

# **INTRODUCTION TO THE KANDIYOHI COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER PLAN**

## **Comprehensive Local Water Management Act**

The Comprehensive Local Water Management Act (Minnesota Statutes Sections 103B.301 to 103B.355) encourages counties to develop and implement a comprehensive water plan. Pursuant to the requirements of the law, this plan:

- Covers the entire area of the County;
- Addresses water problems in the context of watershed units and groundwater systems;
- Is based upon principles of sound hydrologic management of water, effective environmental protection and efficient management;
- Is consistent with comprehensive water plans prepared by counties and watershed management organizations wholly or partially within a single watershed unit or groundwater system; and
- The comprehensive water plan must specify the period covered by the comprehensive water plan and must extend at least five years, but no more than ten years, from the date the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) approves the comprehensive water plan. Comprehensive water plans that contain revision dates inconsistent with this section must comply with that date, provided it is not more than ten years beyond the date of BWSR approval. A two-year extension of the revision date of a comprehensive water plan may be granted by BWSR, provided no projects are ordered or commenced during the period of the extension.

To ensure that these objectives are realized, the Comprehensive Local Water Management Act further specifies the basic contents of the comprehensive water plan to contain:

- A description of the existing and expected changes to physical environment, land use and development in the County;
- Available information about the surface water, groundwater and related land resources in the County, including existing and potential distribution, availability, quality and use;
- Objectives for future development, use and conservation of water and related land resources, including objectives that concern water quality and quantity, and sensitive areas, wellhead protection areas, high priority areas for wetland preservation, enhancement, restoration, and establishment, stormwater management for developing areas, and related land use conditions, and a description of actions that will be taken in affected watersheds or groundwater systems to achieve the objectives;
- A description of potential changes in State programs, policies and requirements considered important to the management of water resources in the County;

- A description of conflicts between the comprehensive water plan and existing plans of other local units of government;
- A description of possible conflicts between the comprehensive water plan and existing or proposed comprehensive water plans of other counties in the affected watershed units or groundwater systems;
- A program for implementation of the plan that is consistent with the plan's management objectives and includes schedules for amending official controls and water and related land resources plans of local units of government to conform with the comprehensive water plan, and the schedule, components, and expected State and local costs of any projects to implement the comprehensive water plan that may be proposed, although this does not mean that projects are required by this section; and
- A procedure for amending the comprehensive water plan.

### **Comprehensive Water Management Plan**

This plan is divided into seven major sections:

- Introduction
- Chapter 1: County Profile
- Chapter 2: Physical Environment, Land Use and Development
- Chapter 3: Hydrologic Inventory
- Chapter 4: Special Land Uses and Conditions
- Chapter 5: Issues, Goals, Objectives and Actions
- Chapter 6: Plan Administration

The introduction identifies the statutory components of a comprehensive water plan, a general overview of plan content and describes the planning process that was utilized in the development of the plan.

Chapter one provides a generalized profile of Kandiyohi County. Information provided in this chapter includes the location of Kandiyohi County, a population profile and a description of watershed management-like organizations within the County.

Physical environment, land use and development, which comprises chapter two, includes a profile and assessment of the county's existing environmental conditions. This profile contains descriptions of Kandiyohi County's key natural resources, including information on the County's geology, topography, soils and watersheds. In addition, the County's physical development is outlined by examining current land use, major public investments (i.e. sewer, water, etc.) and conservation easements.

Chapter three, hydrologic inventory, contains information necessary to evaluate the condition of surface and groundwater resources in the County. The following information is included in this chapter: watershed boundaries, high, mean and low flows, established ordinary high water marks, permitted surface and groundwater withdrawals, conveyance systems and floodplains. In addition, both ground and surface water conflicts are identified in this chapter.

Chapter four, special land uses and conditions, inventories specific land uses that have the potential to impact water quantity and quality. Information discussed includes erodible soils, sedimentation, irrigation, drainage ditches, open dumps and landfills, feedlots, underground storage tanks, abandoned wells and hazardous waste generators. Wetlands, shoreland, and floodplains are presented in relation to existing conditions and current regulatory protection. Water-based recreation, fish and wildlife management and unique features and scenic areas conclude the chapter.

Issues, goals, objectives and actions comprise chapter five. This chapter reflects the purpose set forth in the Comprehensive Local Water Management Act and the desires of the County. Goals and objectives developed by the County define specific actions and provide a framework in which to address water management issues.

Chapter six contains information on plan administration, including plan coordination, implementation, schedule, role of the County in implementation, role of other agencies in implementation, recommended changes to State programs, intergovernmental conflicts/resolution process, major plan amendment procedure, minor plan amendment procedure and general information.

### **Description of the Planning Process**

A multiple step planning process was utilized in the development of this plan, with special emphasis placed on involving local constituents, local governments, bordering counties and State agencies. The initial phase of this process involved an informational meeting to identify issues and concerns of the public. Issues identified through the public informational meeting process were used to establish the basis for the development of goals, objectives and actions for the plan.

The second phase of this process involved the appointment of a special Water Plan Revision Committee. Members of the committee consisted of Water Plan Taskforce members, various local and State governmental units, private industries and special interests of the County. The committee was responsible for reviewing the comments from the public informational meeting and developing goals, objectives and actions for the plan.

Once in draft form, State and local agencies were provided a 60-day period to review the plan. Following this review period, the County held a public hearing. Upon conduction of the public hearing, the draft plan, State and local comments and proceedings of the public hearing were submitted to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for review and approval.

## **Executive Summary**

*Submitted by: Jeff Bredberg, Kandiyohi County Water Planner*

Kandiyohi County adopted the original Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan (CLWP) in December 1991. The first revision was completed by December 1995, and became effective January 1996, with an end date of December 31, 2001. The second revision of the Water Plan was to be completed by December 31, 2000, and effective January 1, 2001, but Kandiyohi County requested, and was granted, a two-year extension from the Board of Water and Soil Resources. The extension was requested based on numerous watershed projects already underway. This third generation Water Plan will be for the time period of January 2003 through December 2012 (ten years).

This third generation plan is organized and divided into six chapters. Chapter one is the introduction. Chapters two through four include the fifty-five data items required in the plan. These three chapters are broken down further to include Kandiyohi County's physical environment, land use and development, hydrologic inventory of Kandiyohi County and Kandiyohi County's special land uses and conditions. Chapter five, which probably is the most important section of the plan, identifies goals, objectives and actions pertaining to issues and concerns related to water issues in the County. Chapter six provides details on plan administration.

The CLWP is reviewed by the Water Plan Taskforce (WPTF), which sets priorities annually for the upcoming year when the Natural Resource Block Grant (NRBG) is submitted to the BWSR by the Water Plan Coordinator. The Work Plan, as prepared by the Water Plan Coordinator, incorporates all the priorities set forth by the WPTF. The 20-member taskforce meets quarterly and is appointed by the County Board. Each member shall serve on the taskforce for no more than a maximum of eight years. The taskforce represents a wide spectrum of individuals and businesses who are interested in water related activities in Kandiyohi County.

The WPTF implemented a cost share program for individuals and organizations requesting funds to implement projects related to surface and groundwater issues. Applicants requesting cost share funds present their project(s) to the WPTF, the taskforce then gives their recommendation to the County Board for a final decision. In the past, most of the requests for cost share funds came from individual lake associations. In the last few years more and more requests for cost share funds have come from watershed groups. Counties, government agencies, as well as lake associations are working cooperatively with one another in addressing concerns on water quality and quantity management activities inside and outside of Kandiyohi County's boundaries. These partnerships further strengthen our goals in addressing our concerns on water issues by providing additional finances and manpower to implement projects, sharing information, and avoiding duplication of certain tasks. Thus, increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of water planning and implementation.

Kandiyohi County is actively involved and is working cooperatively with other counties on three large watershed projects, the Chippewa River Watershed Project, Hawk Creek Watershed Project, and the Crow River Watershed Project. The three Watershed Projects encompass all of Kandiyohi County. Each of the watershed projects is in various stages of their MPCA Clean

Water Partnership Grants. The Chippewa River Watershed Project and the Hawk Creek Watershed Project are currently in MPCA Phase II Implementation, while the Crow River Watershed Project is a MPCA Phase I Diagnostic/Feasibility Study.

Other ongoing watershed projects in the County include the Diamond Lake Project, Upper Shakopee Watershed Project (USWP) and the Green Lake & Middle Fork Crow River Watershed Project (GLMFCRWP). The USWP includes the lakes of: Games, Norway, Andrew and Florida. The GLMFCRWP includes the lakes of: Green, Monongalia, Calhoun, Long, Nest, George and Elkhorn. The Diamond Lake Project and GLMFCRWP are funded through a MPCA Clean Water Partnership Grant with cash and/or in-kind services provided by the County, Lake Associations, government agencies and municipalities.

In 1999, a Wetland Restoration Project installed by the Willmar Senior High School was nominated by the WPTF and was awarded by the Board of Water and Soil Resources as the 1999 Local Water Plan Project of the Year. This Wetland Restoration Project provided wildlife habitat, educational opportunities to students and water quality benefits to nearby Willmar and Foot Lake. Numerous partners provided financial and technical assistance to complete this project.

Many CLWP actions have been accomplished or are being actively pursued in Kandiyohi County. Kandiyohi County has supported and allocated cash and/or in-kind services for the following activities:

### **Education & Information**

- Conservation Credit Initiative Program, 1996.
- Seminar held by COLA, 1997.
- University of Minnesota, Jeff Lopez, Manure Management Program, 1997, 1998, 1999.
- Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center, purchased educational equipment, 1997.
- Eagle Lake Management Plan, 1997.
- Kandiyohi County Area Conservation Association, educational equipment, 1998.
- Kandiyohi County purchased water test monitoring equipment for area lake assn., 1998.
- Member MRJPB, 1999, 2000.
- New London-Spicer School, Wolf Ridge Learning Center, 2000.
- Kandiyohi County Lakes Improvement Assn., Eurasian Millfoil. 2001.

### **Inventory & Mapping**

- Abandoned well inventory.
- Kandiyohi County Environmental Service Office purchased G.I.S. system, 1998.
- MPCA Level I & Level II Feedlot Inventory.

## **Monitoring & Data Collection**

- Middle Crow River Lakes Association, water testing, 1996, 1999.
- Upper Shakopee River, water testing, 1997, 1998, 2000.
- Chippewa River Watershed Project, MPCA Phase I Study, 1997, 1998.
- Crow River Watershed, Phase I Study, 2001.
- Green Lake Property Owners Association, water testing, 1997.
- Hawk Creek River Watershed Project, MPCA Phase I, 1999, 2000.
- Kandiyohi SWCD, Department of Agriculture Groundwater Study, 1999.
- Upper Shakopee Watershed, Minnesota River Grant, 2000.
- Middle Fork Crow River Lake Association, MPCA Phase I, 2000, 2001.
- Eagle Lake, water testing and sampling, 2001.

## **Land & Water Treatment**

- Sealing Abandoned Well Program (1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001).
- Nest Lake, Weed Cutter Program.
- Kandiyohi County, Aeration Program (1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001).
- Middle Fork Crow River Lake Association, installed data logger.
- Installed waterways and terraces at J & J Farms, Inc.
- Tree program to stabilize shoreland areas, 1997.
- A sheet pile structure was installed at inlet of Norway Lake, 1997.
- Eagle Lake, wetland cleanout, 1997.
- Diamond Lake, MPCA Phase II Project, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000.
- Willmar Senior High, erosion control, Wetland Restoration Project, 1998.
- Norway Lake, reroute tile system for water quality benefits, 1998.
- Roseland Township, stabilize ditch bank, 1998.
- Kandiyohi County SWCD, Grass Lake Project, 1999.
- Schafer, water control structure, 1999.
- Norway Lake, channel stabilization, 2000.
- Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center, erosion control, 2000.
- Lake Elizabeth, Erosion Project, 2000.
- Provide financial (State Revolving Funds, Grants) and technical assistance for upgrading failing septic systems.
- Upper Shakopee River Watershed Project, Phase II, 2001.
- Chippewa River Watershed Project, Phase II, 2001.
- Hawk Creek Watershed Project, Phase II, 2001.

## **Regulation & Planning**

- Member Joint Powers Board (Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker and Renville County).
- Member on Highway 23 Steering Committee.
- MPCA delegated County for administering Feedlot Program.
- Administer Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act.

This second generation CLWP has provided many challenges and opportunities for the WPTF and the County as shown above by the list of completed and ongoing accomplishments. The scope of projects in the past emphasized personal agendas concerning water issues on particular projects or individual lakes. Water planning concerns and issues have expanded and focused on a broad scale implementing projects and educating people in a particular watershed. By broadening the scope of work, watershed projects tend to be all encompassing, limiting staff time and requiring more funds to implement and accomplish certain projects, goals and objectives.

On January 29, 2002, the Kandiyohi County WPTF held a public informational meeting regarding the revision and update of the water plan. This meeting provided the public and all local governmental units, as well as State agencies, an opportunity to present information and concerns about water-related issues that they believed should be considered in the revision of the water plan. Based upon issues discussed at the informational meeting, the WPTF established goals, objectives and action items for the Ten Year Implementation Plan. The WPTF also identified five high priority goals to be achieved within the next five years for the protection and management of water and land resources. The high priority goals, which comprise the Five Year Focus Plan, consist of the following objectives:

- Decrease the nutrient and sediment concentration of surface water to the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of the North Central Hardwood Forests and Western Corn Belt Plains Ecoregion.
- Through education and regulation, preserve existing wetlands within the County.
- Provide educational and technical assistance to landowners to restore 1,250 acres of wetlands within the County.
- Through education and regulation, ensure proper rural and urban stormwater management.
- Provide educational and technical assistance to landowners and cities to ensure the compliance of ISTSs and municipal wastewater treatment facilities.
- Through education and regulation, protect shoreland areas within the County.
- Provide opportunities for the general public to become informed on water resource management and the Water Plan.
- Improve communication and cooperation between Federal, State and local agencies and groups.

The updated third generation Comprehensive Local Water Plan, following BWSR approval, will be officially adopted by the Kandiyohi County Board of Commissioners in January of 2003. This revised plan will serve to guide water planning through the year 2012. During this time, opportunities will exist to amend goals, objectives and the work plan, as needed, to incorporate new data and address issues as they emerge. Kandiyohi County will continue to build on its past accomplishments and encourage new programs and opportunities for the effective management and protection of its water and land resources.

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