diagnostic study and an implementation plan.

The financial assistance available through the program falls into two categories: grants and low-interest loans. Grants are available for up to 50 percent of project costs. Loans can only be used for the project implementation phase and can cover the entire cost of implementation or supplement a grant. Local governments can also use loans to set up their own programs to provide pass-through loans to private parties. Local governments with the authority to generate cash revenues and adopt and enforce official controls are eligible to sponsor CWP projects and receive grant funding. To be eligible for a loan, a local government must also be able to secure the loan with a general obligation promissory note. In addition, the water of concern must be addressed in an approved local water plan.

According to the MPCA, there has been one CWP funded project in Lac qui Parle County. The following provides a brief description of that project:

- Lac qui Parle/Yellow Bank Watershed Project. Phase I CWP. Start date: February 13, 2001. End date: February 13, 2004. Grant amount: \$262,510. MPCA project manager: Wade Gillingham, Phone # (507) 537-7163.

Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed Project

600 6th Street
Madison, MN 56256
(320) 598-3319

The Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Clean Water Partnership is conducting an intensive, three-year, diagnostic study of the Lac qui Parle Yellow Bank watersheds. The watersheds have their origin along the Coteau des Prairies in eastern South Dakota. Almost one-third of the watershed is located within South Dakota. The Lac qui Parle River begins at Lake Hendricks in Lincoln County. The South Fork Yellow Bank River starts at Lake Alice near Tunerville, South Dakota, while the North Fork starts at Punished Women Lake by South Shore, South Dakota. An important land feature to note is that there is a 1,070 foot drop in elevation in the first 60 miles of drainage and a 930 foot drop in elevation over the next 1,000 miles of drainage.

The project has begun its second year of water quality monitoring. Water samples are taken twice a month, as well as after rain events, at 13 locations throughout the watershed. The project started water sampling in May 2001 and will continue through 2003. Water samples are sent to a state-certified laboratory and tested for nutrient, sediment and fecal coliform bacteria levels.

A watershed assessment, including a land use inventory, is another component of the study. CWP staff have aurally videotaped watercourses within the watershed. The video will aid in determining where buffer or filter strips are needed, viewing floodplains, livestock operations and possible wetland restoration areas. Global positioning satellite will be used for locating areas easily in the future.

Citizen monitors are an important part of the CWP project. Monitors record precipitation amounts, stream height and read turbidity tubes. Turbidity tubes provide a measure of light penetration into the water. The information gathered by monitors will provide insight for possible implementation projects in the future. Presently, 35 sites are being monitored by citizen monitors throughout the watershed.

In February 2002, CWP personnel held informational meetings in four communities in the watershed to share initial results of the 2001 water quality sampling. Based upon data collected in the first year of monitoring, phosphorus levels within the watershed are noticeably higher than in neighboring watersheds. To further educate citizens, CWP staff attend numerous area organizational meetings and events to give presentations and demonstrations.

Watershed Districts

Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District

600 6th Street
Madison, MN 56256
(320) 598-3117

At the time of this draft, information from the Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District had not yet been received.

Upper Minnesota River Watershed District

342 NW 2nd Street
Ortonville, MN 56278
(320) 839-3411

The Upper Minnesota River Watershed District was formed on September 7, 1967. The District is located primarily in Big Stone County, with smaller areas in Lac qui Parle, Stevens, Swift and Traverse Counties. The mission of District is to "serve its residents by wisely and judiciously managing water, in a manner that sustains and enhances the social, economic and natural resources of the District. The District prefers the use of innovative water management methods, which recognize the unique agricultural, community, lake and stream and natural resources within the District. These innovative approaches as reflected by the policies of the District should be oriented toward ensuring the economic viability of the District's agrarian community."

Each of the Counties located within the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District plays a vital role in the District's activities. The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners appoints three of the District's Board Managers, while the County Board of Commissioners for Swift and Traverse Counties each appoint one Board Manager. Each appointed Board Manager must be a resident of the District and is prohibited from being a public official of the County, State or Federal government. Each Manager serves a three-year term, which is renewable by approval of the County Board of Commissioners.

To enforce its adopted rules and regulations, the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District utilizes a permit system. Permits are required for a wide variety of construction activities that affect the water resources of the District. Any individual landowner, public entity, or governmental unit that contemplates a project impacting the water resources of the District, must secure a permit. Permit applications are considered at the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Managers. Board members and office staff are available to assist applicants in the permitting process. In addition to "in house" assistance, staff regularly assist applicants in field investigations to obtain recommendations on construction techniques and use of best management practices.

Lake Associations

A lake association is an organized group of people who have come together because of their common interest in a specific lake. Lake associations serve as an organized voice of their members to township and county government and are often a watchdog for enforcement of local ordinances. An association may monitor the condition of a lake, develop a lake management plan, educate shoreland property owners about individual and collective actions to protect a lake and provide volunteers to assist in lake and watershed projects. They may also work with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to improve fish habitat or fish stocking, get permits for aquatic plant removal, or maintain a lake access.

Listed below is the lone lake association in Lac qui Parle County that is a member of the Minnesota Lakes Association. Contact information has been provided for the association for additional information.

Lac qui Parle Lake Association

114 South 1st Street West
Montevideo, MN 56265

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

May 2003 BWSR Board Meeting

OVERVIEW – SWIFT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER PLAN

Background

Swift County has a Comprehensive Local Water Plan, which was approved by the BWSR on April 25, 1996. Swift County submitted its third generation Plan to the BWSR on January 22, 2003. The ninety-day final state review process began on January 22, 2003, and ended on April 21, 2003.

On March 26, 2003, and again on April 24, 2003 brief information regarding the Swift County Plan Update was provided to the Board for their review.

On April 11, 2003, the BWSR Water Plan Review Committee met in the City of Montevideo with BWSR staff and representatives from Swift County to review and discuss the third generation Comprehensive Local Water Plan.

For the May 28, 2003 BWSR Board meeting, two items in addition to this Overview have been provided for board member information. The first item is a copy of the County Profile and Executive Summary (Chapter One) of the Swift County Water Plan. This briefly provides an introduction to the County and the planning process, and describes some major accomplishments in the past ten years. The second item is a board order for the Swift County Water Plan, which provides additional background information.

Outcomes

The focus of the planning process for Swift County's third generation plan was on implementation. This was accomplished through seeking the involvement of local and state agencies early in the update process, with an emphasis on identifying a reduced number of priority issues. The collection of data in Swift's Plan was reduced, with a significantly greater emphasis placed on the resource issues and their assessment. The specific issues identified were then addressed through goals, objectives and measurable actions. As a result, this Plan has a "bias to action", with a clear implementation focus!

Swift's Plan identifies four priority issues in the following categories:

- **Reducing Priority Pollutants** – The Plan identifies action steps to minimize or eliminate priority pollutants (nutrients, sediments, etc.). Priority sub-watershed management areas identified through the Chippewa River Watershed CWP give implementation focus to this section of the County's Water Plan.
- **Surface Water/Drainage Management** – Actions are identified to examine and address drainage management systematically.
- **Groundwater Protection** – Actions to protect and enhance groundwater supplies are identified.
- **Public Education & Outreach** – Most of the issues identified throughout the water planning process would be greatly improved by simply raising public awareness. The plan lays out steps (actions) to do this.

BWSR staff reviewed the Swift County Water Plan and found that all relevant requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled and it is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes 1990, 103B and Minnesota Rules Chapter 9300. BWSR staff recommends approval of the Swift County 2003 – 2013 ten year Comprehensive Local Water Plan. (*The Implementation Section covers a five-year period 2003 – 2008.*)

The BWSR Water Plan Review Committee will make its approval recommendation to the full BWSR Board at the May 28, 2003 meeting.

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

In the Matter of Reviewing the Comprehensive Water Plan Update
for **Swift** County (Minnesota Statutes 1990, Section 103B.311,
Subdivision 4 and Section 103B.315, Subdivision 5 and Minnesota
Rules 9300.0170)

ORDER
APPROVING
COMPREHENSIVE
WATER PLAN

Whereas, the Swift County Board of Commissioners adopted a Comprehensive Local Water Plan (Plan) on August 20, 1996 under authority of Minnesota Statutes (M.S.) 1990, Section 103B.301, which was approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) on April 25, 1996 pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 5, and

Whereas, the Plan provided for updating in 2002 pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.311, Subd. 4, and

Whereas, the Swift County Board of Commissioners submitted a Comprehensive Local Water Plan Update (Plan Update) to the Board on January 22, 2003, 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 April 4, 2000, the Board received from Swift County a resolution requesting an extension of their existing Comprehensive Local Water Plan.
3. On May 24, 2000, the Board approved the extension of the existing Swift County Comprehensive Local Water Plan until April 25, 2003. (The Board has authorization to grant extensions pursuant to Minn. Session Law 1995, Chapter 184 Section 24.)
4. On February 5, 2002, Swift County passed a resolution to develop a Comprehensive Water Plan Update to meet the plan update requirements.
5. Swift County held a public information meeting on April 8, 2002, for purposes of gaining public input into the Plan Update.

6. On September 20, 2002, Swift County completed a draft Plan Update and submitted it to affected local units of government for preliminary review and comment pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 1.
7. On September 23, 2002, Swift County submitted a draft Plan Update to the Minnesota Departments of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources, Pollution Control, Minnesota Geological Survey, and Minnesota Environmental Quality Board for preliminary review and comment pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 5.
8. On November 19, 2002, Swift County held a public hearing on the Plan Update pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 4, for the purpose of obtaining public input into the Plan Update.
9. On January 22, 2003, Swift 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 M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 5.
10. On January 22, 2003 the Board distributed notification of the official 90-day state review and a copy of the Swift County Plan Update to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Environmental Quality Board, and Minnesota Geological Survey for their review and comment pursuant to Minnesota Rules, Chapter 9300.0170. The notification stated that each agency had 45 days from receipt of the notification to submit written comments to the Board.
11. On March 26, 2003 and again on April 24, 2003, brief information regarding the Swift County Plan Update was provided to the Board for their review.
12. **Individual Comments:** No individual written comments were received.
13. **County Response to Individual Comments:** Not applicable.
- Local Government Unit (LGU) Comments:** No written Local Government Unit comments were received.
14. **County Response to LGU Comments:** Not applicable.
15. **Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Review:** MDA did provide preliminary written comments in November 2002. MDA encouraged the County to closely integrate their County Water Plan with their Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Also comments identifying Agricultural Best Management Practice Loan information for the County was provided. Final written comments (dated February 6, 2003) commended the County on the development of their Water Plan. It further stated several areas where the MDA may be able to coordinate and provide assistance to Swift County including: pesticides and fertilizer management issues, nitrate testing, low interest Ag BMP loans, and information for planners and producers in addressing feedlot issues.

16. **Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Review:** MDH did provide written preliminary review comments in October 2002. MDH stated the Plan addresses three MDH issues: public water suppliers that are required to conduct wellhead protection were recognized as to their current status in that program; the goals, objectives and actions recognized wellhead protection, including the County's willingness to assist with development of these plans; and the water plan provides support to abandoned well sealing and support to better understanding groundwater resources. In addition several edits were made regarding Community Public Water Suppliers, the discussion on Health Risk Limits was slightly revised, and the third category of public water suppliers was changed to read transient noncommunity public water supply. Final written comments (dated November 1, 2002) stated MDH found no inconsistencies in the Plan with law or regulations of MDH. MDH commended the County for consideration of their comments early in the process and supports approval of the Plan.
17. **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Review:** DNR did not provide written preliminary review comments, but did participate in the planning process through task force meetings, and by providing input and information during the updating of data elements. No final written comments were provided.
18. **Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Review:** MPCA did provide written preliminary review comments on November 15, 2002. The MPCA commended the County for doing an excellent job, and for including the four MPCA Southwest Regional priority items in the Plan. They also provided language to add another Clean Water Partnership (Shakopee Creek) to Chapter One of the Water Plan. Final written comments (dated February 18, 2003) stated their review was done to ensure continuity of approach with MPCA programs and identify any inconsistencies that may exist between the plan recommendations or planned activities, state statutes or MPCA rules and policies. MPCA recommends that BWSR give final approval to the Plan.
19. **Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) / State Planning Agency Review:** EQB did not provide any written preliminary review comments. No final written comments were provided.
20. **Minnesota Geological Survey (MGS) Review:** MGS did not provide any written preliminary comments. No final written comments were provided.
21. **Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR):** BWSR did provide written preliminary review comments on November 12, 2002. The BWSR suggested adding some financial information to the Executive Summary of the Plan; suggested identifying the location / source of any local monitoring data that has been completed; suggested the Plan include maps of any high priority sub-watersheds identified in the Plan; noted the Plan needs to identify high priority wetland preservation areas in the county; suggested the Plan include more information on the Pomme de Terre Watershed project; and noted a need to include state cost-share program definitions in the text of the Plan. Final written comments (dated February 21, 2003) thanked the County for their effort on the Water Plan Update. Reminded the County to add financial information to their Executive summary (completed); provide some brief discussion regarding the Pomme de Terre Watershed Association; and suggested more explanation regarding wetland preservation areas for the County.
22. **County Response to State Agency Comments:** On January 10, 2003, Swift County made written responses to state agencies regarding the preliminary comments. In its final Plan Update submitted to the Board on January 22, 2003, Swift County incorporated many of the changes, additions, and recommendations to the Plan update as provided in the agencies' comments.

23. **Board Water Plan Review Committee Meeting:** On April 11, 2003, the Board committee met in Montevideo, Minnesota with Board staff and representatives from Swift County to review and discuss the Plan Update. Those in attendance were Victor Ormsby (SWCD member), Jerome Deal (WD member), Becky Balk (MDA member), Dan Wilson (MDH member) and Char Kahler (citizen member) of the Board; the Board's southern region supervisor Jeff Nielsen and board conservationist David Sill; and water plan coordinator Scott Collins; Matthew Johnson of Midwest Community Planning (consultant). The water plan review committee met to determine whether all relevant law and rule requirements had been met; to discuss past accomplishments; to discuss resource issues and needs; to review the proposed Plan Update; and to hear comments from Swift County on the planning process.
24. On April 11, 2003, the Board Water Plan Review Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Board approve the Swift County 2003-2013 ten-year Comprehensive Local Water Plan Update, with the Goals, Objectives and Action Steps (Implementation Section) covering a five-year period 2003 - 2008.

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 Swift County pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 1990, 103B.315, Subd. 5, and Minnesota Rules 9300.0170, Subp. 4.
2. The Swift 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 Update as the Comprehensive Local Water Plan of Swift County with a required update to the Implementation section (Goals, Objectives and Action Steps) by May 28, 2008. Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 28th day of May, 2003.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BY: _____
Leland Coe, Chair

CHAPTER ONE: COUNTY PROFILE AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Swift County Bridge over the Minnesota River, 1905

Chapter One Contains...

Chapter One provides an introduction to Swift County and its Comprehensive Local Water Plan. This Chapter includes the following information:

- ✓ The role of the County Board, Water Planning Committee and Citizen Participation
- ✓ Swift County's Population and Location
- ✓ Previous Swift County Water Plan Accomplishments
- ✓ Clean Water Partnerships/Watershed Projects
- ✓ Watershed Districts

The role of the County Board, Water Planning Committee and Citizen Participation

In January 2002, the Minnesota River Headwaters Joint Powers Board (consisting of Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Pope and Swift Counties) cooperatively agreed to update the member counties' Comprehensive Local Water Plans. After reviewing a number of proposals, the Joint Powers Board entered into a contract with the local Regional Development Commission, the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission (UMVRDC), to coordinate the development of the five individual water plans. The UMVRDC thereafter subcontracted with Midwest Community Planning, LLC, to assist with the planning, facilitation and writing portion of the contract (the UMVRDC remaining responsibilities included mapping and various data collection). Midwest Community Planning, LLC, then assisted the individual counties with developing the specific contents of this Water Plan.

The water planning process for Swift County started with a Public Informational Meeting, held on March 25, 2002. The primary purpose of the meeting was to invite the public, local governmental units and various governmental agencies to identify and discuss local water planning issues. The issues identified were then discussed during regular meetings with a Local Water Plan Committee, created by the Swift County Board of Commissioners. The Committee included the following participants:

Water Plan Committee Members:

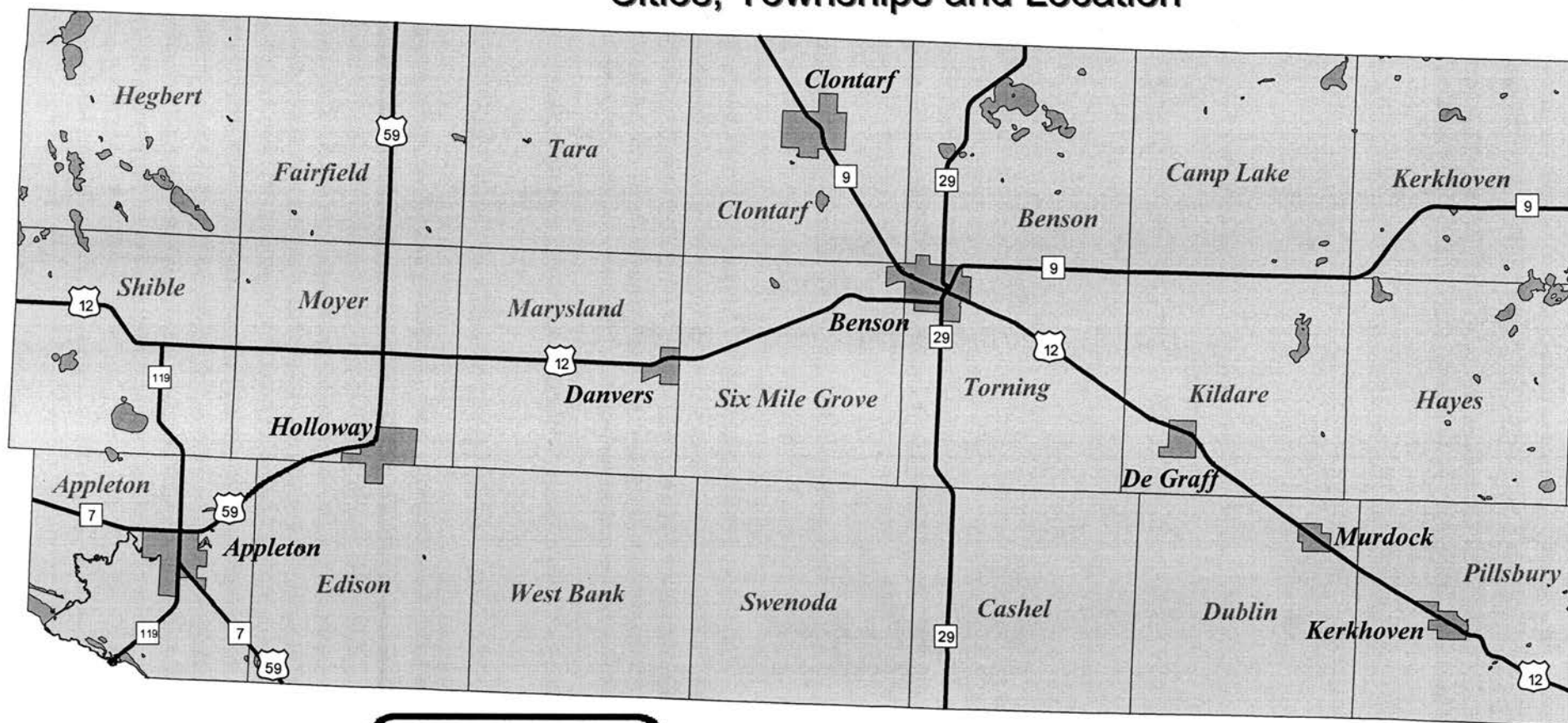
Scott Collins	Swift County Environmental Services
Dick Hanson	County Commissioner
Orvin Gronseth	Soil and Water Conservation District
Bert Koosman	Citizen
Mike Johnson	Swift County Parks & Drainage
Bill Hoberg	Citizen
Amy Faber	Pomme de Terre Watershed Coordinator
Kylene Olson	Chippewa Watershed Coordinator
Lyle Popma	Natural Resource Conservation Service
Rick Gronseth	Soil and Water Conservation District
Dave Soehren	Dept. of Natural Resources – Wildlife
David Sill	MN Board of Water & Soil Resources

The first draft of the Comprehensive Local Water Plan went out for public review on September 20, 2002. This review process included the general public, local governmental units (i.e., cities and townships) and governmental agencies. A public hearing was held with the County Board on November 19, 2002, to solicit public comment and to discuss all of the written comments received during the public review period. The Water Planning Committee then met one more time to incorporate the public and governmental comments into the final draft water plan. On January 10, 2003, the final draft was submitted to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for final state agency 90-day review. The final Swift Comprehensive Local Water Plan went for final approval by BWSR on May 28, 2003.

Swift County's Population and Location

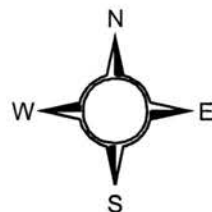
According to the 2000 Census, Swift County had approximately 11,956 residents living in 4,353 households. The City of Benson is the County's largest City, with approximately 3,376 residents (Appendix A contains Swift County's complete demographic profiles, including the following: General Demographic Profile, Selected Social Characteristics Profile, Selected Economic Characteristics Profile and Selected Housing Characteristics Profile). The County is located in West Central Minnesota, approximately 120 miles west of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area and 30 miles west of the City of Willmar. Map 1A shows the location of Swift County's cities and townships, along with the County's location in the State. The Minnesota River helps to form the County's southwestern border. In addition, the County shares borders with Stevens and Pope Counties to the north, Kandiyohi County to the east, Chippewa County to the south and Big Stone County to the west.

Map 1A: Swift County's Cities, Townships and Location



Legend

-  Major Roads
-  Lakes
-  Cities
-  Townships



Previous Swift County Water Planning Accomplishments

The Swift County Comprehensive Water Management Plan was developed to identify and address issues surrounding water quality in the County. This involved the input of local constituents, local governments, bordering counties and State agencies. Once these issues were identified an action plan was developed to deal with these issues.

This Water Plan is the second revision and is the third generation Water Plan. This update will be adopted in April 2003 and will be effective for a ten year period, with the implementation steps being updated in 2008. The original plan was approved in 1991 and updated in 1995.

The CLWP is reviewed annually when the Natural Resource Block Grant reports are due. The Water Plan Advisory Committee makes recommendations on projects to be funded over the next year. The two-year work plans are written based on the committee's input and recommendations, with the County Board of Commissioners ultimately deciding where grant dollars will be spent. During this revision, the Water Plan Advisory Committee met over six months to review issues and priorities that should be addressed throughout the next ten years. A public informational meeting was held on April 8, 2002 where citizens discussed issues that should be addressed in the plan.

First Generation Accomplishments, 1991-1995

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

- ▶ Fair booth on solid waste mgmt, water quality
- ▶ Radio ads to promote water plan activities
- ▶ Tree plantings and buffer strip promotion

MONITORING / DATA COLLECTION

- ▶ Well testing program
- ▶ Camp Lake water quality testing

INVENTORY / MAPPING

- ▶ Update land use map
- ▶ Well-head protection inventory

LAND AND WATER TREATMENT

- ▶ Well Sealing Cost Share Program
- ▶ Pesticide & Household Hazardous Waste collection
- ▶ Paint Exchange/collection

REGULATION, ORDINANCES AND PLANNING

- ▶ Shoreland Management Ordinance
- ▶ Solid Waste Ordinance
- ▶ Comprehensive Water Plan Update

TECHNICAL STAFF

- ▶ Bonanza Valley Education Center (in Big Stone County)
- ▶ Waste Busters formed
- ▶ Coordinate Chippewa River clean-up

PLAN COORDINATION / ADMINISTRATION

- ▶ Established Full Time Environmental Services Office to Implement Water Planning
- ▶ Created Water Plan Advisory Committee
- ▶ Participated and supported two watershed projects

OTHER

- ▶ Member of the five county Minnesota River Headwaters Joint Powers Board
- ▶ Member of the thirty-seven county Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board

Second Generation Accomplishments, 1995-2001

EDUCATION / INFORMATION

- ▶ Supporting funds Bonanza Valley Education Center
- ▶ Develop radio ads to promote water plan activities
- ▶ Assist in establishing Area Science Learning Center
- ▶ Support area students at regional environmental science fair

INVENTORY / MAPPING

- ▶ Level II Feedlot Inventory
- ▶ Gravel Pit Inventory

MONITORING / DATA COLLECTION

- ▶ Chippewa River Watershed Project – monitoring and diagnostic study
- ▶ Pomme de Terre River Watershed Project – monitoring study, river clean-up

LAND AND WATER TREATMENT

- ▶ Annual Pesticide and Household Hazardous Waste Collections (Annually)
- ▶ Well Sealing Cost Share Program (Annually)
- ▶ Paint Exchange
- ▶ Pomme de Terre Canoe Route and public access established
- ▶ Chippewa River Erosion Control Project
- ▶ Set aside incentive for conservation
- ▶ Nutrient management cost-share incentive with landowners
- ▶ Manure management plans
- ▶ CREP promotion

REGULATION / ORDINANCE / PLANNING

- ▶ Feedlot Management Ordinance
- ▶ Nuisance Ordinance

TECHNICAL STAFF & SERVICES

- ▶ Manure Management Coordinator to assist feedlot operators
- ▶ Delegated county feedlot officer
- ▶ CREP cost-share coordinator with Swift County SWCD

PLAN COORDINATOR/ADMINISTRATION

- ▶ Water Plan Task Force Meetings
- ▶ Attend regional and state water plan meetings and conferences
- ▶ Maintain full time environmental services office

MDA STATE REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM

- ▶ Since 1995, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture has allocated \$375,968 in 47 Agriculture Best Management Practices Loans. The county used the revolving loan funds to spend a total of \$450,008 for the following conservation activities:
 - Eight Ag Waste Management Loans
 - Twelve Conservation Tillage Loans
 - Twenty-seven for Septic Systems

OTHER

- ▶ Member five-county MN River Headwaters Joint Powers Board
- ▶ Member 37 county MN River Basin Joint Powers Board

Funds Brought into Swift County through Water Planning (1990-2002)

NRBG 1990-2002 CLWP	\$409,200	
NRBG 1995-2002 WCA	\$97,600	
NRBG 1994-2002 Shoreland	\$14,000	
NRBG 1998-2002 Feedlot	\$40,000	
NRBG 1999-2002 ISTS	<u>\$3,920</u>	
NRBG Total	\$564,720	
Well Sealing Grants (1995 & 1999)	\$7,500	
Challenge Grants (1993 & 1995)	\$12,500	
Challenge Grant – 1997 Feedlot	\$3,500	
Grant Subtotal	\$23,500	
	Total Non-Local Funds	\$588,220
Required Levy	\$33,600	
In-Kind Dollars	\$80,800	
	Total Local Funds	\$114,400
Total Water Planning Funds		\$702,620

Swift County Clean Water Partnerships/Watershed Projects

(see Data Item 6 in Chapter Two for a profile of Swift County's watersheds)

The Clean Water Partnership (CWP) Program was created in 1987 to address pollution problems associated with runoff from agricultural and urban areas. The program is funded by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and provides local governments with resources to protect and improve lakes, streams and groundwater.

CWP projects begin with a desire by a local government to improve a water resource that has been polluted by land-use-related activities. Local leadership and expertise, combined with technical and financial resources from the State, create an effective program for controlling pollution and restoring water quality.

Funding for CWPs is awarded in two phases. In the first, or resource investigation phase, a diagnostic study and implementation plan are completed. As part of the diagnostic study, local sponsors work with the MPCA to collect data and information on the water resource and its watershed. This information is used to identify pollution problems and their causes and define water quality goals and objectives. The final step of the resource investigation phase is the development of an implementation plan that identifies the combination of education, management practices and other activities needed to protect or restore water quality.

The second phase of a CWP, called project implementation, involves the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) identified in the first phase. BMPs may include sedimentation ponds, manure management, conservation tillage, terraces, new ordinances, wetland restoration, fertilizer management, education or other methods designed to reduce nonpoint-source pollution.

Projects may be completed either partially or completely through the CWP program. To be eligible for CWP funding, the entire project must meet program requirements. This means that if the project sponsor intends to seek CWP funding for later phases, the MPCA must first approve a diagnostic study and an implementation plan.

The financial assistance available through the program falls into two categories: grants and low-interest loans. Grants are available for up to 50 percent of project costs. Loans can only be used for the project implementation phase and can cover the entire cost of implementation or supplement a grant. Local governments can also use loans to set up their own programs to provide pass-through loans to private parties. Local governments with the authority to generate cash revenues and adopt and enforce official controls are eligible to sponsor CWP projects and receive grant funding. To be eligible for a loan, a local government must also be able to secure the loan with a general obligation promissory note. In addition, the water of concern must be addressed in an approved local water plan. According to the MPCA, there has been the following two CWP funded projects in Swift County:

- Shakopee Creek Clean Water Partnership (sub-watershed of Chippewa) – Contact Rob Spitzley at (320) 231-0008, ext. 132, for more information.

- Chippewa River Watershed Project. Phase II CWP. Start date: February 13, 2001. End date: February 13, 2004. Grant amount: \$469,372. MPCA project manager: Wade Gillingham, Phone # (507) 537-7163.

Chippewa River Watershed Project

629 North 11th Street
Montevideo, MN 56265
(320) 269-2139

The Chippewa River Watershed Project (CRWP) is a cooperative effort of over 25 organizations, from County, State and Federal agencies, to non-profit organizations, lake associations, citizens and landowners throughout the 1.3 million acre watershed. Counties involved in the project include parts of Kandiyohi, Chippewa, Douglas, Grant, Ottertail, Pope, Stevens and Swift. The CRWP began in March 1998, when the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) awarded the project a Clean Water Partnership grant to conduct a three-year Phase I Diagnostic Study of the watershed. Extensive water quality monitoring and land use assessment was conducted from 1998 through 2001. The data collected was used in the development of an Implementation Plan for the watershed. The project received funding in the spring of 2001 for the first three years of implementation through the MPCA's Clean Water Partnership grant program.

Through the Diagnostic Study, it was found that the Chippewa River carries high levels of sediment, nutrient (phosphorus and nitrogen) and bacteria pollutants, derived from rainfall-driven polluted runoff that occurs throughout most of the watershed. The usefulness and aesthetic qualities of the river are impaired and conditions are unlikely to improve unless changes are made in land use and water management practices within the watershed. Change can be accomplished through an implementation plan that reflects real problems occurring on the landscape and clearly identified solutions to those problems, while developing and organizing sufficient resources to attain meaningful and effective solutions.

In setting goals and objectives, consideration is given to four important watershed characteristics. First, agriculture is the predominant land use in the watershed and improvements to water quality will require changes in agricultural practices, which requires education and presenting solutions that are economically viable to the agricultural community. Second, pollutant transport in the watershed is primarily affected by uncontrolled runoff through the many hydrologic pathways present (i.e. the extensive drainage system). Third, the Chippewa River holds enormous potential for being a recreational resource, but past and present conditions prevent it from being used to its full potential. And fourth, watershed residents, through their involvement and actions, hold the key to protecting and enhancing the Chippewa River. To achieve each of these goals, continued and increased education of urban and rural watershed residents needs to be done through an intense outreach campaign.

The ten-year goals of the CRWP are:

1. To achieve the highest water quality attainable for ecoregion streams;

2. To increase the number of watershed residents taking an active role in enhancing and protecting the Chippewa River;
3. To continue to have the watershed community of agencies and organizations bonded together (across county boundaries) as a group working toward the common goal of improved water quality in the Chippewa River Watershed;
4. To develop the Chippewa River as a major recreational resource within the Minnesota River Basin.

The long-term goal of the CRWP is to improve the water quality and flooding problems in the watershed, while also promoting a healthy agricultural, industrial and recreation-based economy for the region. The best management practices (BMPs) to be utilized include nutrient management, residue management, wetland restoration, buffer strips, water and sediment control basins, livestock waste management, individual sewage treatment systems, grassed waterways, streambank restoration, terraces, contour farming, grade control structures, pasture management, alternative tile inlets, RIM, CRP and shoreline naturalization. Urban practices to be promoted include recycling, directing downspouts to lawns, phosphorus free fertilizer for lawn care, construction site erosion control and storm water management. Implementation of these practices on the landscape will be accomplished through the work of the cooperating partners and through grant applications for funds targeted for specific sub-basins of the watershed.

Because the Chippewa River is so large, it is necessary to prioritize sub-basins for the development of the Implementation Plan. The major tributaries of the Chippewa River create natural sub-basins making this delineation possible. Water quality monitoring data, watershed assessments and judgments about reasonable expectations for rivers and streams in this area of the State were used in ranking the sub-basins. Due to the high levels of nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen), sediment and fecal coliform bacteria, the Shakopee Creek Headwaters (SCH) area has been ranked as the Chippewa's first priority sub-basin. The Shakopee Creek Headwaters Project is discussed in more detail later in this document. Other sub-basins of the Chippewa River include: East Branch Chippewa River, Lower Main Stem, Little Chippewa River, Dry Weather Creek, Spring Creek, Lines Creek, Cottonwood Creek and the Upper Main Stem.

The monitoring program established in the watershed during the Diagnostic Study will continue throughout the Implementation Phase. Water quality monitoring plays a key role in identifying priority areas and documenting changes, as well as gaining a greater understanding of the complexities of a watershed. In addition, a bio-monitoring program has been developed to engage high school students throughout the watershed.

The outreach and education program of the CRWP is based on the concept of "connecting people through their river". The Citizen Monitoring Network of the CRWP engages landowners in watershed activities. Other education efforts include a newsletter, annual meeting, monthly meetings, bus tours, seminars, workshops and creating new partnerships. Education efforts revolve around urban and rural BMPs to enhance water quality and water quantity issues, hydrology, watershed concepts and the connection of land use to the river.

Watershed Districts

Upper Minnesota River Watershed District

342 NW 2nd Street
Ortonville, MN 56278
(320) 839-3411

The Upper Minnesota River Watershed District was formed on September 7, 1967. The District is located primarily in Big Stone County, with smaller areas in Lac qui Parle, Stevens, Swift and Traverse Counties. The mission of District is to "serve its residents by wisely and judiciously managing water, in a manner that sustains and enhances the social, economic and natural resources of the District. The District prefers the use of innovative water management methods, which recognize the unique agricultural, community, lake and stream and natural resources within the District. These innovative approaches as reflected by the policies of the District should be oriented toward ensuring the economic viability of the District's agrarian community."

Each of the Counties located within the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District plays a vital role in the District's activities. The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners appoints three of the District's Board Managers, while the County Board of Commissioners for Swift and Traverse Counties each appoint one Board Manager. Each appointed Board Manager must be a resident of the District and is prohibited from being a public official of the County, State or Federal government. Each Manager serves a three-year term, which is renewable by approval of the County Board of Commissioners.

To enforce its adopted rules and regulations, the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District utilizes a permit system. Permits are required for a wide variety of construction activities that affect the water resources of the District. Any individual landowner, public entity, or governmental unit that contemplates a project impacting the water resources of the District, must secure a permit. Permit applications are considered at the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Managers. Board members and office staff are available to assist applicants in the permitting process. In addition to "in house" assistance, staff regularly assist applicants in field investigations to obtain recommendations on construction techniques and use of best management practices.

Lake Associations

A lake association is an organized group of people who have come together because of their common interest in a specific lake. Lake associations serve as an organized voice of their members to township and county government and are often a watchdog for enforcement of local ordinances. An association may monitor the condition of a lake, develop a lake management plan, educate shoreland property owners about individual and collective actions to protect a lake and provide volunteers to assist in lake and watershed projects. They may also work with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to improve fish habitat or fish stocking, get permits for aquatic plant removal, or maintain a lake access. The Camp Lake/Swift Falls Association (1140 65th St. NE; Benson, MN 56215) is the only lake association in Swift County that is a member of the Minnesota Lakes Association. Contact Michelle Hanson at (320) 842-3201 for additional information.

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

May 2003 BWSR Board Meeting

**OVERVIEW -- BELTRAMI COUNTY
THIRD GENERATION COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER PLAN**

Background (Second Generation)

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) approved the second generation Comprehensive Local Water Plan (Plan) for Beltrami County on April 28, 1996. The second generation Plan was in effect until August 28, 2001.

Plan Update (Third Generation)

On May 1, 2001, Beltrami County passed a resolution to update their Plan. A second resolution was passed at the same time requesting an extension until December 31, 2001 in order to take advantage of the data gathering and planning activities associated with developing a Beltrami County Comprehensive land use plan. On August 23, 2000, the BWSR approved the extension. Water planning activities within Beltrami County are delegated to the Beltrami SWCD. The SWCD contracted with the Headwaters Regional Development Commission (HRDC) to manage the plan update process. These organizations had also developed the first and second generation water plans. After conducting the public information meeting and a number of taskforce meetings, Beltrami County completed the draft third generation Plan and began the preliminary sixty-day review on June 4, 2002. The public hearing was conducted on November 11, 2002. Beltrami County submitted its third generation Plan to BWSR on January 13, 2003 to initiate the required ninety-day final state agency review.

County Description

Beltrami County is located in the north central part of Minnesota bordering Canada. The Mississippi River flows through the southern portion of the County and the Northernmost point of that river lies within the Beltrami County. The County Seat of Bemidji lies approximately 225 miles north of Minneapolis-St. Paul. Other small communities within the County include Blackduck, Wilton, Solway and Washkish. Beltrami County contains approximately 1,900,000 acres. The major categories of land cover within the county are forested (46%), non-forested wetland (21%), open water (18%), and cultivated (7%). The southern half of the County contains many lakes in relatively close proximity to Bemidji. Urbanizing shoreland is most prevalent in this area. Upper and Lower Red Lakes are located in the northern portion of the county and make up the bulk of the open water area within the county. This portion of the county contains a large portion of bog and patterned peatlands with sparse human population. Wild rice paddies are located in this portion of the county. The northwestern part of the County is predominantly a mixture of forestland and agricultural fields. Extensive efforts to provide drainage

adequate for agricultural production were employed early in the 20th century throughout the northern portion of the county. The most successful implementation occurred in the northwestern portion of the county. Approximately 60 % of the land in Beltrami County is in public ownership with 30% of the total land mass owned by the State of Minnesota. The Chippewa National Forest, Leech Lake Reservation and Red Lake Reservation manage parts of the land area contained within the County borders. Beltrami County's population in 2000 was 39,650. The population of Bemidji in 2000 was 11,917

U.S. Highway 71 is the major north - south corridor connecting Bemidji with other parts of Minnesota. U.S. Highway 2 is the major east - west corridor connecting Grand Forks North Dakota and Duluth.. The main watersheds within the County are: Upper Mississippi River, Leech Lake, Clearwater River, Upper and Lower Red Lake, Red Lake River, Thief River, Roseau River and Rapid River. The economy is a diverse mix of tourism, retail and commercial activity, agriculture and forestry activities.

Plan Update Review

The third generation Plan reflects current conditions and trends within Beltrami County. Shoreland urbanization pressures are most intense in the area surrounding Bemidji. Much of the lakeshore property available for residential housing is marginal with environmental limitations including wetlands and bluffs. Economic considerations have increased lakeshore property values to the point that shoreland associated with rivers, streams and wetlands are being converted to residential housing. Population growth within the County is primarily in the southern half of the county.

The water plan identifies the major watersheds within the County and emphasizes water plan implementation in larger watersheds within the county where human influences have the greatest potential to affect water quality and quantity. These include the Upper Mississippi River, Clearwater River, Upper and Lower Red Lake and the Thief River. To address these issues, Beltrami County has developed a focused, five-year implementation Plan to address the identified issues.

The Water Plan Advisory Committee adopted the following principles to help guide the annual work plans:

- Public education-Incorporate public education activities within all strategies, wherever possible.
- Coordination-Involve and coordinate activities with other agencies when working with a particular waterbody or watershed.
- Future Opportunities-Design strategies to be flexible and to deal with unforeseen challenges or opportunities.
- Measureable Results-Identify measurable and tangible results that will clearly gauge the effectiveness of any particular project.

Priority issues include data management and analysis, stormwater, vegetation removal and erosion control management activities associated with shoreland

urbanization, high water levels associated with sustained high precipitation levels and their effect on infrastructure and the environment, stream and ditch bank erosion, nutrient loading and groundwater protection.

Requirements under Minnesota Statutes 1990, 103B, have been addressed. They include wellhead protection, sensitive groundwater areas, and wetland prioritization. . BWSR established expectations regarding the third generation water plan update. They include an active taskforce; summary of progress (executive summary); establishing a watershed context; reflecting current and future trends; source water; storm water; flood damage reduction; drainage; lakes; wetlands; plan prioritizing. These have been addressed.

BWSR staff have participated with Beltrami County throughout the revision process attending task force meetings, one-on-one meetings, and other communications. Using the required Board Conservationist Findings and Plan Review form, staff has completed the final review of Beltrami County's third generation Comprehensive Local Water Plan. The findings show the requirements under Minnesota Statutes 1990, 103B and Minnesota Rules Chapter 9300, and BWSR's expectations have been met. BWSR staff recommends approval of the Beltrami County 2003-2007 five-year Comprehensive Local Water Plan.

Beltrami County Comprehensive Local Water Plan

Executive Summary

This document represents the third generation of Beltrami County's Water Plan, first developed and approved by the County Board in 1989 and updated in 1996. While this plan is an update of previous efforts, it builds upon previous successes to more effectively address core issues. Once approved, this plan will be implemented and provide the basis for all water-resource related issues in the County until October 2007. A 39-member Water Planning Advisory Committee (WPAC) representing various interest groups from each of the watersheds was formed to facilitate the planning process. The role of the WPAC was to review information provided by staff and identify priority issues.

A sub-task force was formed and facilitated by the Marshall-Beltrami SWCD to represent the northwest region of the county. This was done in part because of the relative isolation of that part of the county and the different issues faced by them due to geography and land use practices.

Once issues were identified, the WPAC developed strategies to address those issues that were then recommended to the County Board to implement as policy.

Process

The contents of this document are laid out in a similar order to the progression of the planning process that was undertaken over the last several months.

- The first section provides information that was collected in the update of the inventory that is important to the planning process.
- Section II documents the efforts of the County's Water Plan Task Force to focus on specific areas in each watershed that are worth further investigation. Beltrami County focused on selected areas in each watershed to effectively target limited resources in the planning process to those areas of most importance.
- The third section of this plan provides more detailed assessments of those areas selected in Section II of the document. The end of this section identifies specific, prioritized issues that will be addressed by the County within the plan of action section.
- Finally, the most important part of the plan is Section IV, the plan of action. This section identifies the water resource-related goals of Beltrami County, provides a summary of the approach to implementation that the County has committed to, and identifies objectives and specific strategies for each priority issue in each major watershed.

Plan of Action

-- Goals

#1: Increase understanding of the County's water resources and issues through education and data collection so that appropriate policies can be selected and implemented more effectively.

#2: Improve best management practice implementation where development and water resources interact, at the same time supporting the economic development goals of the County.

#3: Improve the quality of selected water resources where there is potential for significant economic, social, or environmental benefit.

-- Priorities and Strategies

County-wide

Top Priority Issues and Strategies

Issue: Surface waters, particularly rivers and streams, have very limited data to indicate the environmental condition.

Strategies:

#1: Pursue and support an improved and user-friendly state water quality database format.

#2: Review SWCD water quality data set for quality and integrate into a common computer database that meets acceptable state data protocols.

#3: Develop and implement a five-year monitoring plan for priority surface waters.

Issue: Unmanaged stormwater from development contributes pollutants to surface water.

Strategies:

#1: Undertake and complete a study to identify the quality and quantity of stormwater entering into urbanizing, priority lakes by storm watershed.

#2: Develop and implement mitigative measures in those high priority stormwatersheds to reduce nutrient and sediment inflow.

#3: Develop and implement new and existing measures to minimize the contribution of stormwater from new subdivisions and development to surface waters.

Issue: Soil erosion from all sources contributes to surface water quality degradation, loss in fish and wildlife habitat, removes productive topsoil and reduces functionality of streams, rivers and ditches.

Strategies:

#1: Assist the County, cities, or townships in identifying areas where soil erosion levels contribute to surface water quality degradation.

#2: Help the County or townships develop regulatory erosion control measures at their request.

#3: Work with landowners on a voluntary basis to prevent and/or reduce erosion on their property.

High Priority Issues and Strategies

Issue: Poor implementation of timber harvesting best management practices results in environmental degradation.

Strategies:

#1: Conduct a targeted public education program directed at private land owners to inform them of forestry best management practices.

#2: Develop and implement stewardship plans on private lands.

#3: Work with other local units of governments and agencies to identify and resolve common issues of concern with timber management.

Issue: Agricultural activities without proper implementation of best management practices can cause water quality degradation.

Strategies:

- #1:** Conduct a targeted campaign utilizing education, technical and/or financial assistance to increase BMP utilization.
- #2:** Work with conservation partners to identify and prioritize potential areas of immediate/important concern regarding high nutrient water bodies.
- #3:** Hold educational meetings with landowners in priority sub-watersheds. Explain/discuss the potential water quality concerns found and how ongoing cost share programs may assist with BMP implementation.
- #4:** Develop conservation plans with landowners in priority sub-watersheds.
- #5:** Continue to disseminate pertinent water quality BMP information as new data and information becomes available.

Issue: A lack of a process to facilitate management strategies for particular lakes, streams and watersheds results in uncoordinated management efforts.

Strategies:

- #1:** Target a public education campaign to inform lakeshore owners, particularly new lakeshore owners, of the characteristics and value of their lake, the practices of lake water quality and the management options available to individual homeowners.
- #2:** Develop a program to promote lakeshore associations.
- #3:** Undertake enhanced lake monitoring and modeling of the relationships between watershed use and lake quality on high priority lakes.
- #4:** Facilitate the formation of Beltrami County Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA).
- #5:** Address issues related to TMDL for listed water bodies.

Upper Mississippi Watershed

Top Priority Issue and Strategies

Issue: Poorly planned ISTS-based developments adversely affect groundwater quality.

Strategies:

- #1:** Amend the subdivision ordinance to encourage cluster development and central sewer and water in environmentally sensitive areas.
- #2:** Implement an ISTS inspection program on two to five priority lakes.
- #3:** Pursue funding to help landowners bring non-compliant systems up to code.
- #4:** Develop and implement a county-wide permitting process for ISTS.

High Priority Issues and Strategies

Issue: High surface and groundwater levels cause erosion, loss of shoreland, and damage to structures.

Strategies:

- #1:** Develop and implement a comprehensive management plan for all water control structures on the Upper Mississippi River.
- #2:** County develops and distributes construction design recommendations in areas sensitive to groundwater flooding.

#3: Implement targeted beaver population management countywide.

Issue: Increased development results in reduced integrity of shoreline vegetation.

Strategies:

#1: Purchase, distribute, and present shoreland management CD's offered by the DNR to local shoreland groups.

#2: Implement a voluntary cost-share program of shoreline vegetative management.

Upper and Lower Red Lake Watershed

Top Priority Issue and Strategies

Issue: Poorly planned ISTS-based developments adversely affect groundwater quality.

Strategies:

#1: Amend the subdivision ordinance to encourage cluster development and central sewer and water in environmentally sensitive areas.

#2: Implement an ISTS inspection program on two to five priority lakes.

#3: Pursue funding to help landowners bring non-compliant systems up to code.

#4: Develop and implement a county-wide permitting process for ISTS.

High Priority Issue and Strategies

Issue: A loss of wetlands and unique features has potential negative consequences for water quality and quantity.

Strategies:

#1: Continue to implement, monitor and update County Ordinance #31 (Wetland Ordinance).

#2: Serve as the local contact point for landowners interested in wetland programs, i.e. US Fish and Wildlife Service, PWP, WRP, CRP, etc.

Thief River Watershed

Top Priority Issue and Strategies

Issue: Stream and ditch bank erosion causes sedimentation and water quality degradation.

Strategies:

#1: Improve regular maintenance and increase native vegetation in ditch banks throughout the watershed.

#2: Encourage landowners to utilize present and future cost-share programs to provide buffers between areas of cropland and streams and ditches.

High Priority Issue and Strategies

Issue: Groundwater sources have very limited data to indicate the environmental condition.

Strategies:

#1: Develop and implement a plan to monitor groundwater data.

Clearwater River Watershed

Top Priority Issue and Strategies

Issue: Upstream nutrient loading contributes to surface water quality degradation on Clearwater Lake.

Strategies:

- #1:** Undertake enhanced water quality monitoring, land use analysis, and modeling to characterize dynamics of the land use/water quality relationship in Clearwater River Watershed as it pertains to the Clearwater River and Clearwater Lake.
- #2:** Work with agricultural operators and define the needs of agriculture operations that could be addressed by local organizations to improve water quality in the Clearwater River Watershed in Beltrami County.
- #3:** Develop and implement local strategies to fulfill those needs identified in #2.
- #4:** Develop and implement Clearwater Lake Management Plan.
- #5:** Develop and implement an educational campaign that explains the importance of controlling Non-Point Source pollution within a watershed.
- #6:** Contact landowners and explain/encourage the use of existing and future cost-share programs to protect resources from runoff and nutrient loading.

High Priority Issue and Strategies

Issue: The compliance rates of shoreland septic systems with current ISTS enforcement mechanisms are unknown.

Strategies:

- #1:** Implement a program to inspect ISTS systems.
- #2:** Provide financial assistance to landowners whose ISTS systems require upgrading.

Implementation

In each of the next five years, one or more issues will be identified, and a one-year work program will be developed by the SWCD. The work program will address in detail the issues, objectives, and strategies to be used to meet the objectives.

Relationship to Other Plans

Beltrami County's Water Plan has been designed to identify priority water resource issues in the County; its intent is to provide policy direction to other planning efforts undertaken for the County.

In order to fulfill this intent, Beltrami SWCD will, on a regular basis, communicate the County's priorities to other organizations involved in the management of Beltrami County's water resources, and will coordinate the implementation activities in this plan with other agencies, groups, and entities across political boundaries.

Wherever possible, this Water Plan (CLWP) was designed to complement and support the vision, strategies and policies of the proposed Beltrami County Comprehensive Plan. At appropriate points the CLWP addresses key County-wide issues in more detail than is possible in the Comprehensive Plan. The research and issues contained in the CLWP also support and substantiate the findings and direction of the Comprehensive Plan, and vice versa.

The CLWP is also consistent with the plans of other agencies and jurisdictions operating within the same watershed units.

For more information or to access a complete report, please contact the Beltrami County SWCD at 218-755-4339.

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

In the Matter of Reviewing the Comprehensive Water Plan Update
for Beltrami County (Minnesota Statutes 1990, Section 103B.311,
Subdivision 4 and Section 103B.315, Subdivision 5 and Minnesota
Rules 9300.0170)

ORDER
APPROVING
COMPREHENSIVE
WATER PLAN

Whereas, the Beltrami County Board of Commissioners adopted a Comprehensive Water Plan (Plan) on May 15, 1996 under authority of Minnesota Statutes (M.S.) 1990, Section 103B.301, which was approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) on August 28, 1996 pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 5, and

Whereas, the Plan provided for updating in 2001 pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.311, Subd. 4, and

Whereas, the Beltrami County Board of Commissioners submitted a Comprehensive Water Plan Update (Plan Update) to the Board on January 10, 2003, 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 May 1, 2001, Beltrami County passed a resolution to develop a Comprehensive Water Plan Update to meet the plan update requirements.
3. On May 1, 2001, Beltrami County passed a resolution requesting an extension of the existing Comprehensive Water Plan.
4. On August 9, 2001, the Board received from Beltrami County a resolution requesting an extension of their existing Comprehensive Water Plan.
5. On August 23, 2001, the Board approved the extension of the existing Beltrami County Comprehensive Plan until June 20, 2002 (The Board has authorization to grant extensions pursuant to Minn. Session Law 1995, Chapter 184 Section 24.)
6. Beltrami County held a public information meeting on July 11, 2001, for purposes of gaining public input into the Plan Update.

6. On June 4, 2002, Beltrami County completed a draft Plan Update and submitted it to affected local units of government for preliminary review and comment pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 1.
7. On June 4, 2002, Beltrami County submitted a draft Plan Update to the Minnesota Departments of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Geological Survey, and Minnesota Environmental Quality Board for preliminary review and comment pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 5.
8. On November 11, 2002, Beltrami County held a public hearing on the Plan Update pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 4, for the purpose of obtaining public input into the Plan Update.
9. On January 13, 2003, Beltrami 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 M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 5.
10. On January 13, 2003, the Board distributed notification of the official 90-day state review and a copy of the Beltrami County Plan Update to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Environmental Quality Board, and Minnesota Geological Survey for their review and comment pursuant to Minnesota Rules, Chapter 9300.0170. The notification stated that each agency had 45 days from receipt of the notification to submit written comments to the Board.
11. On January 13, 2003, brief information regarding the Beltrami County Plan Update was provided to the Board for their review.
12. **Individual Comments:** No individual comments were received.
13. **County Response to Individual Comments:** Not Applicable
14. **Local Government Unit (LGU) Comments:** No written comments were received, although there were representatives from local communities on the Water Plan Task Force and their input was incorporated into the plan.
15. **County Response to LGU Comments:** LGU input was incorporated into the plan.
16. **Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Review:** No written comments were received
17. **Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Review:** A letter dated 9/24/02 was received from MDH staff during the final review period.. Some information on wellhead protection plans and public water suppliers within the county was provided.
18. **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Review:** No written comments regarding plan content were submitted, however DNR staff were associated with the development of the plan update.
19. **Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Review:** No written comments regarding plan content were submitted, however MPCA staff attended several Task Force meetings and provided input at that time. **Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) / State Planning Agency Review:** No written comments were received.
20. **Minnesota Geological Survey (MGS) Review:** No written comments were received.
21. **Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR):** BWSR staff provided comments to Beltrami SWCD and Headwaters Regional Development Commission (HRDC) staff at Task Force meetings and at several informal work sessions
22. **County Response to State Agency Comments:** Comments received during task force meetings, and in individual meetings were incorporated as the document was developed.
23. **Board Water Plan Review Committee Meeting:** On May 2, 2003, the Board Water Plan Review Committee voted unanimously to recommend that Beltrami County include reference to the Red

River Flood Damage Reduction Work Group Mediation Agreement in its plan update and that the Board approve the Beltrami County January 1, 2003-December 31, 2007 Comprehensive Local Water 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 Beltrami County pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 1990, 103B.315, Subd. 5, and Minnesota Rules 9300.0170, Subp. 4.
2. The Beltrami 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 Update as the Comprehensive Local Water Plan of Beltrami County. Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 28th day of May, 2003.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BY: _____
Leland Coe, Chair

Review of the Morrison County Water Plan Update
March 26, 2003
Staff Comments

The BWSR North Region Water Plan Review Committee met on May 2, 2003 to review the Morrison County Water Plan Update. Five BWSR board members attended the meeting. Morrison County was represented by Chuck Forss, water plan coordinator, and Conrad Freeburg, Morrison County attorney. Following are some of the most innovative elements of the Morrison County Water Plan.

- Morrison County, from the beginning, intended to do a total rewrite of the plan and develop a very comprehensive plan that would serve the county as a strong inventory resource, while also including strong programming guidance.
- In order to build a strong Plan, the county worked with the Great River, Great People project, which contributed \$30,000 to the resource inventory.
- The County has had strong participation from the DNR Fisheries and Waters staff, and succeeded in receiving a \$7,000 grant from the department to further expand the scope of the Plan.
- The County also received a \$15,000 grant from BWSR to write a series of white papers recommending possible improvements to the LWP program, especially on how to coordinate water plans with county comprehensive land use plans.
- The Plan benefited from the strong technical committee that meets separately from the citizens advisory committee. The committee includes representatives of local departments, the Minnesota Dept. of Health, the Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture, DNR Divisions of Fisheries and Waters, and the BWSR. The tech committee provided strong input to the county about the value of water planning to Morrison County when the water plan coordinator position was vacant in 2001.
- The Plan's resource inventory includes 57 maps and 150 data sets. Now that the county has begun the process of rewriting their land use plan, the resource information from the water plan will simplify work on the land use plan inventory, and result in significant cost savings.
- The County established 11 sub-watershed management areas that will be used as the inventory and assessment units the county will use as they move into implementation.
- The inventory includes a breakdown of both pre-settlement and 1989 land use by each of the 11 sub-watershed study areas. The sub-watershed areas have been discussed as possible units for special tax districts or establishment of watershed districts.
- The Plan includes a strong fiscal management strategy that reviews state and federal sources, local government revenue sources and private sector sources.

- The Plan includes fiscal management guidelines which give the county a way to organize and discuss fiscal decisions related to implementation.
- The Plan also includes criteria for evaluating and selecting capital improvement projects. Six criteria are listed along with a score sheet.

As part of the local review process the county received a detailed comment letter from Mr. Thomas Casey, an attorney working with the Round Lake Association located in the northeastern part of the county. Most of the issues raised in the letter related directly to the county's shoreland ordinance, and specifically to subdivision "loopholes", and "back lot" development. After discussions between the local water plan coordinator and Mr. Casey, the county has decided to address the issue of backlot developments as part of the rewritten comprehensive land use plan. The land use plan rewrite began in January 2003, and is expected to be completed by June 2004. Mr. Casey's comments were included as an appendix to the water plan.

THOMAS E. CASEY
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Mound, MN 55364
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(952) 472-4771 (fax)
casey@wavefront.com

October 24, 2002

Morrison County Board of Commissioners
c/o Chuck Forss, Water Plan Coordinator
Morrison County Planning and Zoning
213 First Avenue SE
Little Falls, MN 56345-3196

VIA E-MAIL AND U.S. MAIL
chuckf@co.morrison.mn.us

RE: Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan - "public review draft (8/26/02)"

Dear Commissioners and Mr. Forss,

On behalf of Round Lake-Platte River Preservation Association, Inc., I offer the following comments to the Morrison County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan ("public review draft 8/26/02"). It is my understanding that the current Water Plan expired on February 28, 2001 (see BWSR, Local Water Planning Update, 2001, Issue 1.)

First, however, I must commend Morrison County planning staff and consultant Lindberg Ekola for their efforts to allow me the opportunity to participate in the numerous planning sessions throughout the past year. Frankly, I don't extend this compliment lightly, particularly when the county administrator curtailed the public participation of Round Lake-Platte River Preservation Association, Inc. at one of the meetings. That action was an unwarranted distraction and caused unnecessary stress for all concerned parties. I trust that this problem has been alleviated?

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

As you are aware, Minnesota Rule 9300.0090, Subp. 3, states in part, "**At a minimum**, a county **must** gather information about water related problems and opportunities in the following manner:

- A. **investigate those problems and opportunities disclosed at public meetings and in written comments ...**" [Emphasis added.]

Minnesota Rule 9300.0110, paragraph A, states that, for each problem identified pursuant to Minn. Rule 9300.0090, Subp. 3 (see above), the comprehensive water plan "... **must state measurable objectives and a plan of action ...**"

After a careful reading of this Plan, it is clear that, with respect to many substantive issues or “problems,” the Plan contains no “measurable objectives and a plan of action.” In the subsequent paragraphs of this letter, I cite: (1) “problems” that require “measurable objectives and a plan of action;” and (2) issues that require only explanation or slight revisions in the language.

“PROBLEMS” AND PROPOSED REVISIONS

In this paragraph, I cite the first problem for which “measurable objectives and a plan of action are required.” First, at various public meetings, I mentioned the problem of **subdivision “loopholes”** in the Morrison a County Land Use Control Ordinance. As you recall, a time-consuming and expensive lawsuit was initiated against Morrison County by LeisureTime Land Company. The subject of the lawsuit was the interpretation of the subdivision language and the ability of a devious developer to make quick, successive conveyances to subdivide land without plat approval. Other devious developers (or the same one) may try permutations of the same “trick” unless Morrison County tightens up the ordinance. The proposed Water Plan does not specifically address this issue, even though unplatted subdivisions are most often poorly-planned and “create water-related problems.”

Secondly, at various public meetings, I mentioned the problem of “**back lot**” **development** of lakeshore areas. A devious developer may attempt to subdivide non-riparian lots and create a narrow access easement to the lakeshore. Many lakes, including Round Lake, could not handle the environmental, recreational and other impacts of this kind of development. [Note: The 1995 Water Plan update, page 67, also recognizes that second tier parcels escalate the potential for surface water contamination.] Again, the proposed Water Plan did not specifically address this issue. To re-emphasize, “measurable objectives and a plan of action” for this problem are **required** in this Water Plan.

Volume 1, Section 4 (page 141) states that “boating conflicts” will increase because of the “increased demand on surface water resources” and acknowledges that the state allows local units of government to regulate water surface use. However, the Water Plan does not discuss the implementation of water surface ordinances where necessary. [“Measurable objectives and a plan of action” are required for this “problem.”]

Volume 1, Section 4 (page 195) – The Water Plan should include environmental analysis of ditch projects in this section.

Volume 1, Section 5 (page 238) states, “People in the Round Lake would support a 15-20 percent increase in property taxes.” Perhaps this statement came from residents of the other Round Lake? It must be clarified that my clients on Round Lake (#49-0019) did not made this statement.

Volume 1, Section 5 (page 239) - The sentence “Look at zoning issues” should be revised to read, “Tighten the Morrison County Land Use Control Ordinance.” (My clients have never suggested that the zoning code only needs just “a look.” Action is required.)

Volume 1, Section 5 (page 246) – It is unclear why the words “Shoreland Residents” appear in this place.

Volume 2, Section 2 (page 7, paragraph 4) – Amend last sentence to read, “The County will also maintain and periodically update its existing ordinances and permitting processes to simplify and streamline the procedures to keep them current with the agricultural, community development, environmental, and recreational needs.”

Volume 2, Section 3 (page 9) – My clients take note that 20% of the private well samples over the past 5-10 years have exceeded the federal standard (10 parts per million) for nitrates.

Volume 2, Section 3 (page 13) – It is not clear why a voluntary (vs. a mandatory) registration process for new wells is a better solution.

Volume 2, Section 3 (page 16) states the Objective “Support the updating and/or adopting of the appropriate land use controls.” Action #1 should be amended to read, “Zoning Ordinance. Review and update, where necessary, the performance standards ...”

Volume 2, Section 4 (page 19, Action #2) – The BMPs should be mandated rather than voluntary.

Volume 2, Section 4 (page 21, Objective D) – An action item should be added: “5. Shoreland buffers must be strengthened in the Morrison County Land Use Control Ordinance.”

Volume 2, Section 5.A (page 26) – I suggest that Morrison County adopt the policy statement in the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act as it pertains to water policy and land use. (See Minn. Stat. 116D.02.)

Volume 2, Section 5.B. (page 26) – I suggest recognizing that “recreational development” lakes also face increased development pressures.

Volume 2, Section 5.D (page 27) – Amend Action #3 to include recommendations from lake associations and other citizen groups.

Volume 2, Section 5 (page 29) – Amend Action #1 to specify that the problems of subdivision without plat approval and back lot development (mentioned above) need to be addressed. Furthermore, citizen “**procedural due process**” needs clarification in the Land Use Control Ordinance.

Volume 2, Section 6 (page 37) – The language should specify that lake associations and other interested citizens are included on the County notification list.

Volume 2, Section 6 (page 39) – Include the exploration of watershed districts as a multi-jurisdictional way to raise funds for water problems that extend beyond county boundaries.

Volume 3, Section 1 (page 2) – Please ensure that Round Lake-Platte River Preservation Association, Inc. is included in the Appendices as an organization interested in water resource management.

Volume 3, Section 3 (page 43) – Note that in the “County Regulations Review,” it is proposed that the County is only required to review its official controls for their “conformance with this Plan.” The proposed schedule is 2003-05. The proposed language is too vague for three reasons:

1. The Plan does not require any outcome; the County must only “review” the official controls. Language must be added requiring the county to amend its official controls to conform to the Plan.
2. The Water Plan does not specifically address non-platted subdivisions or backlot development. **Consequently, if the problem is not identified, no incentive is created in the Water Plan for the county to later amend the Land Use Control Ordinance. The Plan should contemplate the deficiencies in Land Use regulations and provide a rational basis for their amendment.**
3. Minnesota Statute 103B.311, Subd. 6(7) states that the **Water Plan must include “... schedules for amending official controls ...”** The time frame of 2003-05 is too vague to constitute a “schedule.” Certain mid-point actions need to be “built-into” the schedule (e.g. invitation public comment).

Again, “measurable objectives and a plan of action” are required for the “problem” of deficiencies in the Morrison County Land Use Control Ordinance.

Volume 3, Section 3 (page 44) – The proposed Water Plan misquotes the law. The proposed language in the Water Plan is “... the County should review municipal zoning, subdivision, shoreland ... regulations for conformance with this Plan ...” This language is permissive only. In fact, Minn. Stat. 103B.325, Subd. 2, states, “The county board shall identify any inconsistency between the plans and controls and the comprehensive water plan and shall recommend the amendments necessary to bring the local plans and official controls into conformance with the comprehensive water plan.” Minn. Stat. 103B.325, Subd. 3 states, “Local units of government shall revise existing plans and official controls to conform them to the recommendations of the county board ...” In summary, the language must be changed from permissive to mandatory. In addition, there is no basis for waiting until 2005 to begin the municipal review process. Land use regulations are “where the rubber hits the road” and the longer the county waits, the greater chance that water quality will be compromised.

REQUEST FOR DOCUMENTS

Public review of the draft Water Plan is hampered by the **omission** of: (1) the appendices; (2) Dan Ross’s inserts; and (3) the County Auditor’s ditch data. Pursuant to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (Minn. Stat. 13.01), please provide me with a copy of these pages at your earliest convenience.

As you are aware, Minnesota Statute 103B.315, Subd. 5(a) requires the county to submit the comprehensive water plan, **all written comments** (including this letter), a record of the public hearing, and “... a summary of changes incorporated as a result of the review process ...” to the Board of Water and Soil Resources. Pursuant to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (Minn. Stat. 13.01 et seq.), please provide me with a copy of these documents.

Morrison County
October 24, 2002

FINAL COMMENTS

Thank you again for your cooperation in allowing my clients to be part of this important process. Although this letter may appear to be "pointed" on some legal and policy issues, it is submitted in the **spirit of cooperation** and with the intent to make the **Water Plan really "work"** in practice. My clients hope that this letter is accepted by you in the same spirit.

Round Lake-Platte River Preservation Association, Inc. looks forward to a **long working relationship** with you to help make Morrison County "the best it can be!!"

Very truly yours,

Thomas E. Casey

TEC/rf

cc: Round Lake-Platte River Preservation Association, Inc.
Mark Peterson, President, Pine Bend Association, Inc.
file

P.S. - Please include this memo as part of the public record in this proceeding and provide me with your written acknowledgment.

APRIL 30, 2003

BACKGROUND :

Morrison County submitted its second update of their Local Water Plan to the BWSR Central Office on January 2, 2002 for the final 90-day review. The plan expired on February 28, 2003. At BWSR's request, Morrison County agreed to having their plan reviewed by the Northern Region Ad Hoc Water Plan Review Committee, which was scheduled on March 12, 2003 with the intent it would come before the full board for approval later in March. Unforeseen circumstances prevented a quorum from being present at the March 12, 2003 Ad Hoc meeting and the review has been rescheduled for May 2, 2003.

During Local Review of the plan, the Round Lake Association represented by Mr. Tom Casey, submitted comments pertaining to the 8/26/2003 draft of the plan. Some of the comments questioned the plan's compliance with state statutes (103B. 311) and the program's administrative rules (chapter 9300). Staff interprets the questions regarding compliance to center around:

- 1) whether or not problems identified at a public input hearing were adequately investigated;
- 2) whether or not problems identified are required to have measurable objectives and a plan of action identified in the plan; and
- 3) whether or not a two year time frame is reasonable to review local plans and controls.

REFRESHER: LOCAL WATER PROGRAM PURPOSE

Statute encourages counties to develop and implement a comprehensive water plan, planning is not a state mandate. Counties writing a plan under the statutory authority of 103B.301 are required to hold public information meetings to gather information to be considered in the plan (9300.0030 subpart 5) and ensure that there is a process for public participation during plan development and implementation (subpart 7). Counties have convened task forces to fulfill the public participation requirement and the state has given great deference to these taskforces in determining what problems are important for the plan to address.

THE FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN STAFF PERSPECTIVES REGARDING THE COMMENTS ROUND LAKE ASSOCIATION FORWARDED, VIA MR. TOM CASEY, TO MORRISON COUNTY. THE ASSOCIATION'S COMMENTS PERTAINING TO THE 8/26/02 DRAFT WATER PLAN ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN YELLOW (APPEARS GREY ON PRINTED MATERIAL).

1. Investigation of problems

As you are aware, Minnesota Rule 9300.0090, Subp. 3, states in part, "At a minimum, a county must gather information about water related problems and opportunities in the following manner:

A. investigate those problems and opportunities disclosed at public meetings and in written comments ..." [Emphasis added.]

FINDING:

The planning process, led by the county office of planning and zoning, appears to have met the investigation requirement. Task forces with representation from citizens, technical experts and a local partnership (Great River Great People) collected a great deal of input and used a classic planning process to sift through the input gathered, organize the information and prioritize the issues to be addressed implementing the plan.

The problems the Round Lake Association cited as **subdivision "loopholes"** in the Morrison a County Land Use Control Ordinance and **"back lot" development** of lakeshore areas were considered in the planning process. The BWSR staff feels that Morrison County has met the intent of this 9300.0090, subp. 3 by sufficiently investigating the problems with surface water quality and the threats to surface water quality posed by land use alteration, including development.

Some examples of the applicable sections in Volume 1 of the plan include (referencing the 12/20/02 PDF plan version):

- Section 3 contains a great deal of information gathered for surface water resources [pages 58-98], with shoreland specifically addressed on pages 88-91], and Land Use and Human Influences [99-136].
- Section 4 contains Historical Land Use Analysis [p. 142-148] does an outstanding job to presenting information regarding how changes in land use lead to increased surface runoff and phosphorous delivery to surface waters, along with an assessment of future land use in Morrison County. See attachment A.
- Shoreland Resource Assessment [p. 207-210] Attachment B.

- Assessment of Land Resources [214-233]

2. Objectives and actions for identified problems

Minnesota Rule 9300.0110, paragraph A, states that, for each problem identified pursuant to Minn. Rule 9300.0090, Subp. 3 (see above), the comprehensive water plan "... must state measurable objectives and a plan of action ...

FINDING: The problem and opportunity identification process only requires measurable objectives and goals for problems identified as per 9300.0090 subp. 3 **where appropriate**.

Full citation:

9300.0110 OBJECTIVES AND PLAN OF ACTION.

The objectives and plan of action should be tailored to address the problems and opportunities previously identified in the comprehensive water plan. A comprehensive water plan must state measurable objectives and a plan of action for each watershed unit and ground water system, *where appropriate, for each of the following categories:*

A. Opportunities and problems in surface and ground water quality and quantity identified pursuant to part 9300.0090;

The Morrison County Water Plan is quite explicit that the adequacy of land use control ordinances is most appropriately addressed through the comprehensive planning process, which is currently underway. The water plan does commit the county to reviewing the subdivision ordinance during the comprehensive land use planning process. See attachment C.

3) Review local plans and controls

Volume 3, Section 3 (page 43) – Note that in the "County Regulations Review," it is proposed that the County is only required to review its official controls for their "conformance with this Plan." The proposed schedule is 2003-05. The proposed language is too vague for three reasons:

1. The Plan does not require any outcome; the County must only "review" the official controls. Language must be added requiring the county to amend its official controls to conform to the Plan.

Staff's interpretation of statute and rule is that a county must review plans and official controls of (and submitted by) other local units of government within the county who exercise regulatory authority within the county. The legislative intent was not that counties must review or amend their own plans or ordinances, though many *chose* to. An overview of the statutory provisions pertaining to review of local government plans and ordinances is provided at the end of this document.

2. The Water Plan does not specifically address non-platted subdivisions or backlot development. Consequently, if the problem is not identified, no incentive is created in the Water Plan for the county to later amend the Land Use Control Ordinance. The Plan should contemplate the deficiencies in Land Use regulations and provide a rational basis for their amendment.

Staff sees this as Round Lake's recommendation to Morrison County. Again, there are not statutory or rule provisions requiring a county to amend their ordinances.

3. Minnesota Statute 103B.311, Subd. 6(7) states that the Water Plan must include "... schedules for amending official controls ..." The time frame of 2003-05 is too vague to constitute a "schedule." Certain mid-point actions need to be "built-into" the schedule (e.g. invitation public comment).

Staff opinion is that this statutory provision is not applicable because Morrison County is not proposing to amend any official controls of local government units exercising regulatory authority within the county boundaries.

Volume 3, Section 3 (page 44) – The proposed Water Plan misquotes the law. The proposed language in the Water Plan is "... the County should review municipal zoning, subdivision, shoreland ... regulations for conformance with this Plan ..." This language is permissive only. In fact, Minn. Stat. 103B.325, Subd. 2, states, "The county board shall identify any inconsistency between the plans and controls and the comprehensive water plan and shall recommend the amendments necessary to bring the local plans and official controls into conformance with the comprehensive water plan." Minn. Stat. 103B.325, Subd. 3 states, "Local units of government shall revise existing plans and official controls to conform them to the recommendations of the county board ..." In summary, the language must be changed from permissive to mandatory. In addition, there is no basis for waiting until 2005 to begin the municipal

review process. Land use regulations are "where the rubber hits the road" and the longer the county waits, the greater chance that water quality will be compromised.

Staff opinion is that review of local plans and controls is not required to be reflected in the content of the plan. A schedule for amending official controls is only required when a county chooses to exercise their authority to amend plans or official controls of local governments within the county's jurisdiction.

The Morrison County Plan does state the county should review the municipal plans and controls (Volume 3, section 3, page 44). This is misleading as they are required to review, within 180 days, *any plans submitted* to them by local governments upon notification of the county's adoption of the plan. Technically, to be in compliance with the law the language needs to reflect that *submitted* plans and controls will be reviewed within 180 days. Another option would be to remove the reference altogether.

STATUTORY REFERENCES TO REVIEW OF OFFICIAL CONTROLS

The Legislative intent of these provisions was to allow the water plan to set standards for water management and provide a means to ensure that entities with land use authority within the county, such as townships and cities, meet or exceed those standards.

County review of local plans and controls is found in various places in the statute and administrative rules for comprehensive local water plans:

- 103B.311, subdivision 1 speaks to the duties and authorities of the county writing and implementing the water management plan, which includes item (2) the "review water and related land resources plans and official controls submitted by local units of government to assure consistency with the comprehensive water plan."
- 103B.325 gives counties the authority to amend existing water and related land resources plans and official controls as necessary to conform them to the applicable, approved comprehensive water plan following the procedures in this section.
- 103B.331 subd. 2. authorizes the county to regulate the use and development of water and related land resources within incorporated areas when certain conditions are met.

Within 90 days of adopting the local water plan the county must notify local units of government exercising water and related land resources planning and regulatory responsibility for areas within the county and request they submit existing water and related land resources plans and official controls to the county board for review. Within 180 days the county must review submitted plans and controls and identify any inconsistency between them and the comprehensive water plan, and shall recommend the amendments necessary to bring local plans and official controls into conformance with the comprehensive water plan. If inconsistencies are identified and the county intends to use their authority to amend local plans and ordinances granted in 103B.325, then a schedule for this process must be contained in the plan as per 103B.311 subd. 6 (7).

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

In the Matter of Reviewing the Comprehensive Water Plan Update
for Morrison County (Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.311
Subdivision 4 and Section 103B.315, Subdivision 5 and Minnesota
Rules 9300.0170).

**ORDER APPROVING
COMPREHENSIVE
WATER PLAN**

Whereas, the Morrison County Board of Commissioners adopted a Comprehensive Water Plan (Plan) on March 12, 1996, under authority of M.S. Section 103B.301, which was approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board), February 28, 1996, pursuant to M.S. Section 103B.315, Subd. 5, and

Whereas, the Plan provided for updating in 2002 pursuant to M.S. Section 103B.311, Subd. 4, and

Whereas, the Morrison County Board of Commissioners submitted a Comprehensive Water Plan Update (Plan Update) to the Board on January 2, 2003, pursuant to M.S. 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. Section 103B.311, Subd. 4, requires adopted Comprehensive Water Plans to be updated on a recurring basis.
2. Morrison County completed a draft Plan Update on October 1, 2002, and submitted it to affected local units of government for review and comment pursuant to M.S. Section 103B.315, Subd. 1.
3. On January 3, 2003, Morrison 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.

4. On October 24, 2002, Morrison County held a public hearing on the Plan Update, pursuant to M.S. Section 103B.315, Subd. 4, for the purpose of obtaining public input into the Plan Update.
5. On January 2, 2003, Morrison 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 M.S. Section 103B.315, Subd. 5. Included was a letter from Thomas E. Casey, Attorney at Law. Mr. Casey raised several issues primarily related to the County's planning and zoning ordinances for shoreland areas.
6. In February, 2003, a written overview of the Morrison County Plan Update was presented to the Board for their information and review.
7. **Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Review:** No written preliminary or final review comments were received from the MDA.
8. **Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Review:** No written preliminary or final review comments were received from the MDH.
9. **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Review:** On March 13, 2003, the DNR Central Region Director provided written comments on the draft Plan. The DNR comments related primarily to fish and wildlife habitat issues. In addition, the Department commented on the excellent job the county did in rewriting the Plan. Also, DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife and Division of Waters staff attended technical committee meetings, and some of the regular task force meetings, and contributed significantly to development of the Plan.
10. **Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Review:** On December 11, 2002, the MPCA provided written final comments on the draft Plan. The MPCA recommended approval of the Plan.
11. **Minnesota State Planning Agency/Environmental Quality Board (EQB) Review:** No written preliminary or final review comments were received from the State Planning Agency / EQB.
12. **Minnesota Geological Survey (MGS) Preliminary Review:** No written preliminary or final comments were received from the MGS.
13. **Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Review:** Board staff met on several occasions with Morrison County Planning and Zoning staff and the county's consultant to provide input throughout the process. Board staff also attended technical committee and regular task force meetings. The final meeting to review the draft plan and prepare for the Board's review meeting was on March 7, 2003.
14. **County Response to Agency Comments:** No comments from state agencies required formal written response from Morrison County.
15. **Memo From Mr. Tom Casey to BWSR Plan Review Committee:** On March 12, 2003, BWSR North Region Staff received a memo from Mr. Tom Casey, an attorney representing the Round Lake Association. In the memo Mr. Casey raised legal questions related to Morrison County's shoreland ordinance, with specific references to subdivision "loopholes", and 'back lot' development. He also raised questions relating to due process, specifically, not being able to receive a copy of the final draft plan.

Mr. Casey stated the plan "does not comply with state law and administrative rules", and suggested the committee reject the Plan. Mr. Casey also referenced and attached a copy of his October 24, 2002 comment letter addressed to the Morrison County Board of Commissioners. In a letter dated April 30, 2003, Mr. Casey again urged the review committee to reject the Plan. Morrison County responded to Mr. Casey's comments in letters dated March 12, 2003, and April 21, 2003.

16. Board Water Plan Review Committee: On May 2, 2003, the Board's North Region Water Plan Review Committee met in Detroit Lakes with Board staff and representatives from Morrison County to review and discuss the Plan Update. Those in attendance were Leland Coe, Ginny Imholte, Jerome Deal, Darrell Bruggman and Paul Krabbenhoft of the Board of Water and Soil Resources Board; Ron Shelito, Jim Haertel and Dan Steward, Board staff; Chuck Forss, Morrison County Local Water Plan Coordinator, Conrad Freeburg, Morrison County Attorney, and Lindberg Ekola, consultant to the county. 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. The committee had previously been provided copies of three of Mr. Casey's letters. Dan Steward commented on the overall high quality of the Plan, and listed especially innovative elements, and recommended approval. County representatives spoke about the Plan and addressed Mr. Casey's comments. Jim Haertel presented an April 30, 2003 Board staff report addressing Mr. Casey's concerns. The committee, based on the entire record, decided unanimously to recommend approval of the Plan to the full Board.

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 for Morrison County pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.315, Subd. 5, and Minnesota Rules, 9300.0170, Subp. 4.
2. The Morrison County Water 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 Section 103B.301 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 9300.

ORDER

The Board hereby approves the attached Plan as the Comprehensive Water Plan Update of Morrison County.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this twenty-eighth day of May, 2003.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BY: Leland G. Coe, Chair

Section 1 Introduction



Welcome to the 2003 – 2007 Morrison County Water Plan! This first section of the plan provides an introduction to the County's comprehensive local water planning program, a state-local partnership that Morrison County has participated in for over ten years. It also provides the history and purpose of local water planning and past implementation efforts in the County. In addition, this section describes the process to develop this Plan and some suggestions on how the Plan can be used to better manage the water and land related resources in Morrison County.

A. Comprehensive Local Water Planning History and Purpose

In 1986, the Minnesota State Legislature passed the Comprehensive Local Water Planning Act into law. This legislation made water Minnesota's number one natural resource priority, and created the opportunity for counties to receive financial and technical assistance from the state to plan ways to better manage water resources at the local level.

This legislation encourages counties to develop and implement local water plans and provides each county that develops such a plan, the authority and duty to exercise any and all powers necessary to assure its implementation.

The purpose of local water planning at the county level is to:

- Identify existing and potential problems or opportunities for protection, management, and development of water resources and related land resources in a county.
- Develop and implement a plan of action to promote sound hydrologic management of water and related land resources in a county.
- Work toward effective environmental protection and management in a county.
- Meet the requirements set forth in Chapter 103B.

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B. Previous Morrison County Water Plans

1990 Morrison County Water Plan: The “Original” Plan

The Morrison County water planning process started when the Board of Commissioners passed a resolution on _____, _____, to enter into the Comprehensive Local Water Planning (CLWP) program. The first or “original” Morrison County Comprehensive Local Water Plan was completed and adopted in 1990. Implementation of the plan began immediately that year.

The 1990 Plan established a number of goals and policies for managing water resources in the County. The following is the list of goals adopted in the 1990 Plan:

1. Establish the County Board of Commissioners as a leader in the protection and enhancement of the county's water resources.
2. Pursue greater public and governmental understanding of the need for water resource management and instill a wide spread sense of stewardship for Morrison County's water resources.
3. Promote sound water resource management practices among appropriate audiences throughout Morrison County.
4. Prevent the degradation of surface and ground water quality and quantity in the county and restore water resources identified as being degraded.
5. Preserve an adequate level of surface and ground water quantity for current and future use.
6. Establish cooperation between all units of government regarding water resource management.
7. Realize a balance of environmental and economic factors in the resolution of water management issues with, in the event of all concerns being equal, precedence given to the long-term protection of county surface and ground water resources.
8. Promote a land development and management pattern that allows for the multiple use of Morrison County's water resources in a manner that does not degrade current or future ground and surface water quality and quantity.

1995 Morrison County Water Plan: The First Update

As required by state law, a county's water plan is to be updated at least every five years. In 1995, the Morrison County Board of Commissioners completed and adopted its first plan update.

For More Information:

For a description of the local water planning process, please check out the web site at www.bwsr.state.mn.us

With the adoption of the 1995 Plan, a series of objectives for managing water resources were established. The following is a list of the plan's objectives:

Groundwater

- Objective # 1 – Provide assistance to the public water supplier under the Assistance Level of participation, in the development and implementation of wellhead protection plans.
- Objective # 2 – Collect data on the types and locations of all public water supply wells in Morrison County.
- Objective # 3 – Organize existing sources of ground water quality data so it can be used effectively in the planning and policy decision making process in the County.

Surface Water

- Objective # 1 – Develop a map showing all of the major and subwatershed areas in Morrison County.
- Objective # 2 – Collect and coordinate information relating to spill prevention and response in Morrison County. Make the data available to the appropriate local and State emergency responders.

Land Development, Use and Management

- Objective #1 – Facilitate and coordinate land use planning sessions between local units of government around and including the City of Little Falls.
- Objective #2 – Educate the Planning Commission and the County Board of Commissioners regarding the implications of establishing rural subdivisions in sensitive ground and surface water areas.
- Objective # 3 – Educate feedlot operators about best management practices available to minimize negative environmental impacts on surface and ground water resources in the County. Assist feedlot operators in implementing best management practices.
- Objective # 4 – Incorporate stormwater retention as specified in Minnesota Statutes 103B.3365 into the Morrison County Land Use Control Ordinance.

Administration

- Objective # 1 – Provide for the uniform implementation of an up-to-date Water Management Plan throughout the county over time.

C. Completed Water Plan Projects

Numerous water resource projects have been completed over the past ten years through the Morrison County water planning program. The following narrative provides an overview of the projects that have been completed by the County and its resource partners:

1990 to 1994

Within the first five-year planning cycle, the County completed a wide range of water resource projects and programs. In addition to a number of educational programs, the County successfully completed improvement projects and adopted new ordinances for protecting water resources. For example, the County applied for and received a grant to assist the City of Lastrup in upgrading septic systems. Partnerships like this have been a hallmark of county water planning. The first planning cycle also saw the adoption of the shoreland regulations by the County. **Table 1** summarizes the major accomplishments from this period:

Table 1
1990 – 1994 Completed Water Plan Projects

Year	Project/Description
1990	MPCA On-Site Sewage Grant applied for and received by the City of Lastrup resulting in 47 sewers being updated.
1991	County begins to track water test results from private water supplies on a computer database.
1992	New Shoreland Ordinance and ISTS Ordinance approved and adopted by the County. Morrison County Public Health Lab State certified for water testing.
1993	Seven lake associations in the County participate in the Minnesota Lake Advocate Program.
	Earthen Manure Monitoring Project was completed. First project of its kind in Minnesota to measure flows or seepage below an earthen pit.
	The Level 2 Feedlot Inventory completed.

1994	County Wide Lake and River Day held to promote and educate lakeshore property owners. 200 lakeshore property owners attend.
	Over 600 storm water drains labeled in Little Falls by 53 local youth.
	Education grant to area schools for additional water quality education.
	Swan River Water Quality and Land Use Assessment Project gets underway. High school students collect water samples and local staff review land uses along river and begin to work with landowners.
	Feedlot and Manure Management Day held at the Little Falls Ballroom. Over 180 local producers attend the workshop.

1995 to Present

The second 5-year planning cycle resulted in the completion of an even greater number of educational programs and water resource projects. Through the County water planning program, farmers installed over 2.5 miles of fencing for livestock in riparian areas. The County continued its efforts to assist in septic system upgrades. **Table 2** provides a summary of major projects completed since 1995.

Table 2
1995 – Present Completed Water Plan Projects

Year	Project/Description
1995	County Wide Lake and River Day held in Sullivan Lake area of the County. 150 lakeshore residents attend.
	Water Festival held at Camp Ripley for County sixth grade students.
	Belle Prairie Twp. Water Task Force reviews ground water quality concerns in developed area near the City of Little Falls & explores options to address issues.
	Many projects became annual events through water planning including: County Water Festival for sixth graders, Lake & River Day, Feedlot Management Workshops, Nitrate Testing, and water quality monitoring through the Riverwatch Program.
1996	Riverwatch Program monitors water quality on Mississippi, Platte & Swan Rivers.
	Work begins on several livestock fencing projects on the Mississippi River. Approximately 2.5 miles of shoreline will be fenced to exclude livestock from the bank of the river.
	Sullivan Lake donates funds for water planning projects.

	Swan River study documents high fecal coliform counts on the Swan River.
1997	2.5 miles of livestock fencing projects completed on the Mississippi River.
	Pierz and Royalton High Schools begin conducting separate water quality monitoring programs on the Platte River.
	Morrison and Benton SWCD work collaboratively on addressing issues in the Little Rock Creek Watershed.
1998	Water quality monitoring completed on Sullivan Lake. Ditches draining into Sullivan Lake were monitored. Report submitted to Sullivan Lake Association.
	County & SWCD continue to promote BMP's with Ag Producers on the Swan River and work with property owners in the Watershed.
1999	MPCA On-Site Sewage Grant applied for and received by the City of Hillman resulting in 18 sewers being updated.
	Vegetative management grant for shoreline property owners received to implement cost-share program in 2000.
2000	County coordinates & implements Vegetative Management grant for shoreline property owners.
	MPCA On-Site Sewage Grant applied for and received by the City of Harding which will result in 32 sewers being updated
	MDA well monitoring program being coordinated for the installation of monitoring wells in sand plain areas of the County.
	Riverwatch Monitoring continues on the Mississippi River; new monitoring begins on the Two Rivers in Southwestern Morrison County. County continues to coordinate Riverwatch activities of the 3 participating schools.
	The rewrite of the Morrison County water plan begins. The Citizen Task Force and Technical Committee decide to rewrite versus update the existing water plan. Additional funding sources are sought.
	Lake & River Day, County Water Festival, School Education Grants, Abandoned Well Sealing, and Nitrate Testing Clinics continue as annual priority water plan projects.
	Lakeshore parcel maps being completed for Pine Lake and Lake Alexander for use in GIS and future land use analysis in lakeshore areas of the County.
	Swan River added to list of impaired waters and/or exceeding TDML standards for coliform bacteria.

D. Development of the 2003 – 2007 Morrison County Water Plan

The process to update the County's water plan in preparation for the third five-year interval began during the summer of 2000. With limited staff time and funding combined with the desire to prepare a more comprehensive rewriting of the plan, County staff sought additional funding and a time extension for the plan development. After several months of effort and support from several organizations, the County was successful in obtaining funding for the complete rewrite of its Water Plan. This Plan represents that expanded effort. The 2003 – 2007 Morrison County Water Plan continues the tradition of promoting better planning and management of our water and land resources through a series of partnerships and collaborations. The following paragraphs summarize three major collaborative efforts taken as a part of the water plan process.

Partnerships and Collaborations

Citizen and Technical Committees: The Water Plan Task Force and Technical Committee

Throughout the history of water planning and implementation in Morrison County, two groups have anchored the development and implementation of the water plans including the Water Plan Task Force and the Technical Committee.

The Morrison County Water Plan Task Force serves as the primary citizen review and advisory component in the development of this Water Plan. The Task Force, appointed by the Board of Commissioners, was established to ensure that the planning process maintained a local focus and provided local knowledge and insights on County resources, problems and procedures. During the development of this plan, the Task Force met regularly to review citizen input and to establish the goals, objectives, action plans, and implementation strategies in the Plan. The Morrison County Water Plan Task Force is composed of twelve citizen members:

Robert Anderson
Mike Auger
James Pasch
Burton Fruechte
Amy Kowalzek
Wilfred Kruschek

Bert Lapos
Arvin Litke
Donald Meyer
Wayne Pikal
Al Preimesberger
Marty Skoglund

In addition to the citizen members, there were numerous agency personnel and County staff serving in an ex-officio capacity at the Committee meetings. These technical experts gave presentations on surface water, groundwater and land use resource topics as a part of the planning process. Agency personnel on the Technical Committee included (several other agency personnel participated in various plan development meetings):

Roger Kuklok, Morrison County Planning and Zoning
Michelle Warnberg, Morrison County Planning and Zoning
Helen McLennan, Morrison SWCD
Deb Ginder/Jennifer Lerdahl, Morrison County Public Health
Jim Carlson, Morrison SWCD
Suzanne Johnson, Great River Great People
Tim Crocker, MN DNR
Jim Lilienthal, MN DNR
Charles Blair, US FWS

The BWSR Board Conservationist for the Water Plan was Dan Steward, from the Brainerd office. There were two water plan coordinators overseeing and managing the development of this Water Plan, including Mark Wettlaufer (up to September of 2001) and Chuck Forss (started in December 2001). The GIS consultant for the project was Dan Ross of Spatial Technologies. Lindberg Ekola, from Ekola & Associates, prepared the Water Plan document and facilitated the Task Force, Technical Committee, and public input meetings.

Great River Great People Project: The Resource Directory and Environmental Inventory

In the fall of 1998, an informal group of historic property owners and resource managers working in the County started meeting on a regular basis to look for ways to work together more effectively. Over the course of the next two years, the group expanded into the Great River Great People Resource Partnership (GRGP), a network of agencies, organizations, businesses and individuals, all working to preserve, manage, and interpret the natural and cultural resources of the Mississippi River watershed. With the common mission to assist each other in the preserving and managing cultural, historical, and environmental resources the group defined what it needed to enhance working relationships between the members.

For More Information:

*For a description of the
Great River Great
People Resource
partnership, check out
the web site at
www.greatriver.juno*

The initial project taken on by the GRGP involved the preparation of an inventory of cultural and natural resources in Morrison County, Minnesota. This project was to serve as an initial effort to gather and organize existing information and data for future collaboration of the members.

In the conceptual stages of the project, two basic products were proposed to be prepared including a "Resource Directory" and an "Environmental Resource Inventory". The Resource Directory was designed to be a comprehensive listing of the GRGP member organizations and the services, data, and information they have developed on the land, water, and cultural resources in the County. The Environmental Resource Inventory was designed as a GIS based inventory that summarized the research in the form of maps. Over 30 maps were identified for the project.

Since these two products were viewed as being beneficial to both the County water planning program and to GRGP, a partnership was formed to foster the preparation of the products. In July of 2001, Morrison County entered into an agreement with GRGP through the Institute of Minnesota Archeology (the GRGP fiscal agent) to develop the products for this project. Financial support of \$30,000 for the project came from GRGP through the McKnight Foundation grant it received. Morrison County through the Technical Committee and the consulting team provided technical support to complete the project.

Products from the GRGP project such as the maps and data have been incorporated into the development of this Water Plan. A more detailed description of the GRGP project and future collaborations is provided in Section 2 of Volume 3.

Board of Water and Soil Resources and the White Papers

A third collaborative effort undertaken to enhance the development of this Water Plan involved the partnership between the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and Morrison County. The County proposed a pilot project that would enhance the development of the Water Plan and provide the BWSR with recommendations on ways to link water and land use planning in six "white papers". The project was supported by BWSR with a \$15,000 grant with three primary objectives:

- Identify how local water planning can influence county comprehensive planning and subsequent land use controls.
- Assess county comprehensive water planning program requirements and their efficacy in promoting wise water management at the local level.

- Assess the various roles and relationships between local units of governments in implementing County Comprehensive Water Plans and related state programs administered by local governments.

Figure 1 illustrates how the GRGP project, the BWSR pilot project and six white papers, and the County's water plan were integrated.

Public Participation Strategy

Early and ongoing public participation is essential to any planning process. In order to ensure the proper preparation of this Plan, the County devised three components to garner the public's views and provide opportunities for involvement. A summary of the public input received is provided in Section 6 of this volume.

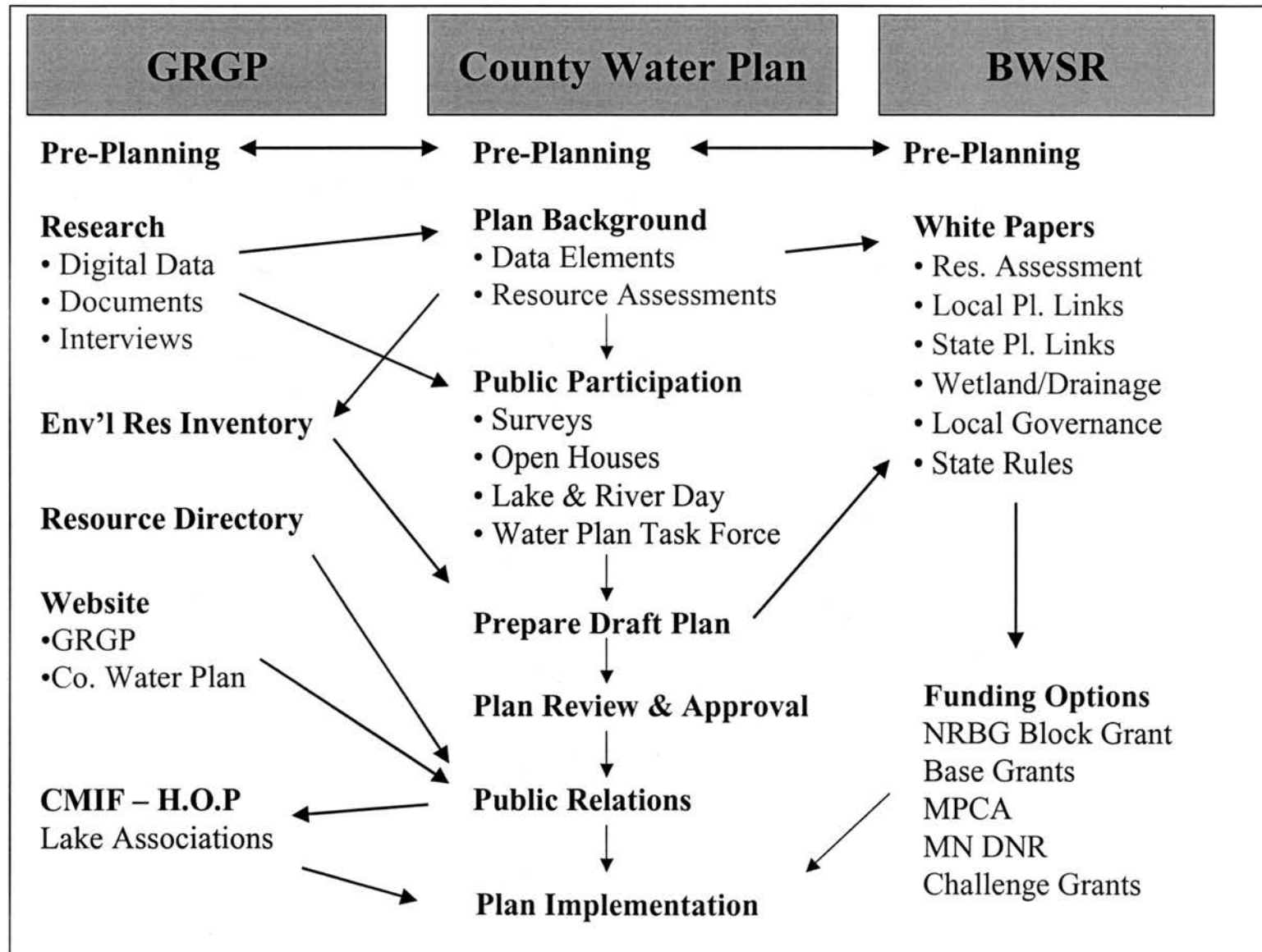
The first component focused on obtaining direct input from a broad spectrum of individuals and local officials. Early on in the planning process, the County sponsored a public informational meeting to explain the purpose of the County's water planning program and ask citizens what their concerns were regarding water and land related resources. Several methods of collecting citizen input were used including an opinion survey, which was distributed at several events held in the County (Lake & River Day, annual township meeting, etc.).

The second component to the County's public participation strategy was to work closely with the Morrison County Water Plan Task Force and the Technical Committee in developing a sound plan. The two committees provided representative input for both citizens and local officials on an ongoing manner at the numerous meetings, through a series of prioritization exercises, worksheets and group discussions.

The last component to the County's public participation strategy for the development of this plan was the public review of the draft document. A review of each volume in the plan, starting with the Strategic Policy Framework in Volume 2, was made by the Task Force. The County Board actively participated in these preliminary discussions on the future directions of the plan.

After completing the internal review of the working draft document, a "Public Review Draft" plan was distributed to the appropriate local units of government in the County, state and federal agencies. This draft was also made available to the public for review. Based on the received comments, the plan was revised and forwarded to the BWSR for the final state review.

Figure 1
Integrated Planning Activities



Planning and Implementation Process

With a growing demand for the use of water and land in the County and limited public funds to address conflicts that arise, how can we make better use of the resources we have? Can local government through county water planning really make a difference? How does all of this work?

Water planning is *the* management tool that helps county, municipal and state governments, and citizens focus their collective efforts to guide the wise use of water and land resources. Planning is a continuous process that encourages collaborative thinking to logically approach resource management issues.

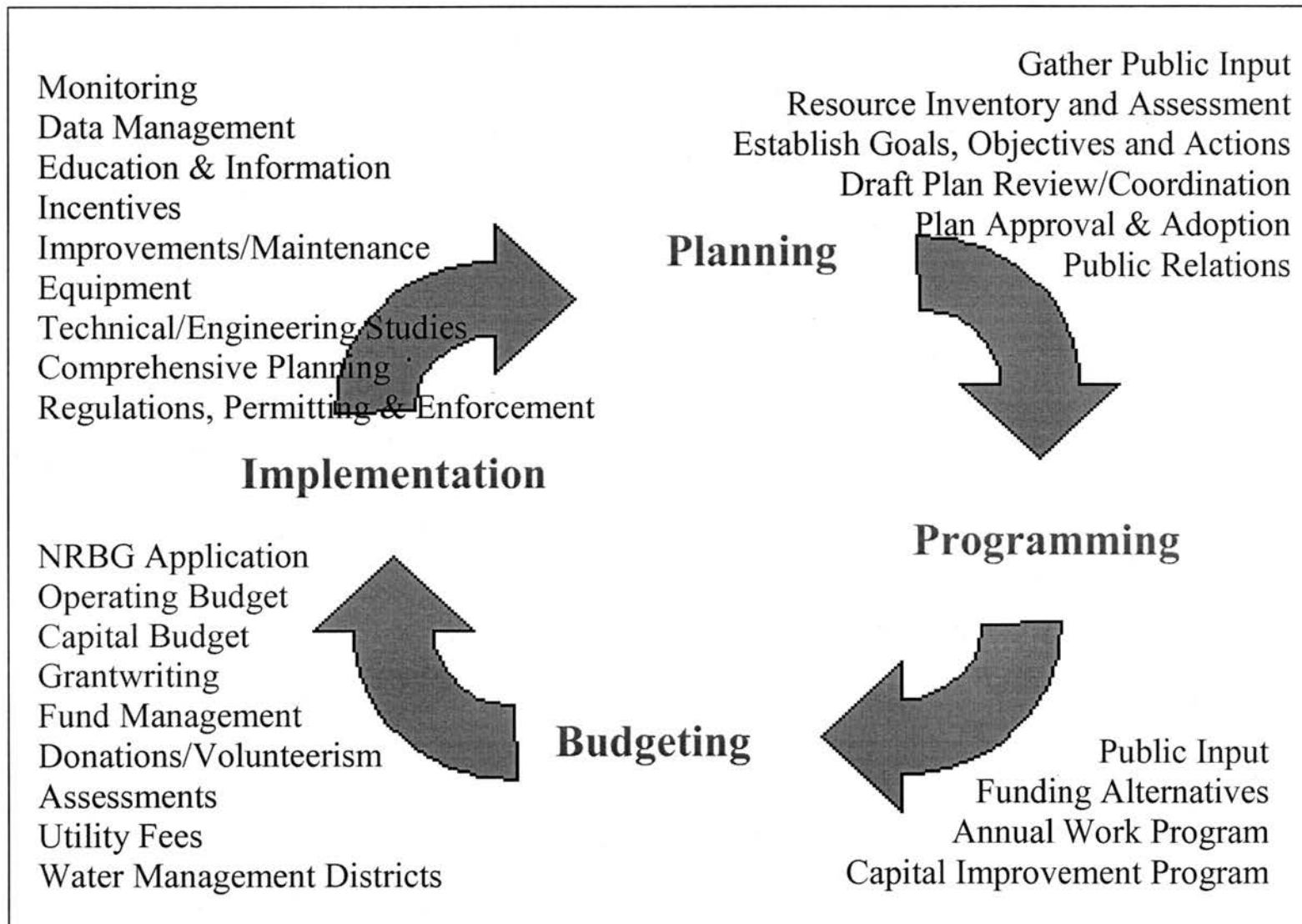
The general process that Morrison County used to develop this plan included:

- Gathering of input from citizens, business and local government interests.
- Inventorying and assessing the County's resources.
- Building a strategic policy framework based on public concerns and good science.
- Prioritizing specific actions to be taken to properly manage the resources.

A thorough planning process combined with coordinated implementation efforts can help private parties and public agencies protect and enhance the resources of their communities.

Through the development of this Plan, Morrison County Board of Commissioners and its citizens have committed to improving water resources in the County through proper planning and implementation. **Figure 2** illustrates the overall planning and implementation process established by the County.

Figure 2
Morrison County Water Planning and Implementation Process



E. Organization of the 2003 – 2007 Morrison County Water Plan

Understanding the **organization** of the plan and the **terminology** used in watershed planning are essential first steps in applying the concepts developed in this plan.

Strategic planning asks three fundamental questions: Where are we? Where do we want to go? And, how do we get there?

The 2003 – 2007 Morrison County Water Plan has been organized into a three-part format to compliment the strategic nature of the County's water planning process. This format complies with the framework established by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for a county water plan. The three parts of this plan include:

- Volume 1 – Plan Background: "Where are we?"
- Volume 2 – Strategic Policy Framework: "Where do we want to go?"
- Volume 3 – Plan Implementation: "How will we get there?"

Volume 1 provides the reader with an in depth description of the County. It includes an overview of the County in Section 2, a detailed resource inventory and assessment in Sections 3 and 4, an assessment of resource management activities in Section 5 and an overview of public input received during the planning process in Section 6.

Volume 2 outlines the County's vision in a written framework. Volume 2 also provides a detailed framework of goals, objectives, and action items that define how the County will manage water and land resources in the next five to ten years. A series of coordinated and integrated statements for groundwater, surface water, and land resources are included in this volume.

Volume 3 of the plan establishes how the County will implement the strategic policy framework developed in Volume 2. Specific recommendations for administering programs and implementing the County's goals are provided in Volume 3.

Strategic Planning asks:

Where are we?

Where do we want to go?

How will we get there?

F. How to Use this Plan

Each of the three volumes has many uses and applications by the Water Plan Task Force and County Commissioners, staff, state and federal agencies, and property owners. For example, the detailed data in Volume 1 can be useful in the preparation of grant applications. The strategic policy framework in Volume 2 should be consistently referred to by the County Board, as they review permit applications and requests for public improvements. The action items listed in Volume 3 should be used by the County as a starting point in each year's budgetary process. Concurrent with the budget, Volumes 2 and 3 should assist the County in developing an annual work program to guide staff operations in a manner consistent with the plan.

These are just a few of the plan's applications and uses. The County anticipates many other uses of the plan through the County's operations and management of resources over the next five to ten years.

Readers are encouraged to review the Executive Summary to gain a sense of the purpose of the County's water planning program and the overall course of resource management that the County is proposing to take over the next five to ten years. The table of contents should also be reviewed to understand the organization of the plan. Further, the appendix has been prepared to be useful for persons not familiar with water planning and resource management. For example, Appendix A includes a list of acronyms used in the plan and Appendix B provides a glossary of terms.