

CHAPTER FOUR: GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTION STEPS (2008-2013)

This Chapter establishes Goals, Objectives and Action Steps for each of the County’s high priority issues identified in Chapter Three. In review, the County’s six priority issues are:

Education, Water/Drainage Management, Groundwater Protection, Reducing Priority Pollutants, Erosion [and Sedimentation], Recreation

Chapter Definitions

Each of the action steps contained in this Chapter identifies who is responsible for its implementation, when the action step should occur, and an estimate on how much it will cost. For the purposes of this Chapter, the following abbreviations are used (**Bolded** means lead action step responsibility):

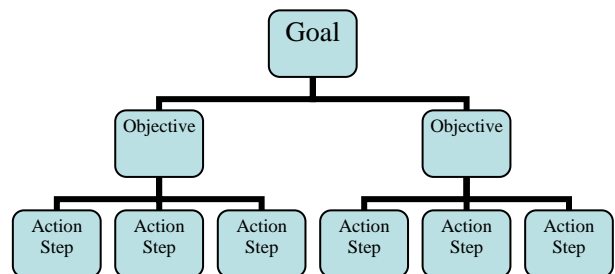
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|---|---|
| CB = County Board | MPCA = Minnesota Pollution Control Agency |
| CS = County Staff | NRCS = Natural Resource Conservation Service |
| WP = County Water Plan/Planner | SWCD = Soil and Water Conservation District |
| EO = Environmental Office | UMES = University of MN Extension |
| P&Z = County Planning & Zoning Commission | MDoT = MN Department of Transportation |
| RC = Resource Commission | RDC = Upper MN Valley Regional Development Commission |
| WD = Lac qui Parle/Yellow Bank Watershed District | CC = Chamber of Commerce from Cities |
| CWP = Clean Water Partnership | EDA = Economic Development Authority |
| CPH = Countryside Public Health | PB = County Park Board |
| DNR = Department of Natural Resources | WDC = Well Drilling Contractors |
| FWS = U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service | Area II = Minnesota River Basin Projects, Inc. |
| MDA = Minnesota Department of Agriculture | EDWDD=East Dakota Water Development District |
| MDH = Minnesota Department of Health | HD = County Highway Department |
| MGS = MN Geological Survey (&USGS) | |

Throughout the comprehensive Water Plan, goals, objectives and action steps are defined in the following way:

Goal: a general, idealistic statement intended to be achieved at some undetermined future date.

Objective: Begin with an action verb and can be measurable if a date, dollar amount, etc. is included.

Action Step: Specific implementation steps that will be followed in order to achieve the County’s Goals and Objectives.



Objective B: Identify priority wetlands for protection, enhancement and restoration activities.

Actions:

1. Provide up-to-date information on the value of wetlands, the need for wetland mitigation, available programs and funding for voluntary restoration and enhancement.
Measured by: Quality and quantity of information provided to landowners
Who: **WD/CWP, SWCD, NRCS, DNR, FWS** When: On-going Cost: \$ 5,000
P&Z, EO
2. Pursue funding for landowners who want to voluntarily restore or enhance wetlands. Work with 3-4 landowners each year.
Measured by: wetland restoration acres funded
Who: **SWCD, NRCS, WD, DNR FWS, EO & P&Z** When: On-going Cost: \$ 10,000
3. Seek out 1-2 landowners to work with to create Wetland Banking Credits for trade within the watershed.
Measured by: Number of landowners and acres entering the program
Who: **WD, SWCD** When: On-going Cost: \$ 2,500

PRIORITY ISSUE: GROUNDWATER PROTECTION

GROUND WATER GOAL: PROTECT AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF GROUNDWATER IN THE COUNTY.

Objective A: Help all landowners act to protect the County’s groundwater quality.

Actions:

1. Work to provide funding to help landowners seal abandoned wells. Seal at least 30 wells each year.
Measured by: Number of wells sealed.
Who: **WP, SWCD, NRCS, Well Contractors** When: on-going Cost: \$120,000
2. Promote and conduct a collection of chemical containers annually. Investigate a means of storage containers between collections.
Measured by: Number of collection events and records of participation
Who: **EO, CB, MDA** When: yearly Cost: \$ 2,500
3. Promote and conduct two pesticide collections.
Measured by: Number of collection events and records of participation
Who: **EO, CB, MDA, EPA** When: as scheduled Cost: \$ 6,000
4. Provide well testing information and opportunities to private landowners to have the water quality of their wells tested. Pursue funding to provide incentives.
Measured by: Numbers of kits used, information provided and by events planned (ex. nitrate testing, arsenic testing)
Who: **CPH, WP, MDH** When: kits – on-going Cost: \$ 1,500
Arsenic testing 2010 Cost: \$ 1,500
Nitrate testing 2012 Cost: \$ 1,000

Objective C: Make good land use decisions regarding groundwater protection.

Actions:

1. Examine ways to incorporate groundwater information into the land use decision-making process. Invite state agencies to assist the County with learning how to interpret data such as the Upper Minnesota River Basin Regional Hydrogeologic Assessment and other key groundwater information, identify sensitive areas, and identify groundwater recharge areas.
Measured by: 1-2 planned events
Who: **EO**, WD, P&Z, CB, MDH, DNR When: 2009, 2011 Cost: \$ 3,000
2. Develop an ordinance requiring a zoning permit to demolish vacant building sites to ensure abandoned wells are sealed, underground storage tanks are removed and hazardous waste is disposed of properly before demolition occurs.
Measured by: Adoption of the ordinance by the County
Who: **P&Z**, CB, EO, P&Z, WP, WD, SWCD When: 2009 Cost: \$ 2,000
3. Work with municipalities to add their water testing data to their websites. Explore ways to make water testing data for municipalities who do not have websites more readily available to the public.
Measured by: Addition of information to city websites
Who: **WP**, Municipalities, MDH When: 2009 Cost: \$ 1,500
4. Use public entity websites to establish links to sources of data such as the SWCD website link to DNR observation well data.
Measured by: County, SWCD and Municipality website links posted
Who: **CS**, WD/CWP, SWCD, Municipalities When: 2009 Cost: \$ 500

PRIORITY ISSUE: REDUCING PRIORITY POLLUTANTS

PRIORITY POLLUTANT GOAL: TO RESTORE, PROTECT AND MAINTAIN THE WATER QUALITY, BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL BEAUTY OF LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY'S WATER RESOURCES.

Objective A: In cooperation with the MPCA, participate in the development of the TMDLs and subsequent implementation efforts that will help get the waters off the TMDL 303d list of impaired waters. (See appendix 1, the 2006 list of Impaired Waters in the County. The list will be updated later in 2008.)

Actions:

1. Assist partners in prioritizing water bodies/minor watersheds and work with MPCA on which TMDLs will be addressed next locally. Educate citizens on impaired waters.
Measured by: MPCA TMDL list
Who: **CWP**/WD, NRCS, SWCD, RC, MPCA When: On-going Cost: \$ 5,000

2. Participate with partners in the development of the TMDL implementation plan(s) for the Lac qui Parle – Yellow Bank Watershed; help guide and direct BMP selection and placement; demonstrate and promote BMPs and educate citizens on BMPs. (See actions in other issues) Currently work is being done on the Lac qui Parle River Low Dissolved Oxygen TMDL from Dawson to Ten Mile Creek. In the near future, TMDLs worked on include the Lac qui Parle River Watershed Fecal Coliform TMDL and the Lac qui Parle River Watershed Turbidity TMDL.
 Measured by: Plans developed and implementation practices installed
 Who: **MPCA, CWP/WD, NRCS, SWCD, EO** When: On-going Cost: \$ 5,000

3. With partners, reference CWP Implementation Plan and current work plans and seek additional Clean Water Legacy implementation funds.
 Measured by: Projects funded
 Who: **CWP/WD, NRCS, SWCD, EO, MPCA** When: On-going Cost: \$ 17,500
 BWSR, MDA

Objective B: Reduce the impact of activities on surface water quality

Actions:

1. Update the County’s feedlot inventory to determine the status of feedlots and to better determine where corrective assistance needed.
 Measured by: Current inventory
 Who: **EO, CB** When: On-going Cost: \$ 15,000

2. Work with existing 1-2 producers each year to bring their feedlots into compliance.
 Measured by: Number of feedlots in compliance
 Who: **NRCS, SWCD, CWP/WD, EO, CB** When: On-going Cost: \$500,000

3. Assist producers to develop, update and follow their manure management plans. Encourage producers (who currently are not required by law to have plans) to develop plans which will help them better manage their manure resources.
 Measured by: Number of plans developed
 Who: **EO, CWP/WD, SWCD, MPCA** When: On-going Cost: \$ 6,000

4. Assist producers to manage manure application by working with them and with custom applicators to access the Ag BMP Loan program to upgrade their equipment.
 Measured by: Number of loan applications
 Who: **SWCD, EO** When: On-going Cost: \$300,000

5. Develop feasibility studies for unsewered communities, including Rosen, Lac qui Parle Village (both unincorporated) and Louisburg (incorporated).
 Measured by: Plans to treat waste in those communities
 Who: **MPCA, Unsewered Communities, EO, UMES, P&Z, WP** When: On-going Cost: \$ 6,000

6. Investigate requiring an inspection of SSTS location and condition whenever property transfers occur.
 Measured by: Meeting notes
 Who: **EO, P&Z, CB** When: 2010 Cost: \$ 3,000

2. Target absentee landowners to promote erosion control practices and enhance incentives by one newsletter/year to producers and owners and by a direct one-to-one contact with 10 individuals/year.
 Measured by: Number of contacts and number of contracts
 Who: **SWCD/NRCS, WP, FSA, CWP/WD** When: On-going Cost: \$ 8,500

3. Work with contractors and others to educate the public on ditch and streambank management – buffers – side inlets – stabilization – and cause and effect of erosion.
 Measured by: Mailings, brochures on best management practices, and radio announcements
 Who: **WD/CWP, Contractors, SWCD/NRCS** When: On-going Cost: \$ 1,500

4. Repair and/or install side inlets where needed – 50 each year.
 Measured by: Number of units repaired and/or installed
 Who: **WD/CWP, CB, NRCS/SWCD** When: On-going Cost: \$750,000

5. Install 100 acres of buffers each year
 Measured by: Acre numbers from agency reports
 Who: **SWCD/NRCS, CWP/WD, FSA** When: On-going Cost: \$ 60,000

6. Promote benefits of appropriate set-backs on ditches.
 Measured by: Application of set-backs
 Who: **WD/CWP, CC** When: On-going Cost: \$ 20,000

7. Work with land users to install engineered practices to control erosion in concentrated flow areas.
 10 sediment control basins each year
 1 acre waterway each year
 Measured by: Agency reports
 Who: **SWCD/NRCS, CWP/WD** When: On-going Cost: \$800,000

8. Conduct a tillage transect survey every other year
 Measured by: Results from survey
 Who: **SWCD, CWP/WD** When: odd number years Cost: \$ 3,000

9. Promote the EQIP tillage incentive and fund five applications each year.
 Measured by: number of funded applications
 Who: **NRCS, SWCD, CWP/WD** When: On-going Cost: \$ 37,500

10. Work with operators to increase conservation tillage by 5% each year
 Measured by: Transect tillage survey and EQIP reports
 Who: **NRCS, SWCD, CWP/WD** When: On-going Cost: \$100,000

11. Work with land owners to install 1,300 feet of field windbreaks or grass strips each year to reduce wind erosion.
 Measured by: Agency reports
 Who: **SWCD, NRCS** When: On-going Cost: \$ 16,250

12. Protect 150 acres of highly erodible cropland each year by getting them seeded to grasses.
 Measured by: Agency reports
 Who: **NRCS, SWCD, CWP/WD** When: On-going Cost: \$ 75,000

13. Work with operators to plan grazing systems on 200 acres of pastureland each year for 1,000 acres net.
 Measured by: Agency reports
 Who: **NRCS, SWCD, CWP/WD** When: On-going Cost: \$ 7,500
14. Work to get funding to stabilize stream and river banks on two projects a year promoting biological practices such as willow plantings, stream barbs, etc.
 Measured by: Number installed as reported in agency reporting
 Who: **CWP/WD, SWCD/NRCS** When: On-going Cost: \$300,000
15. Promote and install a demonstration rain garden to address soil loss and control water quality due to runoff from impervious surfaces.
 Measured by: Installation of the rain garden, promotional event and assistance requests for other sites
 Who: **CWP/WD, SWCD/NRCS, Municipalities** When: 2009 Cost: \$ 10,000
16. Install ditch checks (sediment control basins) and other erosion control practices in ditches as needed during road construction and repairs.
 Measured by: Checks and other practices installed where roadwork is done and ditches are upgraded
 Who: **HD, MDoT, CB** When: On-going Cost: \$200,000
17. Work with municipalities, contractors and zoning to reduce sedimentation on construction sites from reaching surface waters through stormwater drains. Use brochures, cable access channels, flyers through utility bills and ads in the yearly construction/remodeling special newspaper issues to inform the public about how to reduce sedimentation and why it is important.
 Measured by: Developed educational materials and number of times used
 Who: **CWP/WD, EO, Municipalities, SWCD** When: On-going Cost: \$ 5,000

PRIORITY ISSUE: RECREATIONAL VALUES

RECREATIONAL VALUES GOAL: TO ENSURE THAT LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY CONTINUES TO PROVIDE A SAFE AND CLEAN ENVIRONMENT FOR WATER-BASED ACTIVITIES.

Objective A: Educate, encourage and advertise recreation water values for hunting, fishing, trapping, bird watching and other water-based activities.

Actions:

1. Create multiple ways to provide maps of special features such as wildlife management areas, canoe launch sites, etc. in the County for residents and visitors. Paper copies of maps will be created and made available. Links to digital maps will be added the County website.
 Measured by: Maps available at Chamber offices, etc., links added to website
 Who: **RC, CB, CS, RDC, CC, EDA, DNR, SWCD** When: 2009 Cost: \$ 7,000
 WD/CWP

2. Put up signs identifying rivers and other unique features along Federal highways, State and appropriate County highways. Planning what features to highlight will be done in odd number years with implementation occurring in even number years.
 - Measured by: signs installed
 - Who: **RC**, CWP/WD, CB, EDA, MNDoT When: 2009 Cost: \$ 100
DNR, FWS
 - Who: **CB**, DNR, FWS When: 2010 Cost: \$ 3,000
 - Who: **RC**, CWP/WD, CB, EDA, MNDoT, When: 2011 Cost: \$ 200
DNR, FWS
 - Who: **CB**, DNR, FWS When: 2012 Cost: \$ 2,000

3. Promote recreational opportunities and potentials in Lac qui Parle County twice a year. Possible events include:
 - a. Outdoor Expo-type event (like farm/home show)
 - b. Canoe trip
 - c. Photography contest
 - d. Tour of special features
 - e. River/stream clean up events like “Adopt a”
 - f. Bird watching
 - g. Fishing derby on Lac qui Parle Lake
 - Measured by: 2 events/year
 - Who: **RC**, SWCD, CWP/WD, CB, EDA, CC, When: On-going Cost: \$ 90,000
DNR, FWS

4. Coordinate with other entities/efforts such as Prairie Waters, Scenic Byways, Prairie Passage, King of Trails, etc. to include Lac qui Parle features in their promotional activities.
 - Measured by: financial support to Prairie Waters, inclusion of LqP features and events in publications and on websites
 - Who: **CB**, EDA, RDC, DNR, FWS When: On-going Cost: \$ 10,000
Municipalities

5. Identify, develop and promote the recreational and educational potential of Lac qui Parle County Park. Promote responsible motorized recreational vehicle use to reduce environmental impacts.
 - Measured by: Physical improvement of Park, increase in variety of users
 - Who: **CB**, PB, CWP/WD, RC, SWCD, Schools, When: On-going Cost: \$ 4,500
Clubs, Organizations

6. Pursue safe, legal accesses for canoeing on the Lac qui Parle River. Manage necessary debris removal to create safe, more visible canoe routes.
 - Measured by: Establishment of canoe accesses and increased canoeing
 - Who: **DNR**, CWP/WD, RC When: 2009, On-going Cost: \$ 7,000