

## Chapter Two: Goals, Objectives and Action Steps

This Chapter establishes Yellow Medicine County’s Goals, Objectives and Action Steps for each of the County’s high priority issues. In review, the County’s five priority issues are:

- ✓ *Groundwater Protection*
- ✓ *Erosion and Sediment Control*
- ✓ *Reducing Priority Pollutants*
- ✓ *Managing Flooding*
- ✓ *Surface Water and Drainage Management*

### 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 (**An \*Asterisk, Underlined, and Bold means lead action step responsibility**):

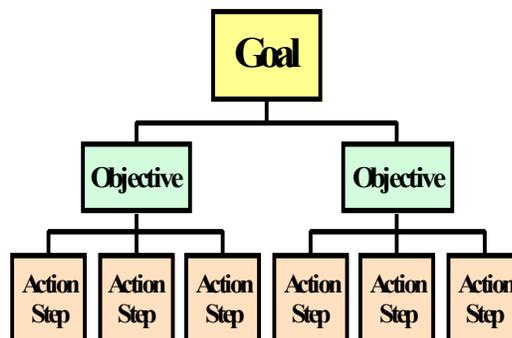
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| <b>CB</b> = County Board   | <b>USACE</b> = U.S. Army Corps of Engineers      |
| <b>PC</b> = County Planning Commission                                 | <b>BWSR</b> = Board of Water & Soil Resources    |
| <b>PZ</b> = County Planning & Zoning                                   | <b>DNR</b> = Department of Natural Resources     |
| <b>DA</b> = County Ditch Authority                                     | <b>FWS</b> = U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service        |
| <b>HD</b> = County Highway Department                                  | <b>MDA</b> = Minnesota Department of Agriculture |
| <b>YMR</b> = Yellow Medicine River Watershed                           | <b>MDH</b> = Minnesota Department of Health      |
| <b>LqP</b> = Lac qui Parle Watershed                                   | <b>MDOT</b> = MN Department of Transportation    |
| <b>MGS</b> = Minnesota Geological Survey                               | <b>CPH</b> = Countryside Public Health           |
| <b>SWCD</b> = Soil and Water Conservation District                     | <b>MPCA</b> = Minnesota Pollution Control Agency |
| <b>WPC</b> = Water Planning Coordinator                                | <b>UMES</b> = University of MN Extension Service |
| <b>NRCS</b> = Natural Resources Conservation Service                   |  |
| <b>UMVRDC</b> = Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission |  |

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.



## PRIORITY ISSUE #1: GROUNDWATER PROTECTION

### Priority Concern:

*“Aiding public water suppliers with the development of wellhead protection plans and by providing assistance to help manage vulnerable areas from potential contamination sources.”*

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

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**Objective A:** Assist with wellhead protection planning.

#### *Actions:*

1. Participate on wellhead/source water protection teams when invited by the local public water suppliers.

*Who:* \*WPC, SWCD                      *When:* 2005 – 2009                      *Cost:* \$1,000

2. Create GIS shape files identifying and showing wellhead protection areas.

*Who:* \*MDH                                      *When:* As Available                      *Cost:* \$1,000

3. Contact cities and the rural water system with available assistance. Advise and assist public water suppliers with technical land use information and planning assistance when Wellhead Protections Plans are developed.

*Who:* \*PZ, SWCD                              *When:* As Available                      *Cost:* \$1,000

4. Contact property owners in the Wellhead Protection Areas to encourage enrollment in easement programs (such as CRP, RIM) and to establish buffer strips.

*Who:* \*SWCD                                      *When:* 2005 – 2009                      *Cost:* \$1,000

5. If wellhead protection areas for public water suppliers have not been established yet - identify and prioritize a two mile radius around each public water well for BMP land use incentive programs.

*Who:* \*WPC, SWCD, PZ                              *When:* 2005                              *Cost:* \$1,000



7. Promote water conservation by using existing materials and resources (i.e., Minnesota Rural Water Association’s handouts).

*Who:* \*WPC, SWCD                      *When:* 2005 – 2009                      *Cost:* \$800

8. Through an education campaign, identify steps in the demolition of vacant building sites so that all wells are sealed, underground storage tanks are removed, and hazardous waste is disposed of properly before demolition occurs.

*Who:* \*WPC, PZ                              *When:* 2005 – 2009                      *Cost:* \$500

9. Continue to provide financial assistance as available to seal 20 abandoned wells per year.

*Who:* \*WPC, PZ                              *When:* 2005 – 2009                      *Cost:* \$5,000/yr.

**PRIORITY ISSUE #2:  
EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL**

**Priority Concern:**

**“Erosion and sediment control on agricultural lands.”**

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**EROSION AND SEDIMENT GOAL: *To PROTECT AND IMPROVE THE SOIL RESOURCES AND SURFACE WATER QUALITY IN THE COUNTY.***

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**Objective A:** Reduce erosion and sediment problems to sustainable levels by promoting the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs).

1. Plan BMPs for 20,000 cropland acres. Concentration will be on areas in the County that were designated as high priority areas. Such as:
  - a. Yellow Medicine Watershed, in particular portions of Sandnes, Norman, Wergeland, and a portion of the Yellow Medicine River, from Hanley Falls to the Minnesota River.
  - b. Lac qui Parle Watershed, in particular portions of Norman, Omro, Oshkosh, Tyro and Wergeland Townships.
  - c. Canby Creek Watershed, in particular above Del Clark Lake.
  - d. Above the structure on the Lazarus Creek Watershed.
  - e. Public Wellhead Protection Areas.
  - f. Main Channel of the Yellow Medicine River.
  - g. Land adjacent to the Lake of Wood Lake.

*Who:* \*SWCD, PZ                              *When:* 2005 – 2009                      *Cost:* \$20,000

2. Reduce the amount of wind erosion on the most severely erodible acres by designing and planting 50,000 feet of field windbreaks and/or living snowfences, 50 acres of farmstead windbreaks and 25 acres of wildlife habitat. Continue to promote the installation of plastic mulch for better weed control and/or soil moisture.

**Who:** \*SWCD, MnDOT, HD      **When:** 2005 – 2009      **Cost:** \$150,000

3. Conduct a Conservation Tillage Transect Survey for the County. Take information from conservation tillage survey and establish priorities for educational purposes and analyze data on tillage systems and crop residue cover. Seek to achieve a 10% increase in fields meeting crop residue targets countywide based on tillage transect survey. Promote enrollment of 10,000 acres into the residue management practice incentive program offered through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).

**Who:** \*SWCD, NRCS      **When:** 2005 – 2009      **Cost:** \$300,000

4. Reduce the amount of water erosion on severely eroded acres by the installation of the following conservation practices. Continue to work with the Yellow Medicine River Watershed and the Lac qui Parle Watershed Clean Water Partnerships to accelerate the implementation of those practices in the high priority areas:

- a. Terraces and/or water & sediment control basins      25,000 feet
- b. Grass Waterways      50 acres

**Who:** \*SWCD, NRCS      **When:** 2005 – 2009      **Cost:** \$300,000

5. Continue to manage CREP, RIM and CRP easements, monitor sites to see that conservation practices are installed and conduct status reviews.

**Who:** \*SWCD, NRCS      **When:** 2005 – 2009      **Cost:** \$10,000

6. Establish 800 new acres of filter strips/buffers along ditches and streams to capture sediment as it leaves the fields. Maintain the minimum one-rod grassed areas as it applies to drainage policy. Continue to work with the Yellow Medicine River Watershed and the Lac qui Parle Watershed Clean Water Partnerships to accelerate the implementation of those practices in the high priority areas.

**Who:** \*SWCD, NRCS, DA, YMR, LqP      **When:** 2005 – 2009      **Cost:** \$300,000

7. Enroll 500 acres of cropland subject to severe erosion into existing programs (i.e., CRP, RIM, etc.).

**Who:** \*SWCD, NRCS

**When:** 2005 – 2009

**Cost:** \$150,000

8. Enroll 200 acres of pasture into prescribed grazing systems.

**Who:** \*SWCD, NRCS

**When:** 2005 – 2009

**Cost:** \$2,000

9. Conduct an annual meeting of stakeholders and/or Local Work Group to discuss resource concerns and set priority areas for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Promote installation of best management practices utilizing the EQIP and/or the State Cost Share Program, and the Ag BMP Loan Program for financial support. Convene Local Work Group Meetings for EQIP to discuss priority practices and priority areas. Assist with taking applications and planning for EQIP contracts.

**Who:** \*SWCD, NRCS

**When:** 2005 – 2009

**Cost:** \$1,000

10. Educate landowners/operators about erosion and sediment control, the importance of installing conservation practices and encourage enrollment into conservation programs by providing information and options about BMP's through newsletters, news releases and individual contacts.

**Who:** \*SWCD

**When:** 2005 – 2009

**Cost:** \$1,500

11. Restore 50 acres of wetlands into conservation programs.

**Who:** \*SWCD, NRCS

**When:** 2005 – 2009

**Cost:** \$200,000

**PRIORITY ISSUE #3:  
REDUCING PRIORITY POLLUTANTS**

**Priority Concern:**

*“Reduce priority pollutants, nutrients and bacteria, related to feedlots and non-conforming individual sewage treatment systems.”*

**PRIORITY POLLUTANT GOAL: TO ENHANCE AND RESTORE THE COUNTY’S WATER QUALITY.**

**Objective A:** Reduce priority pollutants to sustainable levels.

**Actions:**

1. Work with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to develop and action plan for removing the following Yellow Medicine’s impaired waters off the TMDL 303d listing:

Reach	New or Previous Listing	Affected use	Pollutant or stressor
Del Clark Lake	New	Aquatic consumption	Mercury and Fecal Coliform
Yellow Medicine River	Previous Listing	Impaired River	Mercury and Turbidity
Lac qui Parle River	Previous Listing	Impaired River	Mercury
Minnesota River	Previous Listing	Impaired River	Mercury, PCBs, Turbidity, and Fecal Coliform
Spring Creek	Previous Listing	Impaired River	Biota

- a. Facilitation and scoping – MPCA lead with County and other local resource partner’s assistance.
- b. Intense monitoring/problem investigation and verification – MPCA lead with County and other local resource partner’s assistance.
- c. TMDL development (model development, allocation exercise and public notice/EPA approval – MPCA lead with County and other local resource partner’s assistance.
- d. Implementation plan development – County and other local resource partner’s lead with MPCA and other assistance.
- e. Post monitoring and accomplishment reporting – County and other local resource partner’s lead.

**Who:** \*MPCA, WPC, SWCD

**When:** 2005 – 2009

**Cost:** \$Unknown

2. Promote the timing, rate, and placement of synthetic and/or organic fertilizers and pesticides using incentives (such as EQIP and others). Develop nutrient and pesticide management plans, targeting 12,000 acres countywide. Provide continual information and education to landowners regarding the need to follow the University of Minnesota's nutrient management recommendations.

**Who:** \*SWCD, NRCS                      **When:** 2005 – 2009                      **Cost:** \$120,000

3. Upgrade 50 Individual Sewage Treatment Systems per year. Continually seek funding, administer the Ag BMP Loan Program and Clean Water Partnership Low Interest Loan Program offering landowners a low interest loan for fixing their non-conforming ISTS.

**Who:** \*PZ, WPC, SWCD,                      **When:** 2005 – 2009                      **Cost:** \$1,000,000  
Watersheds

4. Seek funds to assist with TMDL or Clean Water Partnership based activities.

**Who:** \*Watersheds                      **When:** 2005 – 2009                      **Cost:** \$500

5. Protect Del Clark Lake by encouraging landowners to install Best Management Practices. Seal two abandoned wells, bring two non-conforming sewer systems, and one feedlot into compliance in the Canby Creek Watershed.

**Who:** \*PZ, SWCD, WPC, NRCS                      **When:** 2005 – 2009                      **Cost:** \$25,000

6. Implement the following strategies to address feedlot compliance:
- a. Continue to develop a GIS layer of feedlots registered under current MPCA registration guidelines.
  - b. Incorporate the database with the feedlots permitted by MPCA.
  - c. Develop an informational packet to mail to registered feedlot operators to assist them with contacts for technical questions (compliance, design, manure management) and financial incentives.
  - d. Assist 10% of the noncompliant feedlots by 2008.
  - e. Inspect 10% (approximately 37) of the County's feedlots annually.

**Who:** \*PZ, WPC                      **When:** 2005 – 2009                      **Cost:** \$15,000

7. Assist five feedlot operators per year with completing MPCA permits. Assist feedlot operators in seeking financial assistance through EQIP, State Cost-Share and the Ag BMP Low Interest Loan Program.

**Who:** \*PZ, SWCD, NRCS                      **When:** 2005 – 2009                      **Cost:** \$4,000

8. Create a GIS layer of all septic systems installed in the County.

**Who:** \*PZ

**When:** 2006

**Cost:** \$10,000

9. Map cropland fields that have been identified as needed for manure application through manure management plans. This will be done by watershed.

**Who:** \*PZ

**When:** 2005 – 2009

**Cost:** \$7,000

### **PRIORITY ISSUE #4: MANAGE FLOODING**

#### **Priority Concern:**

*“Manage flooding and its’ effects minimizing losses associated with the flooding of agricultural lands.”*

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#### **FLOOD GOAL: TO IMPLEMENT SOUND FLOOD MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

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**Objective A:** Minimize losses associated with the flooding of agricultural lands.

#### *Actions:*

1. Address the smaller flood events such as 2 year and 5 year events by restoring 75 acres of wetlands through various conservation programs. Target sites within the watersheds to achieve strategic flood storage in conjunction with water quality and wildlife benefits.

**Who:** \*SWCD, NRCS,  
YMR, LqP

**When:** 2005 – 2009

**Cost:** \$300,000

2. Take flood prone land along rivers, streams and waterways out of crop production by encouraging enrollment into land retirement programs, such as CRP, RIM, WRP, etc., and applying best management practices to those areas (also see Priority Issue #2, Actions 6 and 7).

**Who:** \*SWCD, NRCS

**When:** 2005 – 2009

**Cost:** \$20,000

3. Work with Area II, RCRCA, watershed, and surrounding counties to assess, prioritize and pursue funding through various agencies for water storage opportunities.

**Who:** \*WPC, HD, YMR, LqP                      **When:** 2005 – 2009                      **Cost:** \$2,000

4. Use the FEMA Floodplain maps to assess agricultural flooding problems and promote local, state and federal BMP programs.

**Who:** PZ, WPC                                      **When:** 2005-2009                      **Cost:** \$5,000

5. Seek assistance from landowners in reviewing the draft floodplain maps for accuracy. Provide input to DNR, FEMA and the Corps of Engineers on proposed corrections to the maps.

**Who:** PZ, WPC                                      **When:** 2005                                      **Cost:** \$3,000

6. Update the County Floodplain Ordinance to reflect changes made to the program and the official maps.

**Who:** PZ    **When:** 2005                                      **Cost:** \$5,000

**PRIORITY ISSUE #5:  
SURFACE WATER AND DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT**

**Priority Concern:**

*“Surface water and drainage management by addressing runoff volume and water quality deterioration due to excessive runoff.”*

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***SURFACE WATER AND DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT GOAL: TO IMPLEMENT SOUND SURFACE WATER AND DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES***

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**Objective A:** Apply watershed-based principles in properly managing drainage systems.

**Actions:**

1. Transfer existing County and Judicial Ditch information to ArcView and develop a GIS layer consisting of that information. GPS all County and Judicial ditches and identify existing filter strips along the ditches.

**Who:** \*UMVRDC, DA, WPC      **When:** 2005      **Cost:** \$32,000

2. Using the newly created layer developed in Action #1, gather data, create and maintain a database for each drainage system including name, location, petition year, size, outlet and repair history.

**Who:** Ditch Inspector, PZ      **When:** 2005-2009      **Cost:** \$20,000

3. Promote the use of alternative intakes, such as blind intakes, that promote efficient trapping of sediments and nutrients that enter drainage systems. A blind intake cost share program will be offered to landowners to replace 20 open intakes with blind intakes.

**Who:** \*SWCD, DA      **When:** 2005      **Cost:** \$2,000

4. Seek funds to repair two or three small dams in the county that were previously constructed by landowners (Area II, SWCD, NRCS).

**Who:** \*SWCD, NRCS, YMR      **When:** 2005 – 2009      **Cost:** \$60,000  
LqP

5. Promote upland treatment (encouraging landowners to install best management practices, seal abandoned wells and bringing non-conforming sewer systems and feedlots into compliance in the Lazarus Creek Watershed), protecting the Lazarus Creek Project.

**Who:** \*LQP Watershed, Area II, SWCD      **When:** 2005 - 2009      **Cost:** \$75,000

6. Utilize the US Fish and Wildlife Service Drained Wetland Basin Inventory, to help address current and future water quality and surface water management goals and issues.

**Who:** \*SWCD, NRCS, WPC      **When:** 2005 – 2009      **Cost:** \$5,000

7. Encourage the MPCA to include Wood Lake in their Lake Assessment Project.

**Who:** \*WPC, CB

**When:** 2006

**Cost:** \$1,000