

**Becker County  
Local Water Management Plan  
5 Year Implementation Schedule  
2010-14**

**This addendum replaces pages 21-26 of the  
2005-2014 Becker County Local Water Management Plan**

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## **C. Goals, Objectives and Action Item:**

A goal's, objectives and implementation schedule has been developed for each priority concern area. Though primary responsibilities are listed they are not meant to be exclusive, as additional partners such as landowners, lake associations, townships, and others may become cooperators to accomplish various goals.

### **Priority Concern: Surface Water Quality**

#### **Objective A. Provide for protection of all surface waters in Becker County through enforcement of existing regulations, use of existing programs and development of new programs.**

1. Install 150 acres of buffer strips adjacent to eligible surface waters over the next 5 years through the continuous Conservation Reserve Program, Native Buffer Cost-share Program or EQIP program.
2. Make landowners aware of forestation and reforestation programs, such as State and Federal cost-share programs such as WHIP, EQIP and the Sustainable Forestry Incentives Program.
3. Maintain existing legal drainage systems and inventory for buffering needs, side inlets or grade stabilization structures.
4. Work with individual landowners to establish buffer strips, side inlets or grade stabilization structures along drainage systems to reduce sedimentation impacts.
5. Control the distribution and spread of undesirable vegetation in county lakes through educational programs, news releases, workshops, and partnering with Becker COLA, Minn. DNR, MPCA and Becker County.
6. Encourage Lake Associations to develop Lake Based Plans utilizing programs such as the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Program through the Initiative Foundation or the MPCA Assessment Planning Process.
7. Continue to work with the Becker COLA on their lake monitoring program and seek funding through MPCA to maintain and expand the Water Quality database for Becker County.
8. Work with appropriate agencies to inventory and create a GIS layer showing emergent vegetation areas on Becker Cty. lakes for the purpose of reducing impacts from development, and other shoreline disturbances.
9. Encourage that land management activities on all ownerships follow the Best Management Practices established for those activities in Minnesota.

#### **Objective B. Targeting and Prioritizing Refined Assessment and Implementation of Prioritized Waters in Becker County.**

1. Support MPCA and Pelican River Watershed District in conducting a TMDL study of St. Clair Lake watershed in western Becker County and others identified in the future.
2. Develop and implement the nutrient reduction plan for the Upper Pelican River Watershed Area to reduce nutrient loading to Detroit Lake by 50%.
3. Pursue funding for a Shoreland Specialist position in the Becker SWCD to provide technical expertise in Best Management Practices and lake management to lake associations and riparian landowners.
4. Establish a technical committee consisting of representatives from MPCA, COLA, SWCD, NRCS, and WD's review existing and newly acquired data to prioritize Becker county lakes.

5. Provide information and assist landowners and or lake associations with procuring cost-share assistance for water quality improvement projects through state or federal grant programs.

## **Priority Concern: Stormwater Management**

### **Objective A. Improve stormwater runoff quality by increased utilization of stormwater management practices throughout the County.**

1. Promote proper management of forestry lands to help prevent erosion and sedimentation due to logging operations.
2. Identify critical erosion areas in the Buffalo, Ottertail and Wild Rice Watersheds and promote the use of erosion control measures, such as sediment control basins, to reduce sediment entering our ditches and watercourses and attempt to moderate peak flows. Priority will be given to those areas within 1000 feet of rivers, lakes and major ditch systems.
3. Give high priority consideration for EQIP program participation and funding to install conservation tillage practices, water & sediment control basins and buffer strips in the Sand Lake Watershed, the Upper Pelican River/Campbell Creek/Pearl Lake Watersheds, and the South Branch Wild Rice River Watershed and the Buffalo-Red River Watershed.
4. Install 50 water & sediment control basins over the next 5 years through programs such as EQIP, State Cost-share, CWL Grants, and others.
5. Seek funding from other agencies, such as the Buffalo-Red, Wild Rice, and Pelican River Watershed Districts to compliment other cost-share programs to assist in the installation of erosion control measures.
6. Work with contractors on understanding and implementing the NPDES permitting program and its requirements for controlling stormwater runoff during construction causing land alterations.

## **Priority Concern: Ground Water Quality**

### **Objective A. Protect and preserve the ground water quality in Becker County.**

1. Make available well water testing opportunities to individuals in Becker County and provide free well water testing clinics in cooperation with Minnesota Department of Agriculture.
2. Educate landowners through news articles, brochures, etc. on the importance of properly sealing abandoned wells.
3. Assist landowners with the sealing of abandoned wells and provide cost-share assistance through existing programs.
4. Keep a record of locations of all abandoned wells sealed in Becker County with cost-share and other programs as the information becomes known.
5. Assist wellhead water protection teams with the development and implementation of their Wellhead Protection Plans.
6. Inventory to determine the number of abandoned animal waste storage facilities and assist landowners in the proper closure of waste facilities and inform them of funding assistance that may be available through the federal EQIP or State Cost-share program.

7. Continue to support solid waste programs and education efforts on the proper disposal of hazardous waste and recycling programs.
8. Increase the recycling rate in Becker County by changing the rural recycling program to make it easier for residents to use and to increase the capacity of the system.
9. Increase Special Waste disposal opportunities for areas of the county that currently have limited disposal opportunities.
10. Assist with MDA Central Sands Private Well Nitrate Monitoring Network current assessment for nitrates in private wells in the central sands 14 county area.
11. Assist with development and establishment of a long term nitrate private well monitoring network if long term monitoring wells are identified and are chosen in Becker County.

**Objective B: Work with Becker County Planning and Zoning to increase ISTS compliance.**

1. Identify and ensure the upgrades of failing septic systems throughout Becker County.
2. Make low interest loans available for ISTS upgrades through the AgBMP Loan Program.
3. Inventory ISTS systems around Becker County lakes to insure compliance with ISTS rules and regulations.
4. Administer and coordinate the ISTS compliance program on selected lakes. Program requires ISTS recertification for compliance. If ISTS is noncompliant site evaluations and designs for upgrade must be submitted for approval and upgraded to compliant ISTS or use of approved alternative systems such as cluster systems or other new technology.

**Priority Concern: Development Pressures**

**Objective A. Becker County will promote development patterns that protect agricultural land, forests, lakes and wetlands throughout the county.**

1. Continue the Environmental Review Committee to meet with developers prior to plat preparation to discuss all environmental and zoning concerns on proposed development sites.
2. Continue to enforce existing ordinances. Request assistance from appropriate agencies for ordinance revisions and updates.
3. Assist in the development of technical changes to the Becker County P&Z Ordinances for clarification enforcement and understanding.
4. Assist the MPCA with the TMDL process for water bodies as they are determined and assist in solving the identified problems.

**Objective B. Encourage development patterns and land use practices that protect, enhance, maintain or restore water quality.**

1. Educate residents on restoring and preserving natural shoreline areas.
2. Encourage the Minnesota legislature to develop and fund conservation easement programs that protect existing marginal shoreland areas from development.

## Amended Becker County Local Water Management Plan Priority Concerns Implementation Schedule 2010-2014

<b>Implementation Schedule</b>						
<b>Priority- Surface Water Quality</b>						
<b>Objective A: Provide for protection of all surface waters in Becker County.</b>						
	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Lead/Supporting Agencies</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Est. Cost</b>	<b>Potential Funding Sources</b>	<b>Priority Watershed</b>
1	Install 150 acres of buffer strips adjacent to eligible surface waters over the next 5 years through the continuous Conservation Reserve Program, Native Buffer Cost-share Program or EQIP program.	NRCS, SWCD	2010 - 14	\$15,000	NRCS SWCD Grants	All
2	Make landowners aware of forestation and reforestation programs, such as State and Federal cost-share programs such as WHIP, EQIP and the Sustainable Forestry Incentives Program.	DNR, County NRM SWCD	Ongoing	Existing staff time	NRCS, SWCD	All
3	Maintain existing legal drainage systems and inventory for buffering needs, side inlets or grade stabilization structures.	WD's, SWCD	2010-14	Existing staff time	WD's, SWCD	All
4	Work with landowners to establish buffers, side inlets, grade stabilization along drainage systems to reduce sedimentation impacts.	SWCD, NRCS, WD's	2010-14	Existing staff time	NRCS SWCD	All
5	Control the distribution and spread of undesirable vegetation in county lakes through educational programs, news releases, workshops, and partnering with Becker COLA, Minn. DNR, MPCA and Becker Cty.	WD's, MPCA, COLA	2010-14	Existing staff time	MPCA COLA WD's	All
6	Encourage Lake Associations to develop Lake Based Plans utilizing programs such as the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Program through the Initiative Foundation or the MPCA Assessment Planning Process.	SWCD, WD's COLA	2010-14	Existing staff time	MPCA Grants COLA	All
7	Continue to work with the Becker COLA on their lake monitoring program and seek funding through MPCA to maintain and expand the Water Quality database for Becker County.	SWCD WD's COLA	2010-14	\$5,000/yr	MPCA Grants	All
8	Work with appropriate agencies to inventory and create a GIS layer showing emergent vegetation areas on Becker County lakes for the purpose of reducing impacts from development, and other shoreline disturbances.	DNR, COLA, SWCD, P&Z WD's	2010-14	\$10,000	DNR, COLA CWL, Grants	All
9	Encourage that land management activities on all ownerships follow the Best Management Practices established for those activities in Minnesota.	SWCD, NRCS, WD's, DNR	2010-14	Existing staff time	N/A	All
<b>Objective B: Targeting and Prioritizing Refined Assessment and Implementation of Prioritized Waters in Becker County</b>						
1	Support MPCA & PRWD in conducting a TMDL study of St. Clair Lake watershed and others identified in the future.	PRWD, SWCD, City of Detroit Lakes	2012-14	Unknown	MPCA	Pelican
2	Develop and implement the nutrient reduction plan for the Upper Pelican River Watershed Area to reduce nutrient loading to Detroit Lake by 50%.	PRWD, SWCD, NRCS, MPCA, City of Detroit Lakes	2010-14	2.5 M	MPCA, DNR, PRWD. NRCS, BWSR	Pelican
3	Pursue funding for a Shoreland Specialist position in the Becker SWCD to provide technical expertise in Best Management Practices and lake management to lake associations and riparian landowners.	SWCD, COLA, WDS	Dependent on Funding	\$40,000 per yr.	Grants, SWCD County, WD's	All

4	Establish a technical committee consisting of representatives from MPCA, COLA, SWCD, NRCS, and WD's review existing and newly acquired data to prioritize Becker county lakes.	SWCD, P&Z, DNR, COLA WD's	2011-12	Unknown	Existing staff time	All
5	Provide information and assist landowners and or lake associations with procuring cost-share assistance for water quality improvement projects through state or federal grant programs.	SWCD, NRCS, WD's	2010-14	Existing staff time	SWCD, NRCS, WD's BWSR	All

### Priority – Stormwater Management

#### Objective A: Improve stormwater runoff quality throughout the county.

Actions		Lead/ Supporting Agencies	Duration	Est. Cost	Potential Funding Sources	Priority Watershed
1	Promote proper management of forestry lands to help prevent erosion and sedimentation due to logging operations.	County NRM DNR	Ongoing	Existing staff time	N/A	All
2	Identify critical erosion areas in the Buffalo, Ottetail and Wild Rice Watersheds and promote the use of erosion control measures, such as sediment control basins, to reduce sediment entering our ditches and watercourses. Priority will be given to those areas within 1000 feet of rivers, lakes and major ditch systems.	SWCD, NRCS, WD's	Ongoing	Existing staff time	EQIP Grants SWCD WD's	All
3	Give high priority consideration for EQIP program participation and funding to install conservation tillage practices, water & sediment control basins and buffer strips in the Sand Lake Watershed, the Upper Pelican River/Campbell Creek Watershed, the South Branch Wild Rice River Watershed and the Buffalo-Red River Watershed.	NRCS, SWCD	2010-14	\$70,000	Grants, BWSR, SWCD, Federal cost share programs	All
4	Install 50 water & sediment control basins over the next 5 years through programs such as EQIP, State Cost-share, CWL Grants, and others.	NRCS, SWCD	2010-14	\$250,000	Grants, BBWSR EQIP	All
5	Seek funding from other agencies, such as the Buffalo-Red, Wild Rice, and Pelican River Watershed Districts to compliment other cost-share programs to assist in the installation of erosion control measures.	SWCD	Ongoing	\$60,000	WD's	BRRWD PRWD WRRWD
6	Work with contractors on understanding and implementing the NPDES permitting program and its requirements for controlling stormwater runoff during construction causing land alterations.	MPCA, WD's, P&Z	Ongoing	Existing staff time	N/A	All

**Implementation Schedule  
Priority – Ground Water Quality**

**Objective A: Protect and Preserve the ground water quality in Becker County.**

	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Lead/Supporting Agencies</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Est. Cost</b>	<b>Potential Funding Sources</b>	<b>Priority Watershed</b>
1	Make available well water testing opportunities to individuals in Becker County and provide free well water testing clinics in cooperation with Minnesota Department of Agriculture.	SWCD	Ongoing	Existing staff time	N/A	All
2	Educate landowners through news articles, brochures, etc. on the importance of properly sealing abandoned wells.	SWCD	Ongoing	Existing staff time	N/A	All
3	Assist landowners with the sealing of abandoned wells and provide cost-share assistance through existing programs.	SWCD	Ongoing	\$3,000 per year	BWSR State cost share Grants	All
4	Keep a record of locations of all abandoned wells sealed in Becker County with cost-share and other programs as the information becomes known.	SWCD	Ongoing	Existing staff time	N/A	All
5	Assist wellhead water protection teams with the development and implementation of their Wellhead Protection Plans.	SWCD	Ongoing	Existing staff time	Dept. of Health	All
6	Assist landowners in the proper closure of unused animal waste facilities and inform them of funding assistance that may be available through the federal EQIP program or the State Cost-share program.	NRCS, SWCD	2010-14	\$10,000	EQIP	All
7	Continue to support solid waste programs and education efforts on the proper disposal of hazardous waste and recycling programs.	Becker County Environmental Services	Ongoing	N/A	Existing staff time	All
8	Increase the recycling rate in Becker County by changing the rural recycling program to make it easier for residents to use and to increase the capacity of the system.	Becker County Environmental Services	2010-12	\$600,000	BC, Grants	All
9	Increase Special Waste disposal opportunities for areas of the county that currently have limited disposal opportunities.	Becker County Environmental Services	2010-11	\$100,000	BC	All
10	Assist with MDA Central Sands Private Well Nitrate Monitoring Network current assessment for nitrates in private wells in the central sands 14 county area.	MDA SWCD	2011-ongoing	\$1000/yr	Grants	Crow Wing
11	Assist with development and establishment of a long term nitrate private well monitoring network if long term monitoring wells are identified and are chosen in Becker County.	MDA SWCD	2011-ongoing	Existing staff time	Grants MDA	Crow Wing

**Objective B: Work with Becker Count Planning and Zoning to increase ISTS Compliance.**

1	Identify and ensure the upgrades of failing septic systems throughout Becker County.	Cty. P&Z	Ongoing	N/A	Existing staff time	All
2	Make low interest loans available for ISTS upgrades through the AgBMP Loan Program.	SWCD, MnDA	2010-14	N/A	Existing staff time	All
3	Inventory ISTS systems around Becker County lakes to insure compliance with ISTS rules and regulations.	Cty. P&Z	2010-14	\$40,000	Grants	All
4	Administer and coordinate the ISTS compliance program on selected lakes, Program requires IATA recertification for compliance. If ISTS is noncompliant site evaluations and designs for upgrade must be submitted for approval and upgraded to compliant ISTS or use of approved alternative systems such are cluster systems or other new technology.	Cty. P&Z	2010-12	\$250,000	CWL Grant	Listed Lakes

Implementation Schedule						
Priority – Development Pressures						
Objective A: Promote development patterns that protect agricultural land, forests, lakes, and wetlands.						
Actions		Lead Supporting Agencies	Duration	Est. Cost	Potential Funding Sources	Priority Watershed
1	Continue the Environmental Review Committee to meet with developers prior to plat preparation to discuss all environmental and zoning concerns on proposed development sites.	P&Z, Becker Cty.	2011	N/A	Local existing staff time.	All
2	Continue to enforce existing ordinances. Request assistance from appropriate agencies for ordinance revisions and updates.	P&Z	Ongoing	N/A	Local existing staff time	All
3	Assist in the development of technical changes to the Becker County P&Z Ordinances for clarification enforcement and understanding.	P&Z, PRWD, SWCD, Cty.	Ongoing	N/A	Existing staff time	All
4	Assist the MPCA with the TMDL process for water bodies as they are determined and assist in solving the identified problems.	MPCA, WD's, SWCD	Ongoing	N/A	Existing staff time	All
Objective B. Encourage development patterns and land use practices that protect, enhance, maintain or restore water quality.						
1	Educate residents on restoring and preserving natural shoreline areas.	P&z, SWCD, WD's	Ongoing	N/A	Existing staff time	All
2	Encourage the Minnesota legislature to develop and fund conservation easement programs that protect existing marginal shoreland areas from development.	WD's, SWCD, P&Z	Ongoing	N/A	Existing staff time	All

## Ongoing Activities

**Wet land Conservation Act:** The 1992 Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) was passed to maintain and protect Minnesota's wetlands and the benefits they provide. Local units of governments such as cities, counties, watershed management organizations, townships, soil and water conservation districts implement the act locally. The Becker SWCD administers the act in Becker County for all lands in the county and for all the cities.

**Pelican River Watershed District Permitting Program:** The Becker SWCD will continue to provide site visits and review as requested for the Pelican River Watershed Districts permitting program as it relates to stormwater control in the shore impact zone.

**EQIP Program:** Keep landowners informed of incentive programs such as EQIP that provide incentives for conducting conservation measures such as no-till farming, water & sediment basins, field windbreaks, residue and nutrient management, etc.

**Educational Programs:** Sponsor and carryout youth educational programs such as Ag-in-the-Classroom, Envirothon, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Conservation Tour, and others that educate our youth on water management and other resource issues.

**Conservation Stewardship Program:** Inform landowners and operators in Becker County of the financial benefits available through the Conservation Stewardship Program for BMPs that they may be already carrying out on their lands

**Well Monitoring:** Continue to monitor 7 wells in the Pelican River Sand Plains area and 20 in the Pineland Sand Plains Area for static water levels and provide the information to the Minn. DNR Division of Waters.

**Crop Residue Surveys:** Conduct as requested the crop residue survey inventory to monitor trends on reduced tillage farm operations in Becker County.

The 2008 list of impaired waters in Becker County that are currently underway, or not started, is provide in the table below.

**2008 Clean Water Act Section 303 [d] List of Impaired Waters in the County.**

<b>Reach</b>	<b>Assessment Unit ID#</b>	<b>Affected Use</b>	<b>Pollutants/Stressors</b>
White Earth River White Earth Lake to Wild Rice River	09020108-505	Aquatic Life	Turbidity
<b>Lake</b>	<b>Lake ID</b>	<b>Affected Use</b>	<b>Pollutants/Stressors</b>
Straight	03-0010-00	Aquatic Consumption	Mercury in Fish Tissue
Two Inlets	03-0017-00	Aquatic Consumption	Mercury in Fish Tissue
Boot	00-0085-00	Aquatic Consumption	Mercury in Fish Tissue
Bad Medicine	03-0085-00	Aquatic Consumption	Mercury in Fish Tissue
Toad	03-0107-00	Aquatic Consumption	Mercury in Fish Tissue
Many Point	03-0158-00	Aquatic Consumption	Mercury in Fish Tissue
Elbow	03-0159-00	Aquatic Consumption	Mercury in Fish Tissue
Cotton	03-0286-00	Aquatic Consumption	Mercury in Fish Tissue
White Earth	03-0328-00	Aquatic Consumption	Mercury in Fish Tissue
Muskrat	03-0360-00	Aquatic Consumption	Mercury in Fish Tissue
Detroit	03-0381-00	Aquatic Consumption	Mercury in Fish Tissue
St. Clair	03-0382-00	Aquatic Consumption	Nutrient/Eutrophication Biological Indicators
Little Floyd	03-0386-00	Aquatic Consumption	Mercury in Fish Tissue
Mud	03-0387-01	Aquatic Consumption	Mercury in Fish Tissue
Floyd(South Bay)	03-0387-02	Aquatic Consumption	Mercury in Fish Tissue
Melissa	03-0475-00	Aquatic Consumption	Mercury in Fish Tissue
Big Cormorant	03-0576-00	Aquatic Consumption	Mercury in Fish Tissue
Ida	03-0582-00	Aquatic Consumption	Mercury in Fish Tissue
Talac	03-0619-00	Aquatic Consumption	Nutrient/Eutrophication Biological Indicators