

Executive Summary

The Redwood County Local Water Management Plan will be in effect for 10 years, with a five-year implementation plan.

This section will address the following items:

- ◆ Version and Purpose of the plan
- ◆ Description of the Priority Concerns that will be addressed
- ◆ A summary of the goals and action to be taken along with the projected total cost of the implementation program for each of the Priority Concerns
- ◆ A summary of the consistency of the plan with other pertinent local, state and regional plans and controls, and where inconsistencies are noted
- ◆ A summary of recommended amendments to other plans and official controls

VERSION AND PURPOSE:

This is the third version of the Redwood County Comprehensive Water Plan. This version dated, December 2005, will be renamed Redwood County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan. This plan will place more emphasis on implementation versus planning.

Redwood County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan has two purposes:

- 1) To identify existing and potential problems and opportunities for the protection, management and development of water and related land resources.
- 2) To develop objectives and carry out a plan of action to promote sound hydrologic management of water and related resources and effective environmental protection.

The plan focuses on Priority Concerns as identified in coordination with local governments and state agencies (2003 Statutory M.S. 103B.301) and an Implementation Plan that addresses the Priority Concerns.

DESCRIPTION OF PRIORITY CONCERNS:

The Priority Concerns on which the Redwood County Local Water Management Advisory Board will focus are as follows:

PRIORITY CONCERN 1: GROUNDWATER PROTECTION THAT WILL FOCUS ON WELLHEAD PROTECTION FOR PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.

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All communities as well as the rural residents depend on groundwater as the source of their water supply. Necessary measures should be taken to assure its quality and quantity.

PRIORITY CONCERN 2: DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT FOCUSING ON WETLAND RESTORATIONS AND FLOODWATER RETENTION OPPORTUNITIES.

Redwood County has lost more than 90 percent of its natural wetlands. Loss of wetlands has resulted in increased agricultural and rural flooding, loss of groundwater recharge, wildlife habitat and reduced and impaired water quality. Sedimentation readings on creeks and rivers document the need to manage drained land in Redwood County focusing on wetland restorations and floodwater retention opportunities.

PRIORITY CONCERN 3: SURFACE WATER QUALITY ADDRESSING IMPAIRED WATERS BY MAJOR WATERSHED FOR THESE PRIORITY POLLUTANTS: PHOSPHORUS, NITROGEN AND FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA.

Redwood County has a high percentage of land in row crop production using large amounts of commercial fertilizer. The county also has large numbers of livestock requiring proper manure management. Surface water tests in all the watersheds in the county show increased levels of these pollutants in the water, particularly following heavy rains.

PRIORITY CONCERN 4: EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL FOCUSING ON RESIDUE MANAGEMENT COUNTY-WIDE, AND GULLY AND CONCENTRATED FLOW AREAS IN THE SOUTHWEST PORTION OF REDWOOD COUNTY.

Increased erosion results in excess sediment and nutrients reaching the streams and lakes in the county. This, in turn, results in poor water quality and also negatively impacts aquatic plants and animals. Redwood County includes topography throughout which is susceptible to gully and concentrated flow. There is a very high percentage of land in row crop production that exposes the soil to both wind and water erosion much of the year. The sediment-laden water from the southwestern part of the county flows to the eastern part of the county.

SUMMARY OF GOALS AND ACTIONS AND PROJECTED TOTAL COST:

Summary of goals and actions along with the projected total cost of the implementation program for each Priority Concern includes:

PRIORITY CONCERN 1: GROUNDWATER PROTECTION THAT WILL FOCUS ON WELLHEAD PROTECTION FOR PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.

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The goal summary of this Priority Concern is to protect groundwater for all the citizens in the county.

Summary of the actions and cost include:

- Send letter to cities outlining the importance of completing Phase I, the delineation of wellhead protection areas.
- Identify landowners and provide them with a brochure on the importance of wise land use in designated areas.
- Offer individuals who have abandoned wells in designated areas funds to seal abandoned wells.
- Develop a brochure identifying potential groundwater contaminants for private well users.
- Make presentation using the groundwater model and other educational tools illustrating the importance of groundwater protection.

Approximate Cost: \$2,800 per year with most of the funding coming from the Redwood County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan.

PRIORITY CONCERN 2: DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT FOCUSING ON WETLAND RESTORATION AND FLOODWATER RETENTION OPPORTUNITIES.

The goal summary of this priority concern is to improve surface water management by decreasing runoff and flooding and maintaining the current drainage systems in the county.

Summary of the actions and costs include:

- Each year enroll 10 producers in the Farmable Wetland Program or CP-23 wetland restoration practice of CRP.
- Redwood SWCD will continue to implement the State Wetland Conservation Act.
- Replace bridges with floodwater retention projects where feasible.
- Complete an assessment of the percent of drainage ditches that are protected by filterstrips.
- Using CRP, promote filterstrips until 50% of water courses in the county are protected by filterstrips at least 33 feet wide.
- Continue maintaining the 72.5 acres of filterstrips enrolled through Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan.
- Educate landowners on the drainage issues in the county.
- Write newsletters and newspaper articles promoting awareness of drainage regulations that affect citizens in the county.
- Inventory all existing small dams constructed with federal and state funds. Replace corroding metal culverts with concrete culverts as needed.

Approximate Cost: \$464,400 – \$1,000,000 with most of the funding from CRP.

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PRIORITY CONCERN 3: SURFACE WATER QUALITY ADDRESSING IMPAIRED WATERS BY MAJOR WATERSHED FOR THE PRIORITY POLLUTANTS: PHOSPHORUS, NITROGEN AND FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA.

The goal summary of this priority is to protect, restore and improve the deterioration of surface water quality in lakes, rivers and streams.

- Work with five agricultural producers each year to develop nutrient management plans that follow University of Minnesota recommendations.
- Work with producers to ensure the utilization of manure and ensure proper testing and correct application.
- Each year, provide assistance to one feedlot operator who has a pollution problem utilizing funds through EQIP or State Cost Share.
- Target all TMDL water bodies for implementation of practices to reduce pollutants.
- Identify failing septic systems in Redwood River and Cottonwood River Watersheds
- Educate Redwood County citizens on the importance of runoff control and surface water protection.

Approximate Cost: \$246,000 – \$450,000 with the majority of funding coming from the Best Management Loan Program, EQIP and RCRCA.

PRIORITY CONCERN 4: EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL FOCUSING ON RESIDUE MANAGEMENT COUNTY-WIDE AND GULLY AND CONCENTRATED FLOW AREAS IN THE SOUTHWEST PORTION OF REDWOOD COUNTY.

The goal of this priority is to protect and preserve the soil resources in the county.

Summary of the actions include:

- Encourage land operators to install structural conservation practices to reduce erosion and sedimentation.
- Promote residue management
- Protect and increase wildlife habitat.

Approximate Cost: \$392,250 with most of the funding coming from EQIP, WHIP and State Cost Share.

CONSISTENCY OF PLAN WITH OTHER PLANS DEVELOPED LOCALLY:

- Redwood County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan is also the plan Redwood Soil and Water Conservation District adopts as its Comprehensive Plan.
- Redwood County is in the process of updating its existing Comprehensive Plan which includes land use plans, highway plans and information about the county's facilities.
- The following plans have been references and used in the development of this plan:
 - Redwood River Diagnostic and Implementation Plan
 - Cottonwood River Diagnostic and Implementation Plan
 - Redwood County Ordinance

RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS TO OTHER PLANS AND OFFICIAL CONTROL AUTHORITIES:

It would be recommended to incorporate data from this Redwood County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan into the new Redwood County Comprehensive Plan.