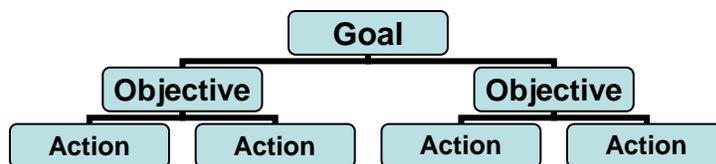


### III. GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS ADDRESSING PRIORITY CONCERNS

The Isanti County Local Water Management Task Force sent a county-wide survey and hosted a public input meeting to find out citizen concerns. This input resulted in the Priority Concerns Scoping Document, and the development of the following priority issues:

-  **Cumulative Effects of Development on Surface Waters**
-  **Protection and Restoration of Natural Habitat and Impaired Waters in Isanti and Bordering Counties**
-  **Groundwater Quality and Quantity**

The development of the **goals** and **objectives** within this chapter defines broad directions that county residents who participated in the public forum of the Local Water Management planning process wish to pursue to protect their resources. **Action** items describe specific measures that the county will implement, with assistance from appropriate state and federal agencies, to achieve the goals and objectives. Goals may have one or more objectives.



The goals, objectives and action items listed provide the guidance for day-to-day operations of Isanti County Soil and Water Conservation District, Planning and Zoning Department, Local Water Management Task Force and State and Local Government Units. This document will provide assistance in annual budgeting and in grant writing decisions.

**CHAPTER DEFINITIONS:** Abbreviations used throughout this chapter are defined as follows:

- BMP** = Best Management Practices
- CCRP** = Continuous Sign-up Conservation Reserve Program
- CLMP** = Citizen Lake Monitoring Program
- COLA** = Coalition of Lake Associations
- DNR** = Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- EQIP** = Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- ISTS** = Individual Sewage Treatment System
- LID** = Lake Improvement District
- MDA** = Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- MDH** = Minnesota Department of Health
- MPCA** = Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- NEMO** = Nonpoint source pollution Education for Municipal Officials
- NRCS** = Natural Resource Conservation Service
- PICKM** = Pine, Isanti, Chisago, Kanabec, and Mille Lac Counties
- SWCD** = Soil and Water Conservation District
- TMDL** = Total Maximum Daily Load
- USDA** = United States Department of Agriculture

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## **PRIORITY ISSUE I: CUMULATIVE EFFECTS OF DEVELOPMENT ON SURFACE WATERS**

**DEVELOPMENT GOAL: DEVELOP REGULATIONS, EDUCATION, AND INCENTIVES TO ENSURE ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT WITH MINIMAL IMPACTS TO SENSITIVE AREAS TO PRESERVE ISANTI COUNTY'S NATURAL RESOURCES.**

**OBJECTIVE A:** Guide new development with comprehensive planning, accurate information, and consideration for natural resources.

### **ACTION**

1. Encourage County Board to fully fund implementation of local water management position in Isanti County to track and implement actions identified as a priority in the CLWMP.

**Timeline:** 2006  
**Agency (Who):** SWCD, Zoning, DNR, Citizen Lake Associations  
**Cost:** Funded and complete

2. Participate with the cities of Cambridge, Isanti, and Braham, Athens Township, and Isanti County Zoning in promoting current protective ordinances and creating new ordinances regulating erosion control standards and stormwater management in developing areas.

**Timeline:** 2011 - 2015  
**Agency (Who):** Water Plan Manager / Zoning  
**Cost:** Consultant - \$2,450 (35 hours) \$226 (mileage)  
Staff Time in 2007 - 40 hours

3. Review all land use ordinances in Isanti County (cities, township and county) for resource protection capabilities including enforcement issues. Create a matrix or table to highlight similarities and differences and explore the concept of conservation subdivisions.

**Timeline:** 2011 - 2015  
**Agency (Who):** Water Plan Manager  
**Cost:** Water Plan Manager - 80 hours

4. Provide support and input on the update of the Isanti County Comprehensive Plan to ensure protections currently in place are kept there.

**Timeline:** Completed  
**Agency (Who):** Water Plan Manager, DNR, Citizen Groups, Zoning  
**Cost:** Complete

5. Develop on-going education programs for elected and appointed officials and other stakeholders in the development community showing a relationship between shoreline development and water quality.

**Timeline:** 2006, on-going  
**Agency (Who):** Water Plan Manager  
**Cost:** Staff Time – 16 hours

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6. Provide access through county website for user-friendly map information regarding natural resources.

**Timeline:** 2011 - 2015  
**Agency (Who):** Zoning, Water Plan Manager, Information Systems Dept.  
**Cost:** Staff time – 40 hours

7. Update Isanti County Floodplain maps

**Timeline:** 2011 – 2015  
**Agency (Who):** Department of Natural Resources & FEMA  
**Cost:** Staff time – 80 hours

**OBJECTIVE B:** Improve stormwater runoff quality by compliance with stormwater rules, continuing public education, and promotion of BMPs.

#### **ACTION**

1. Work with local governments on design and implementation of low-impact development standards.

**Timeline:** 2007, on-going  
**Agency (Who):** Water Plan Manager  
**Cost:** Staff Time – Water Plan Manager 30 hours, DNR 10 hours, Isanti Planning and Zoning 50 hours

2. Identify sites where anticipated increased storm water discharge has a high potential for adversely impacting important natural resources.

**Timeline:** 2007, ongoing  
**Agency (Who):** Water Plan Manager, DNR, MPCA  
**Cost:** Staff Time 40 hours, DNR 40 hours, MPCA 20 hours

3. Pursue funding and support for the completion of a digital soil survey and provide link in appropriate location.

**Timeline:** 2011 - 2015  
**Agency (Who):** NRCS, Water Plan Manager  
**Cost:** Survey \$700,000+, NRCS Staff Time 40 hours

4. Quantify runoff volume and rates of total suspended solids in areas slated for development for “full build out” of areas slated for development and create strategies to manage.

**Timeline:** 2011 - 2012  
**Agency (Who):** MPCA, Water Plan Manager, Summer Intern  
**Cost:** DNR Staff Time 20 hours

5. Develop education program for local decision makers regarding cumulative effects of development.

**Timeline:** on-going  
**Agency (Who):** Water Plan Manager, Zoning  
**Cost:** Staff Time 12 hours

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6. Bring project NEMO (non-point education for municipal officer) to Isanti County.

**Timeline:** 2011 - 2015

**Agency (Who):** Water Plan Manager, MPCA

**Cost:** 10 hours    Food - \$500

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***PRIORITY ISSUE II: PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF NATURAL HABITAT AND IMPAIRED WATERS IN ISANTI AND BORDERING COUNTIES***

**GOAL:** PRESERVE AND IMPROVE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF HABITAT AREAS AND QUALITY OF LAKES AND WETLANDS IN ISANTI COUNTY.

**OBJECTIVE A:** Implement and promote land use practices that will reduce and/or mitigate negative human impacts on natural resources.

**ACTION**

1. Develop a coordinated approach with the cities and county comprehensive plan to identify and designate conservation corridors.

**Timeline:** On – going  
**Agency (Who):** DNR, Water Plan Manager  
**Cost:** Staff time (10 hours) DNR 40 hours

2. Establish a system to work with developers to ensure that natural resources considerations are addressed at sketch phase of planning.

**Timeline:** Completed  
**Agency (Who):** Zoning, Water Plan Manager  
**Cost:**

3. Pursue DNR acquisitions in addition to conservation easements in shoreland and riparian areas, ground water recharge areas, and wetland complexes.

**Timeline:** on-going  
**Agency (Who):** DNR, Water Plan Manager  
**Cost:** Staff time (8 hours) DNR 24 hrs/yr Staff 24 hrs/yr

4. Adopt policies for dedication of conservation easements or other protective measures county-wide for flood plain, water routing water storage and other sensitive areas during the development process.

**Timeline:** 2011 - 2015  
**Agency (Who):** Zoning, Water Plan Manager  
**Cost:** Zoning 40 hours, Water Plan Manager 8 hours

5. Support existing protective standards within the Rum River Scenic District, including the flood fringe.

**Timeline:** On – going  
**Agency (Who):** Citizen Groups, DNR, Water Plan Manager  
**Cost:** Staff time (2 hours) DNR 8 hours Volunteer 8 hours

6. Provide education and incentive to lake / river riparian and wetland owners to retain or restore existing native vegetation and plant emergent vegetation as techniques for reducing shoreline erosion.

**Timeline:** On-going  
**Agency (Who):** DNR, SWCD, Water Plan Manager, Lake Assoc., LID's, PICKM, Ext.

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**Cost:** Combined time greater than 500 hours

7. Work with Isanti County SWCD, USDA, and Ditch Authority to promote BMPs and provide incentives such as CCRP for buffers in agriculture areas to decrease phosphorus load to the Rum River, Snake River, St. Croix River Watershed and area lakes. Search for other private buffer incentives such as lake associations.

**Timeline:** On-going

**Agency (Who):** USDA, SWCD, Water Plan Manager, County Highway Department, Other Partnership Groups, Lake Association and LIDs

**Cost:** Direct mailing and printing \$2,000, Water Plan Manager, 8 hours annually.

**OBJECTIVE B:** Position Isanti County to maximize local control and funding of TMDLs.

**ACTION**

1. Seek funding sources for Matching fund requirements to pursue grants from MPCA and BWSR.

**Timeline:** On-going

**Agency (Who):** Water Plan Manager

**Cost:** Staff Time 20 hours

2. Assist the MPCA on TMDL studies as time and funding becomes available.

**Timeline:** On-going

**Agency (Who):** Water Plan Manager, MPCA

**Cost:** Staff time (40 hours)

3. Partner with Chisago County in the implementation of the TMDL on the North Branch of the Sunrise River.

**Timeline:** On-going

**Agency (Who):** Water Plan Manager, DNR, Chisago County Water Planner and Chisago County SWCD

**Cost:** Water Plan Manager 20 hours per year, DNR 20 hours / year

4. Work cooperatively with Anoka County on the Typo Lake TMDL study and implementation.

**Timeline:** On-going

**Agency (Who):** Water Plan Manager and Anoka County SWCD

**Cost:** (8 hours) mileage \$226

Water Plan Manager 20 hours per year, DNR 20 hours / year

5. Work cooperatively with Mille Lacs County and Anoka County on Rum River Studies

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**Timeline:** 2011 – 2015  
**Agency (Who):** Water Plan Manager, Mille Lacs County SWCD, Anoka County  
**Cost:** Staff time (40 hours)

6. Use future TMDL studies for Bmp implementation

**Timeline:** On – going  
**Agency (Who):** Water Plan Manager, SWCD, NRCS and Other Partnership Groups  
**Cost:** Water Plan Manager (40 hours)

**OBJECTIVE C:** Reduce the loss of water clarity in Isanti County lakes and rivers by promoting lakeshore and river stewardship, wetland restoration, and preservation of habitat areas.

**ACTION**

1. Establish long-term basin monitoring program for lakes, river, streams and groundwater. Assist Lake Associations and Lake Improvement Districts in monitoring programs. Provide all data to the MPCA STORET to assist in determining future impaired waters.

**Timeline:** On-going  
**Agency (Who):** Water Plan Manager - Lake Associations and Lake Improvement Districts and Surrounding Counties and MPCA, PICKM Water Quality Team  
**Cost:** Water Plan Manager 60 hours Volunteer Time 120 hours

2. In addition to TMDL studies pursue funding to quantify nutrient loadings and other water quality parameters on priority lakes and rivers.

**Timeline:** On – going  
**Agency (Who):** Water Plan Manager  
**Cost:** Water Plan Manager 40 hours

3. ***Incorporate newly*** developed lake shed mapping program that digitized physical boundaries on lakes.

**Timeline:** 2011 - 2015  
**Agency (Who):** DNR summer intern, Water Plan Manager  
**Cost:** Water Plan Manager 20 hours

4. Develop a coordinated approach with federal, state, and local governments to collect water data necessary for informed management decisions.

**Timeline:** On-going  
**Agency (Who):** Water Plan Manager, PICKM  
**Cost:** Water Plan Manager 20 hours per year

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5. Explore funding options to inventory drained wetlands and prioritize for restoration and/or protection and continue administration and enforcement of the Wetland Conservation Act.

**Timeline:** 2011 - 2015  
**Agency (Who):** Water Plan Manager, SWCD, NRCS, DNR, Army Corps of Engineers and BWSR  
**Cost:** Water Plan Manager 20 hours and combined staff time for W.C.A. administration (550 hours/year)

6. Develop recommendations for setback buffer requirement for development near DNR protected wetlands.

**Timeline:** Complete  
**Agency (Who):** DNR, Water Plan Manager  
**Cost:** Complete

7. Continue participating with the PICKM Water Quality Team and jointly plan education forums and articles.

**Timeline:** 2011 - 2015  
**Agency (Who):** Water Plan Manager  
**Cost:** Water Plan Manager 40 hours/yr

8. Promote the formation of and assist lake associations, lake improvement districts, and lake management planning. Provide liaison and technical assistance and help facilitate grant resources for water quality improvement projects.

**Timeline:** On-going  
**Agency (Who):** Water Plan Manager  
**Cost:** Water Plan Manager 40 hrs/yr

9. Pursue grants and expertise in developing lake management plans, utilizing the Initiative Foundation's "Healthy Lakes and Rivers Program". Work with bordering counties to set up a workshop.

**Timeline:** 2011 - 2015  
**Agency (Who):** Water Plan Manager  
**Cost:** Water Plan Manager 8 hours per year

10. Explore feasibility of hosting a DNR "Healthy Rivers" workshop in Isanti County for surrounding areas. Purchase CD-ROM and make available for public presentations.

**Timeline:** 2011 - 2015  
**Agency (Who):** Friends of the Rum River, Water Plan Manager, PICKM Water Quality Team  
**Cost:** 40 volunteer hours, \$500

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11. Work with existing lake associations on the formation of a countywide coalition of lakes associations to provide increased political thrust for water quality goals.

**Timeline:** On-going  
**Agency (Who):** Water Plan Manager, DNR, PICKM Team  
**Cost:** Staff time (10 hours), DNR 40 hours

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### **PRIORITY ISSUE III: GROUNDWATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY**

**GOAL: PROTECT GROUNDWATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY THROUGH EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF EXISTING REGULATIONS.**

**OBJECTIVE A:** Educate County residents about distribution of naturally occurring contaminants in groundwater, well construction, and geologic factors that affect contaminant distributions.

#### **ACTION**

1. Develop education program regarding the Anoka Sand Plain in the JOBZones area for commercial / industrial development. Focus on potential impacts to groundwater from land use. Explore feasibility of common well requirements.

**Timeline:** 2011 - 2015

**Agency (Who):** Water Plan Manager, city managers

**Cost:** Water Plan Manager 40 hours, city managers 16 hours each

2. Promote reduced use of fertilizers, pesticides, cleaning agents and other household hazardous wastes on residential lakeshore properties and promote use of no phosphorous fertilizers and soil testing through the county-wide newsletter and/or other media outlets.

**Timeline:** on-going

**Agency (Who):** Water Plan Manager/MPCA/MN Dept of Ag

**Cost:** Newsletter article – 2 hrs/yr

3. Cooperate with the cities and MDH in developing and implementing wellhead protection plans. Assist public water suppliers in this process as necessary.

**Timeline:** On-going

**Agency (Who):** Water Plan Manager

**Cost:** Water Plan Manager \$280 (4 hours) and 8 hours annually

4. Work with the MDH to provide information and coordination of mapping areas of potential high radium concentration and work to minimize new wells in the aquifers containing radon.

**Timeline:** 2011 - 2015

**Agency (Who):** Water Plan Manager, MDH

**Cost:** Water Plan Manager 8 hours / year, MDH 8 hours / year

5. Promote sealing of abandoned wells in all areas to reduce the potential for groundwater contamination through the county-wide newsletter. Offer cost-share as available on designated priority properties.

**Timeline:** On-going

**Agency (Who):** Water Plan Manager, SWCD

**Cost:** Newsletter article – 2 hrs/yr, SWCD – 8 hrs/yr

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- Promote water conservation through education programs and promote water conservation through community water supply plans.

**Timeline:** on-going  
**Agency (Who):** DNR, MDH, Water Plan Manager, Extension  
**Cost:** Staff Time – 8 hrs each per year

- Encourage the DNR to work with the local unit of government when considering irrigation permits within sensitive groundwater areas to promote both water quantity and water quality.

**Timeline:** on-going  
**Agency (Who):** DNR, Water Plan Manager  
**Cost:** Staff Time

- Provide public information on how and where to get wells tested, types of tests available, maximum allowable limits on groundwater and drinking water contaminants, and what to do if a well is contaminated. Conduct annual nitrate testing clinic.

**Timeline:** On-going  
**Agency (Who):** MDH, Water Plan Manager  
**Cost:** Newsletter article – 2 hrs, MDH 8 hours / year

- Work with the MDH on the production of a Nitrate Probability map for Isanti County aquifers.

**Timeline:** On – going  
**Agency (Who):** MDH, Water Plan Manager  
**Cost:** Water Plan Manager 24 hours, MDH 40 hours

- Protect, preserve, and restore wetlands for use as nutrient sinks for groundwater purposes.

**Timeline:** on-going  
**Agency (Who):** DNR, Zoning, Water Plan Manager  
**Cost:** Staff Time

**OBJECTIVE B:** Work to prevent failure of ISTS and related sewage pollution in Isanti County.

#### **ACTION**

- Educate property owners on proper septic system maintenance by distributing information via newsletter annually.

**Timeline:** on-going  
**Agency (Who):** Zoning, Water Plan Manager  
**Cost:** Newsletter article – 2 hrs/yr, Maintenance guide from Zoning with ISTS permit

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2. Work cooperatively with lake and river associations, providing brochures for distribution.

**Timeline:** On-going  
**Agency (Who):** Water Plan Manager, DNR  
**Cost:** DNR 8 hours per year

3. Continue low interest loan program through SWCD for failing septic systems and pursue grant money to fix failing septic systems. Prioritize and target sensitive areas such as high water table, wellhead protection areas, excessively sandy or heavy soils.

**Timeline:** on-going  
**Agency (Who):** SWCD, Water Plan Manager  
**Cost:** SWCD 16 hours / year