

THE MEEKER COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER PLAN

JANUARY 2003-DECEMBER 2012



~ North Fork of the Crow River ~

2008 ADDENDUM

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*Prepared by Meeker County and the
Mid-Minnesota Development Commission*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A special thanks is extended to the following individuals who were involved in the preparation and development of this document. Meeker County greatly appreciates their participation!

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview of the Water Plan

In 2002, Meeker County updated its Comprehensive Local Water Plan, in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 103B. The plan, which will remain in effect for a period of ten years (January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2012), was formally approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) on December 4, 2002 and adopted by the Meeker County Board of Commissioners on March 4, 2003. The document serves two purposes: 1) to identify existing and potential issues and opportunities related to the protection, management, and development of water and land resources, and 2) to outline an implementation program that will guide the County in water resource management. As a part of the implementation component of the plan, the County developed a broader, more inclusive, Ten-Year Implementation Plan, along with a more concise Five-Year Focus Plan. The Focus Plan contains only the initiatives that are of highest priority for implementation and must be updated every five years.

Revision of the Five-Year Focus Plan

This addendum contains an updated Five-Year Focus Plan; the initial Focus Plan expired December 31, 2007. The County's Water Plan Taskforce was delegated with the responsibility of overseeing the development of the new Focus Plan. The Taskforce met two times during the planning process to identify the priority issues to be addressed in the plan, as well as solicit comments from the public, other local governmental units, and State and Federal agencies. Based upon input from the taskforce, the following goals for the Focus Plan were devised:

- o Goal 1: Protect and improve the quality of water resources.
- o Goal 2: Maintain an adequate supply of surface and ground water for all users.
- o Goal 3: Protect and restore critical areas.
- o Goal 4: Expand our knowledge and understanding of water resources.
- o Goal 5: Provide for effective and efficient plan administration.

On _____, the County held a public hearing regarding the Addendum. This meeting provided stakeholders with an opportunity to present comments on the document. Following the public hearing, the Addendum was adopted by the County Board of Commissioners on _____ and approved by the BWSR on _____.

Recent Water Plan Accomplishments

Meeker County has proven its dedication to the implementation of its Water Plan through the supportive actions of the Water Planning Taskforce and Board of Commissioners. The Water Plan Taskforce has utilized Natural Resources Block Grant funds to successfully accomplish numerous priorities in the Water Plan, including those activities listed on the following page. In addition, the County has financially supported the efforts of the Crow River Organization of Water (CROW). Through extensive water quality monitoring and assessment, the CROW and other similar entities have helped to provide the information necessary to identify the issues and opportunities that are specific to each of the County's watersheds.

2002

- Collinwood Lake and Lake Stella monitoring and testing
- Star Lake and Thompson Lake aeration projects
- Spring/Long Lakes Phase I & II CWP projects
- Ellsworth Township silt removal project at Lake Manuella

2003

- Lake Francis and Lake Stella monitoring and testing
- Dunns and Richardson Lakes Phase I CWP project
- Lake Francis clean outlet project

2004

- Lake Jennie, Lake Manuella, Lake Stella, and Lake Washington monitoring and testing
- Star Lake and Thompson Lake aeration projects
- Lake Ripley and Lake Washington weed control assistance
- CSAH 9 lake clean-out project at Lake Manuella

2005

- Lake Francis, Lake Jennie, Lake Manuella, Lake Ripley, Lake Stella, and Lake Washington monitoring and testing
- Star Lake aeration project
- Clear Lake weed control assistance
- Lake Minnie Belle MB2 Dike assistance

2006

- Spring/Long Lakes, Lake Stella, and Lake Washington monitoring and testing
- Monitoring and testing for the Meeker County Area Lakes Association
- Star Lake aeration project
- Clear Lake weed control assistance
- Prairie Country RC&D CWP Project

Additional Accomplishment

- The Meeker County Extension Office organized pesticide container pickup events to help ensure that hazardous pesticide waste does not contaminate water resources. The Extension Office also continued to produce informational and educational brochures relevant to the Water Plan.
- The Public Health Department continued to provide water quality information, well water testing, and septic system and abandoned well educational services to area residents.
- Funding and clerical support was provided to Meeker County area lake/water entities for various projects aimed at improving water quality. Volunteers logged countless hours to ensure the success of these projects.
- In 2004, Meeker County became a designated Feedlot County, requiring the hiring of a feedlot officer. The County currently has 387 registered feedlots out of an approximate total of 425.
- The County Administrator Office provided administrative/clerical support for the implementation of the Water Plan, which included the processing of invoices and performing all of the BWSR eLink reporting that is required for the program.

Ongoing Programs

The County continues to administer several programs that are vital to achieving the goals set forth in the Water Plan, including those related to feedlots, floodplain and shoreland management, individual sewage treatment systems (ISTS), solid waste, Wetland Conservation Act (WCA), and zoning. The Planning and Zoning Department and Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) are primarily responsible for locally administering these programs; the County Administrator's Office oversees the Solid Waste Program. Understandably, the continued funding of these programs has been identified as a high priority in the Five-Year Focus Plan.

Objective 3: Prevent and control invasive aquatic specie infestations.

Initiative	Priority Watershed(s)	Proposed Timeframe	Coordinator(s) (*Lead)	Estimated Cost	
				Overall	County Only
14. Invasive Aquatic Species Management. Conduct and/or provide technical and financial assistance, as available, to lake associations and other groups/organizations for the implementation of invasive aquatic specie prevention and/or control efforts.	All	2008-2012	*DNR, *WMLOs, CA	\$40,000/yr	\$15,000/yr
15. Public Water Access Signage. Install and maintain signage regarding the spread of invasive aquatic species at all public water accesses.	All	2008-2012	*DNR, *WMLOs, CA	\$1,500/yr	\$500/yr

Objective 4: Prevent groundwater contamination.

Initiative	Priority Watershed(s)	Proposed Timeframe	Coordinator(s) (*Lead)	Estimated Cost	
				Overall	County Only
16. BMP Program. Provide educational, technical and financial assistance, as available, to landowners for the implementation of groundwater protection BMPs, including the proper decommissioning of wells and storage tanks and correct application of pesticides and other chemicals.	All	2008-2012	*MDA, *MDH, *UME, CA, SWCD, WMLOs	\$5,000/yr	\$2,500/yr
17. Wellhead Protection. Participate in the preparation and implementation of wellhead protection plans for public water suppliers.	All	2008-2012	*Cities, *MDH, SWCD, WMLOs	\$40,000/yr	\$2,000/yr

GOAL 2: MAINTAIN AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF SURFACE AND GROUND WATER FOR ALL USERS.

Objective 1: Manage water resource supplies to minimize use conflicts.

Initiative	Priority Watershed(s)	Proposed Timeframe	Coordinator(s) (*Lead)	Estimated Cost	
				Overall	County Only
18. Lake Level Conflicts. Work with the DNR and other stakeholders to resolve lake level conflicts.	All	2008-2012	*DNR, SWCD, WMLOs	\$3,000/yr	\$1,000/yr
19. Water Appropriation Permits. Review and provide comments, as necessary, on all water appropriation permit applications submitted to the DNR.	All	2008-2012	*SWCD, DNR, MPCA	TBD	\$500/yr

GOAL 3: PROTECT AND RESTORE CRITICAL AREAS.

Objective 1: Minimize the impact of new and existing development in shoreland areas.

Initiative	Priority Watershed(s)	Proposed Timeframe	Coordinator(s) (*Lead)	Estimated Cost	
				Overall	County Only
20. BMP Program. Provide technical and financial assistance, as available, to landowners for the implementation of shoreland BMPs, including lakescaping and the proper usage of pesticides and other chemicals.	All	2008-2012	*DNR, *WMLOs, SWCD	\$50,000/yr	\$15,000/yr
21. Shoreland Ordinance. Revise the County Shoreland Ordinance, as necessary, to ensure consistent and sustainable development.	All	2008-2012	*PZ, DNR	\$5,000	\$5,000
22. Project Review. Review all shoreland alteration projects requiring County and/or DNR approval.	All	2008-2012	*PZ, *SWCD, DNR, WMLOs	\$5,000/yr	\$5,000/yr

Objective 2: Preserve and restore wetlands.

Initiative	Priority Watershed(s)	Proposed Timeframe	Coordinator(s) (*Lead)	Estimated Cost	
				Overall	County Only
23. WCA Administration. Continue to locally administer the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act.	All	2008-2012	*PZ, *SWCD, BWSR	\$40,000/yr	\$25,000/yr
24. Preservation and Restoration Programs. Provide educational and technical assistance to landowners regarding State and Federal programs to preserve and restore wetlands.	All	2008-2012	*SWCD, *USFWS, *WMLOs, BWSR, DNR, NRCS	\$40,000/yr	\$15,000/yr
25. Wetland Banking. Provide information to landowners who inquire about the State wetland-banking program.	All	2008-2012	*PZ, *SWCD, BWSR	\$7,000/yr	\$7,000/yr
26. Public Drainage Systems. Examine opportunities to abandon or relocate public drainage systems in conjunction with wetland restorations.	All	2008-2012	*HWY, *SWCD	\$10,000/yr	\$1,000/yr

Objective 3. Protect hydrologically sensitive and unique natural areas.

Initiative	Priority Watershed(s)	Proposed Timeframe	Coordinator(s) (*Lead)	Estimated Cost	
				Overall	County Only
27. Greenleaf Recreation Area and Greenleaf, Cedar, and Sioux Lakes Recreation Complex. Support the establishment of the Greenleaf Recreation Area and Greenleaf, Cedar, and Sioux Lakes Recreation Complex.	All	2008-2012	*County	TBD	TBD

GOAL 4: EXPAND OUR KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF WATER RESOURCES.

Objective 1: Improve and expand water resource monitoring efforts.

Initiative	Priority Watershed(s)	Proposed Timeframe	Coordinator(s) (*Lead)	Estimated Cost	
				Overall	County Only
28. Water Quality Monitoring. Cooperatively work with partners to continue and expand surface and ground water quality monitoring efforts.	All	2008-2012	*DNR, *MDA, *MDH, *MPCA, *WMLOs, CA, PH	\$40,000/yr	\$5,000/yr
29. Surface Water Flow Monitoring. Cooperatively work with partners to continue and expand surface water flow monitoring efforts.	All	2008-2012	*DNR, *USGS, *WMLOs, CA	\$5,000/yr	\$1,000/yr
30. Ground Water Level Monitoring. Cooperatively work with partners to continue and expand ground water level monitoring efforts.	All	2008-2012	*DNR, *SWCD	\$4,000/yr	\$2,500/yr

Objective 2: Conduct water resource studies.

Initiative	Priority Watershed(s)	Proposed Timeframe	Coordinator(s) (*Lead)	Estimated Cost	
				Overall	County Only
31. Water Quality Studies. Conduct and/or provide technical and financial assistance, as available, to partners for the completion of water quality studies.	All	2008-2012	*CA, *DNR, *MPCA, *SWCD, *WMLOs	\$25,000/yr	\$5,000/yr
32. TMDL Studies. Cooperatively work with partners to coordinate the preparation and implementation of TMDL studies for impaired waters.	All	2008-2012	*MPCA, *WMLOs, CA, SWCD	TBD	TBD

GOAL 5: PROVIDE FOR EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT PLAN ADMINISTRATION.

Objective 1: Maintain adequate staffing and an active Water Planning Taskforce.

Initiative	Priority Watershed(s)	Proposed Timeframe	Coordinator(s) (* <u>Lead</u>)	Estimated Cost	
				Overall	County Only
33. Local Water Management Coordinator. Maintain the County Local Water Management Coordinator position.	All	2008-2012	* <u>CA</u>	\$3,000/yr	\$3,000/yr
34. Water Planning Taskforce Meetings. Hold regular meetings of the Water Planning Taskforce to discuss current and emerging issues, review progress in achieving Plan initiatives, and prioritize funding requests.	All	2008-2012	* <u>CA</u>	\$500/yr	\$500/yr

Objective 2: Engage the public in water resource management.

Initiative	Priority Watershed(s)	Proposed Timeframe	Coordinator(s) (* <u>Lead</u>)	Estimated Cost	
				Overall	County Only
35. Funding Sources. Provide information to landowners and private interest groups on available funding sources for water resource management activities and projects.	All	2008-2012	* <u>CA</u> , * <u>SWCD</u> , * <u>WMLOs</u> , DNR, MPCA	\$2,000/yr	\$1,000/yr
36. Outreach. Utilize available outreach tools, including the Internet and newsletters, to disseminate information to the public regarding water resource management activities and issues.	All	2008-2012	* <u>CA</u> , * <u>SWCD</u> , * <u>WMLOs</u>	\$5,000/yr	\$1,000/yr

Objective 3: Seek outside funding sources and foster relationships with potential partners.

Initiative	Priority Watershed(s)	Proposed Timeframe	Coordinator(s) (*Lead)	Estimated Cost	
				Overall	County Only
37. Additional Funding Sources. Actively pursue additional funding sources, such as grants, in order to fund the implementation of initiatives. Seek partnerships and cooperative agreements to finance initiatives, when appropriate	All	2008-2012	*CA, *SH/CD, WMLOs	\$1,000/yr	\$1,000/yr
38. Partner Meetings. Hold and/or attend meetings with partners to discuss water resource management issues and potential partnership opportunities.	All	2008-2012	*CA, *SH/CD	\$2,500/yr	\$2,500/yr
39. Joint Powers Board Membership. Continue membership in the Crow River Organization of Water (C.R.O.W.) and Mid-Minnesota Joint Powers Boards.	All	2008-2012	*CA	\$6,000/yr	\$6,000/yr
40. Clean Water Legacy Act. Support the continued funding of the Clean Water Legacy Act.	All	2008-2012	*CA	TBD	TBD

Objective 4: Invest in GIS datasets to aid in water resource management.

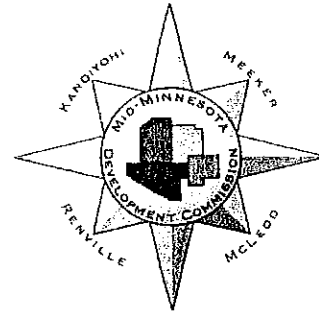
Initiative	Priority Watershed(s)	Proposed Timeframe	Coordinator(s) (*Lead)	Estimated Cost	
				Overall	County Only
41. GIS Datasets. Invest in the acquisition, development, and maintenance of GIS datasets, including the digital soil survey, parcel map, and pictometry. Utilize these datasets to make informed decisions regarding land use planning and water resource management.	All	2008-2012	*County	\$60,000/yr	\$60,000/yr

Objective 5: Implement the County's land use controls.

Initiative	Priority Watershed(s)	Proposed Timeframe	Coordinator(s) (*Lead)	Estimated Cost	
				Overall	County Only
42. Land Use Controls. Continue to implement the County's adopted land use controls, including the zoning, floodplain, ISTS, shoreland, and solid waste ordinances.	All	2008-2012	*PZ, DNR, MPCA, SWCD	\$250,000/yr	\$90,000/yr

Objective 6: Revise the Water Plan.

Initiative	Priority Watershed(s)	Proposed Timeframe	Coordinator(s) (*Lead)	Estimated Cost	
				Overall	County Only
43. Plan Revision. Revise the Water Plan prior to its expiration.	All	2011-2012	*CA	\$30,000	\$30,000



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