

- Mille Lacs central sewers/cluster systems
- MN Dept. of Health well location project

### **ON-THE-GROUND RESULTS**

- Support scenic drives for some roadways
- In lakeshore developments retain some public areas

### **INVENTORY/MONITORING**

- Document current shoreline conditions
- How to identify lake property owners--who owns what
- Questionnaire for landowners on lakes > 300 acres
- Update Water Plan maps (landuse)
- Monitor inputs to lakes and streams in selected watersheds-  
baseline info.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

- Apparent decrease in natural wild rice
- Prioritize goals on a watershed basis
- Aerial reconnaissance for pollution discharges
- Identify task force members--do invitations
- Rice Lake Watershed
- Surface water use (overuse) especially shallow productive areas
- Land rights-Takings/enforcement-high property tax
- Water temps (high) in low water
- Encourage Lake Improvement Districts
- COLA--assist/revitalize
- DNR--good involvement
- DNR's new "Greenways"--"Connecting land types"
- Road salt use or misuse

### **Section V. Plan of Action**

1. The Water Planning Task Force has identified the following priorities for the implementation of the Aitkin County Comprehensive Water Management Plan. Listed below in order of priority are these issues and action items:

#### **I. GROUNDWATER QUALITY Page 40**

- 1.increase inspections of existing sewage systems
- 2.county licensing of septage haulers
- 3.determination of non-conforming septic systems
- 4.hazardous waste management /oil/paint/etc.
- 5.fertilizer and pesticide management
- 6.new well construction
- 7.identify abandoned wells

## II. SURFACE WATER QUALITY Page 45

- 1.lake water quality monitoring
- 2.monitor specific lakes/rice paddies
- 3.Mississippi River monitoring
- 4.erosion and sediment control

## III. FLOODPLAIN AND SHORELAND MANAGEMENT Page 50

- 1.inspect and report on water control structures
- 2.sizing of road culverts
- 3.flowage rights
- 4.establish gauging stations

## IV. FISH/WILDLIFE/RECREATION Page 53

- 1.protect spawning areas
- 2.consideration of wildlife habitat in mngmt activities
- 3.support lake survey activities

## V. DITCH MAINTENANCE Page 54

- 1.Appoint a Ditch Administrator
- 2.evaluate and make a county-wide plan
- 3.enforce 16.5' grass strip
- 4.ditch system repair fund

## VI. GROUNDWATER QUANTITY Page 56

- 1.evaluate proposed large impervious areas
- 2.protect wetlands and ponding areas
- 3.expand groundwater level monitoring

## VII. RUNOFF MANAGEMENT Page 58

- 1.maintain pre-development runoff rates
- 2.investigate new public ditches & improvements
- 3.no filling of wetlands without compensatory storage

## I. GROUNDWATER QUALITY

### Introduction

Groundwater quality is an important concern for water supplies that draw from surficial glacial drift aquifers. Virtually all public and private water supplies are drawn from these aquifers. Groundwater quality data is limited within the County. Public water systems are required to test their water on a regular basis. The County landfill also has groundwater monitoring sites. No other known monitoring sites exist.

Potential sources of groundwater contamination are identified through several Minnesota Pollution Control Agency programs and inventories. These programs and inventories have certain requirements guiding their comprehensiveness and applicability. Potential pollution sources of

certain types and quantities may not be included in existing programs or are not administered effectively. Examples include feedlots under a certain size limit, leaks from underground storage tanks, and agriculture-related pollution sources. The comprehensiveness of existing information appropriate to the County level of analysis is of concern to Aitkin County.

### Management Strategies

Groundwater management strategies are divided into five separate categories: a) Hazardous Waste Management, b) Solid Waste Management, c) Agricultural Chemicals, d) Well Construction and Abandonment, and e) Groundwater Monitoring.

To address these concerns, the following strategies have been developed.

#### Hazardous Waste

1.01 Continue a program of biennial inspections by a County appointed officer of all licensed hazardous waste generators in the County and report suspected violators to the MPCA and investigate reports of unlicensed generators.

1.02 Cooperate to develop a response plan including evaluation and follow-up for unpermitted hazardous waste disposal.

1.03 Coordinate with the County Comprehensive land use management plan to ensure compatibility with water management objectives and policies.

1.04 Support the regulation by County ordinance the sound environmental management of scrap yards that contain materials such as oil transmission fluid, batteries, brake fluid, gasoline, etc.

#### Agricultural Chemicals

1.05 Support the State's inspection of all retail bulk fertilizer and pesticide operators for conformance with the State's Bulk Pesticide and Liquid Fertilizer storage rules.

1.06 Encourage through education that the application of pesticides on forest and agricultural lands follow "Best Management Practices."

#### **Well Construction and Abandonment**

1.07 Support the regulation of the construction of new wells according to State codes.

1.08 In cooperation with the MN Dept. of Health, complete the inventory of existing wells, including abandoned wells and support the groundwater depth and flow project that is based on the inventory focusing on surficial glacial aquifers supplying public water supplies, groundwater recharge areas for public water supplies, and the artesian areas of Aitkin County.

1.09 Continue cost-share assistance to private landowners for sealing abandoned water wells.

## Groundwater Monitoring

1.10 Expand and promote existing private water well testing program.

1.11 Investigate increasing the number of analytical parameters for private water well testing.

### **Implementation**

The implementation of the groundwater strategies will primarily be an expansion of existing County and State efforts. The County Health Department will be responsible for hazardous waste management, well construction and abandonment, and groundwater quality monitoring. The Planning and Zoning Department through its Solid Waste Officer will be responsible for solid waste management.

### **Hazardous Waste Management**

The identified strategies call for increased involvement of the County in assisting MPCA in regulating hazardous wastes. The County Health Department shall initiate a program to inspect biennially, all MPCA-permitted hazardous waste generators and to report violations to the MPCA. The County shall investigate and report to MPCA any suspected unpermitted sites or illegal hazardous waste disposal sites.

The County shall assist MPCA in administration of the Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program through inventorying local underground tanks and inspecting for compliance at permitted sites every two years. In turn, MPCA shall be requested to provide UST monitoring results to the County for inclusion in its groundwater quality database.

The County shall also inventory and report on secondary containment compliance of all above-ground liquid storage tanks with a capacity greater than 1,000 gallons.

The management strategies developed for this section are not intended to supersede any current County solid waste planning activities. The intent is to augment the solid waste plan with concerns and issues raised by the public and to ensure compatibility of the two plans.

### **Agricultural Chemicals**

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture currently regulates the handling, storage, and custom application of retail agricultural chemicals. Compliance with bulk agricultural retail chemical regulations is the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture. The Water Planning Task Force will coordinate with the Department of Agriculture to ensure that inspections are carried out.

## **Well Construction and Abandonment**

The Minnesota Department of Health, in cooperation with local governments, shall prepare an inventory of abandoned wells in the County. They shall also cooperate with the SWCD in providing cost share assistance to private landowners for sealing abandoned water wells.

## **II. SURFACE WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT**

### **Introduction**

Lakes and streams within Aitkin County are important to the residents of the County. These waters provide tourism opportunities, recreational activities, storage for flood waters, and a low cost conduit that is available to convey storm water runoff within the watershed, a valuable habitat for fish and wildlife and a source of water supply. The presence of excessive physical or chemical impurities or excessive biological activity could adversely affect the economic well being of the County.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency website contains information regarding lakes and streams in the county.

### **Management Strategy**

Surface water quality management strategies are divided into four distinct categories: a) monitoring, b) treatment of runoff, c) individual sewage treatment systems, and d) public education. To address these specific categories, the following strategies have been developed:

#### **Surface Water Quality Monitoring:**

2.01 The County shall inform and encourage local lake associations and individuals to participate in the MPCA's lake water quality monitoring program.

2.02 The County shall identify representative lakes based on shoreland zoning classes and other physical and biological criteria, and develop a baseline lake and watershed monitoring program for each.

2.03 Request the Mississippi Headwaters Board to develop or assist in developing an in-river water quality monitoring program for the Mississippi River focusing on water quality and flow.

#### **Treatment of Runoff:**

2.04 Support increased levels of assistance to local landowners for agriculture erosion and sediment control.

2.05 Support the Aitkin County Shoreland Management Ordinance.

2.06 Identify critical areas and minimize where possible the use of road de-icing salt on these areas. Also request townships, municipalities, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation to reduce the use of deicing salts in Aitkin County. Special consideration should be given to avoid concentrations of de-icing salts near lakes and streams.

2.07 Promote riparian buffers through Green Shores and the USDA Conservation Reserve program for land areas contributing significant sediment loads to surface water bodies.

2.08 Support spill control and secondary containment measures by bulk petroleum and chemical dealers, according to MPCA and Minnesota Department of Agriculture rules.

2.09 Support the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's program of the Licensing of chemical applicators.

2.10 Encourage a priority of mechanical weed control in County road right-of-way maintenance and encourage local entities to prioritize the use of mechanical weed control versus chemical control and chemical spot versus broadcast.

2.11 The SWCD shall inventory lakeshore and streambank erosion sites and provide technical assistance for the control of erosion in these areas. Cost-share incentives may be applied as appropriate.

2.12 Provide information to local lake associations for identifying and procuring cost share assistance for water quality improvement through state or federal grant programs.

2.13 Encourage that land management activities on all ownerships follow the Best Management Practices established for those activities in Minnesota.

2.14 SWCD office to be involved in the identification and evaluation of areas subject to erosion and sedimentation from uncontrolled access of livestock to surface waters so that potential cost-share assistance can be secured.

#### Individual Sewage Treatment Systems:

2.15 The County shall continue enforcement of its ISTS program and require all local communities to adopt a program that is consistent with County rules.

2.16 The County shall continue its inspections of every individual sewage system upon installation and increase inspections of existing sewage systems, particularly in shoreland areas.

2.17 Request MPCA inspection of records and sites of MPCA-approved septage and municipal sludge disposal areas for runoff control and correct disposal amounts.

2.18 Infrared photo and other techniques may be used to assist in the determination of nonconforming or violating systems in shoreland areas.

2.19 The County shall continue the requirement that a state licensed operator conduct pumping and disposal of private septic waste.

Education:

2.20 Maintain existing water planning task force to biennially review progress of water plan implementation, coordinate annual work plans, and to recommend amendments to this plan when necessary.

2.21 Task Force shall develop, coordinate, and disseminate educational material on:

- a. Proper utilization of lawn care products with emphasis on shoreland areas.
- b. Water quality monitoring results.
- c. Maintenance and care of on-site septic systems.
- d. Best Management Practices for agricultural and forestry practices.
- e. Other surface and groundwater informational or educational needs.

2.22 The SWCD will serve as a clearing house of all surface and groundwater quantity or quality data collected in the County. These records shall be available to other agencies and the general public.

2.23 Continue SWCD review of zoning plats for erosion and sediment control measures.

### **Surface Water Quality Monitoring**

The SWCD will take the lead role in Aitkin County to collect and evaluate surface water quality. The initial step will be to solicit lakeshore residents or associations to participate in MPCA's lake monitoring program. The individuals or lake associations performing the monitoring will pay for Secchi discs needed to obtain measurements. The SWCD shall collect and create a database for this information received and also forward results to the MNDNR and MPCA and EPA.

The second step to be taken involves the water quality modeling prediction of lakes in the Ripple, Gun, and Sandy River watersheds. Modeling efforts will result in the identification of lakes with the potential for future water quality problems. Management efforts will then focus on those sensitive or threatened lakes.

The third step of this program involves detailed diagnostic/feasibility studies of lakes that:

- a. Have a threatened or restricted swimmable use.
- b. Have lake associations available to finance a significant portion of monitoring and feasibility study costs.
- c. Are in the direct drainage area of an economically (tourism) important watershed.

### **Treatment of Runoff**

The implementation of this strategy emphasizes the continuation or modification of existing programs. The SWCD and USDA-NRCS currently provide private landowners extensive technical assistance with erosion and sediment control.

Forest-land management should follow the Best Management Practices established for Forestry in Minnesota. State and Federal funding of land reserve programs will continue to be emphasized. The SWCD shall also assist land and lakeshore owners in soliciting State and Federal cost share monies for lake management and erosion control purposes.

### **Individual Sewage Treatment Systems**

The County Health and Planning and Zoning Departments will provide the lead role in the implementation of this strategy. As per existing County regulations, all individual sewage treatment systems (ISTS) must be installed by a licensed contractor according to State Rules 7080 requirements. The County shall also require disposal of septage and sewage sludge by licensed haulers and according to guidelines established by the MPCA.

### **Education**

The focus of this strategy is to increase public awareness of water quality through a coordinated multi-agency approach. The existing Aitkin County Water Planning Task Force currently provides a forum of private individuals and local, County, regional, State, and Federal agencies. This strategy calls for the continuation of the Task force and to specifically charge the group with the development, implementation, and coordination of a public information program.

## **III. FLOODPLAIN AND SHORELAND MANAGEMENT**

### **Introduction**

Floodplain and shoreland management is necessary to: maintain sufficient floodway capacity; minimize flood-related property damage; protection of the lives of persons living in floodplains; and to preserve or enhance the quality of surface waters. The 100-year floodplain boundary has been established as part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Studies and has been used as a guide for development of the Mississippi River and its tributaries. Aitkin

County, through the MNDNR, has been charged with administering a Floodplain and Shoreland Management Program. All shoreland and floodplain areas in Aitkin County are administered under this program. In addition, the Mississippi Headwaters Board has land use responsibilities on certain lands adjacent to the Mississippi River.

The Flood Insurance Studies were conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers and utilized existing land use and runoff characteristics. Regulations for shoreland development were developed by the MNDNR and were adopted by Aitkin County in 1992 and amended in 2001.

These regulations are based upon a classification scheme for public waters and establish land use zoning districts. Information gathered in the inventory section of this plan does not indicate the revision of Flood Insurance Studies after the installation of the Mississippi River Floodwater Diversion Channel. Certain lakes have also seen increases in water elevations that are impacting lakeshore properties.

### **Management Strategy**

Aitkin County is responsible, by State law, to administer and manage shoreland and floodplain areas. In general, the County will continue to successfully manage and regulate these areas. To augment existing programs, the following strategies have been adopted:

3.01 The County shall continue to enforce its existing floodplain regulations that prohibit encroachment in the defined floodway, and guide the development of structures in the flood fringe.

3.02 Continue to monitor water levels and flows on selected streams and lakes with existing or past water level problems.

3.03 The County will encourage and cooperate with the MNDNR to identify lakes in the County with water level problems, assist in the placement of gages for the purpose of water level monitoring, re-evaluate or determine Ordinary High Water Levels for these lakes, and assist in the development of a specific management plan for each lake which is consistent with the policies established in this plan.

### **Implementation**

The County will oversee the floodplain and shoreland management program through its current Planning and Zoning Department. Enforcement of these strategies will be the responsibility of the County.

### **Schedule and Costs**

Existing staff within existing budgets will primarily conduct Shoreland and floodplain management activities.

## **IV. FISH, WILDLIFE, AND RECREATION**

## Introduction

Aitkin County has an abundance of fish, wildlife, and recreational resources available. Efforts to manage these resources are currently being carried out by Aitkin County, the Minnesota DNR, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Program efforts include lake surveys and fish management plans, waterfowl and upland game management, protection of endangered species, county & state parks, county & state forest campgrounds, and other programs.

## Management Strategy

The following management strategies have been developed to support and augment existing county, state and federal fish, wildlife, and recreational efforts:

4.01 Support and administer the Wetland Conservation Act and provisions of the County Wetland Plan that is under development. Follow wetland protection policies identified in the Surface Water Runoff and Quality Protection sections of this plan.

4.02 Support continued cooperation among land management agencies such as: (MNDNR, County Land Dept., County SWCD, U.S.F&WS, County Planning and Zoning, MN Extension Service etc.) regarding land management activities that impact fish and wildlife habitat in wetlands or lakes.

4.03 Fish and wildlife management, water quality and other impacts (recreation, erosion control, etc.) shall be considered in the operation of water control structures throughout the county including, but not limited to, Big Sandy, Rice Lake Refuge, etc. and the design of any water control or retention structures installed by the departments of the County.

4.04 Support the MNDNR efforts to protect the natural spawning areas of Mille Lacs Lake, including shoreland and watershed management to minimize detrimental effects of sedimentation.

4.05 Encourage expanding the availability of sanitary facilities for areas of concentrated fish houses.

4.06 The County will support the continuation of the MNDNR lake survey program to determine status, quality, and fish management needs of County lakes.

4.07 Continue to provide to the general public information on the prevention or control of aquatic weed growth and State regulations that govern aquatic weed control.

4.08 Assess the impacts of recreational uses of county lakes and develop programs to restrict or reduce that use if excessive erosion, pollution, noise or speed problems are noted.

## Implementation Strategy

Fish, wildlife and recreational resources will be protected by the County's enforcement of its shoreland ordinances and wetland protection policies and as outlined above.

## Schedule and Costs

The implementation of these fish, wildlife, and recreation strategies can be implemented immediately through existing programs. Evaluating recreational impacts on county lakes will be completed on a request basis with costs to be borne by the respective lake association.

## **V. PUBLIC DITCH MAINTENANCE**

### Introduction

The County, State, and Judicial ditch network existing within Aitkin County is very extensive, comprising over 600 miles of public ditches. Many of these ditches were established by the Conservation Corps in the early 1900's and are primarily for agricultural land drainage.

The County is regulated by Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103E for the repair, improvement, or construction of these ditches.

Many of these drainage systems have not been maintained since their original construction and are currently providing few drainage benefits. Beaver dam construction also plays a significant role in the operation and maintenance of these systems. Beaver control in the drainage system has been accomplished on an erratic basis with no uniform County or MNDNR policy on beaver control.

### Management Strategy

In regard to ditches, the County has formulated the following strategies:

5.01 Cooperate with the Ditch Administrator to address water quality concerns relating to ditch maintenance, repair or ditch creation

5.02 The County will maintain all public ditches in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 1063E, Laws of 1988.

5.03 The County will enforce the 16.5-foot grass strip requirements as set forth in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103E.

5.04 The County will coordinate with the MNDNR to develop a County policy for beaver control on the public ditch system.

5.05 The County shall establish a Drainage System Repair Fund for each functioning ditch system within the County to be used only for repairs on the respective ditches, according to Minnesota Statutes 103E.

5.06 Support an evaluation of the existing ditch system and the formation of a county-wide ditch management plan.

## **Implementation**

The County will oversee the operation and maintenance of the public ditch system through the auspices of a County appointed ditch administrator. The administrator will be responsible for the identification of public ditches that currently provide a public or private benefit. The administrator will inspect these ditches and report to the County Board those systems that are in need of repair. The County Board will establish a ditch maintenance fund according to Minnesota Statutes 103E. Funds from this account will provide revenue for inspections and small maintenance work. Ditches in need of significant repair will only be funded by special assessment, or county board initiative, after County receipt of a petition from benefited land owners.

The county shall also coordinate with the MNDNR for developing a uniform policy for the control of beaver obstructions in the drainage systems.

## **VI. GROUNDWATER QUANTITY**

### **Introduction**

Aitkin County has extensive glacial drift groundwater resources. Over 50 percent of the County area has a water table depth of 5 feet or less. This has presented the problem of too much groundwater rather than a shortage. The County also has a unique groundwater feature directly north of Aitkin in the form of an artesian discharge area.

The management and implementation strategies outlined below apply to the maintenance of existing available groundwater supplies.

### **Management Strategy**

To plan for adequate groundwater supplies in the future, Aitkin County will rely primarily upon existing County and State programs. The following strategies have been developed to support existing groundwater quantity management:

6.01 Through existing County and municipal land use ordinances, large (over 20,000 square feet) proposed impervious areas shall be evaluated for impacts on groundwater recharge.

6.02 Through implementation of runoff management and water quality strategies in this plan, wetlands and ponding basins will be protected or designed for groundwater recharge purposes.

6.03 Rely upon the MNDNR through its water use permit program to evaluate impacts of groundwater withdrawal from new water users.

6.04 Expand existing groundwater level monitoring programs and incorporate into County and State database programs.

6.05 Provide water conservation education materials to local homeowners through the Health and Extension Departments with coordination from the Water Planning task force.

## Implementation

The Minnesota Department of Health and the Aitkin County SWCD will take the lead role in groundwater management. They shall coordinate with the Planning and Zoning Departments and MNDNR to review any major impervious area land use change proposals and water use permits required by the MNDNR. They will also be responsible for the increase in groundwater level monitoring in the County, focusing specifically on non-private water systems.

Through coordination with the Aitkin County Water Planning Task Force, educational materials on water use laws and water conservation shall be developed.

## **7. SURFACE WATER RUNOFF MANAGEMENT**

### Introduction

Surface water runoff in Aitkin County is characterized by a well developed river system. The Mississippi River is the predominant drainage system that enters the County on the north and flows southward towards Aitkin and then exits along the western border of the County. Over 90 percent of the surface area in Aitkin county drains to the Mississippi River. The County is rural in nature with predominant land uses consisting of forests, wetlands, pasture land, and agriculture. The County has over 300 lakes and is experiencing development pressures on these lakes. The County also has an extensive drainage ditch system (over 600 miles). Much of the County experiences a high water table or flooding because of the flat topography.

Management responsibilities of surface water runoff currently exists with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Big Sandy and Mille Lacs reservoirs, the Mississippi River, and wetland filling), Aitkin County (shoreland, floodplain zoning, Wetland Conservation Act and County ditches), municipalities and townships (land use development, floodplain, storm sewers), and MNDNR (Protected Waters Program, wildlife management area control structures).

The hydrologic system has been analyzed through a number of different studies. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers first studied the Mississippi River in the 1890's to store water for improvement of navigation on the reach of the Mississippi from St. Paul, Minnesota to Lake Pepin. Later channelization of the Mississippi River in the St. Paul vicinity eliminated the need for headwaters reservoirs to supply additional discharge during low flow conditions. Since downstream channelization, the primary function of Big Sandy Lake reservoir is to provide flood control and recreation for the public. This study also determined peak discharges and floodplain elevations for the Mississippi River. An additional study was conducted for the establishment of the bypass diversion on the Mississippi River. In 1988, a risk assessment study was conducted on the Big Sandy Lake dam. Numerous County drainage ditches have been installed that drain into the Mississippi. Data was not present to identify predicted increases in peak flow or increases to the established 100-year flood elevations.

As development has occurred on lakes, some lakes are currently experiencing localized flooding. Hydrologic evaluations have not been conducted to predict increased runoff from these developments.

### Management Strategies

To effectuate responsible runoff management, Aitkin County will primarily rely upon the use of existing local, County, State, and Federal programs and personnel. The strategy of the County is to require local communities and land developers to provide storage and control structures to maintain existing floodplain elevations. This may require storm water ponding from local communities, townships, and land developers. The following strategies have been developed to maintain existing peak discharges and flood elevation profiles:

7.01 Through Planning and Zoning ordinances, require future shoreland or urban developments, of 5 acres or larger, to provide adequate controls to maintain predevelopment runoff rates.

7.02 Require hydrologic investigations of any new public ditches or improvements to existing public drainage systems.

7.03 Continue to administer the Wetlands Conservation Act.

7.04 Request the State, Mississippi Headwaters Board, and Army Corps of Engineers to continue the primary purpose of the headwaters dams as flood control structures.

7.05 Request the Corps of Engineers to re-evaluate/utilize the flowage rights on Big Sandy and other reservoir lakes to alleviate downstream flooding and flood damages.

7.06 Request MNDNR and ACOE to inspect and report on the condition of water control structures they operate on a five-year basis.

7.07 Require that new road culverts be sized, by recognized engineering methods, to accommodate anticipated future levels of runoff for a 25-year flood event. Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District can be contacted for assistance in sizing of culverts.

7.08 Through existing County and municipal land use ordinances, large (over 20,000 square feet) proposed impervious areas shall be evaluated by a county appointed office for impacts on areas of known groundwater recharge.

### Implementation

The County will oversee surface water runoff management by modifying its existing authorities on land use development and increasing its coordination with other water regulating authorities. Future developments, whether County or locally regulated, will be required to evaluate runoff impacts and if necessary, implement storage basins and control structures to maintain existing levels of runoff.

## Schedule and Costs

Costs associated with implementing the runoff management strategies can be separated into three categories:

1. Revision of existing county ordinances.
2. Review of local plans and permits.
3. Coordination with State and Federal agencies.

### Timeframe for completion of action items:

This is a five year plan. It is understood that many of the actions can be accomplished during this period of time. Other actions are on-going and are planned to continue well beyond the five year scope of this plan.

### Administration responsibilities:

Several agencies share responsibility for natural resource information and oversight. The following chart shows some of those responsibilities.

AGENCY	FSA	NRCS	SWCD	DNR	ACLD	ACPZ	MN EXT	MHB
building permits						X		
shoreland site reviews			X					
wildlife habitat				X				
forest management				X	X			
Mississippi River					X			X
fishing/hunting regulations/info.				X				
agricultural questions	X	X						
fact sheets /education							X	
wetland questions		X	X			X		
lake water quality			X	X				
tree sales			X	X				
soil survey		X						
cost-share programs	X		X					
soil erosion ?'s		X	X					
GIS				X	X			

BMP's							X	
INTERNET							X	

**CONFLICT RESOLUTION (LOCAL)**

Conflicts arising from the implementation of this plan will be brought to the Water Planning Task Force for resolution as a first step. The Task Force, County Board of Commissioners, and upon request, the Mississippi Headwaters Board, will meet with the person(s) who identified the conflict and seek to resolve it.

If the conflict cannot be resolved at the local level, the formal conflict resolution process will be started.

In summary:

We hope this water planning document is helpful to the reader. Aitkin County is proud of our accomplishments in the past decade and look forward to even greater success in the future.

Questions or comments related to Aitkin County's water planning process should be directed to:

WATER PLAN COORDINATOR  
 130 SOUTHAGTE DRIVE  
 AITKIN, MN 56431

(218) 927-6565 or email us at: [hughes.aitkinswcd@gmail.com](mailto:hughes.aitkinswcd@gmail.com)