

2016 Waseca County Water Plan Accomplishments

Goal 1 : Protect and Improve the Quality of Water Resources Throughout the County

Objective 1: Work to monitor and assess all County Waters for determination and extent of impairments.

Planned Actions	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Contributing Agencies	Accomplishments to Date
1. Implement the Le Sueur River WRAPS 10-year targets for pollutant/stressor reduction within watershed.	2015-2018	2016	Waseca P&Z, SWCD, Conservation Corps, Lake Elysian Lake Association, DNR, GBERBA, MDA, Ag Producers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implemented grade stabilization and shoreline protection BMPs (3 properties) on 1 of 2 lakes within Le Sueur River Watershed listed as fully supporting aquatic recreation (St. Olaf Lake) through seeding and planting to native vegetation Implementation of native plantings and seeding to ravine found to contribute high TSS to Reeds Lake in progress Lake Elysian Lake Association considering lake drawdown to reduce TSS loading, and improve native plant and fish populations 7 applications filed with Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program—certification pending Initiated partnership between County P&Z and Waseca Lakes Association for development of a prioritized watershed management implementation plan for restoration of the Clear Lake watershed
2. Continue TMDL studies on waters of Waseca County following the Intensive Watershed Monitoring approach.	2015-2018	2016	MPCA, EPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA approval of Le Sueur River Watershed E. coli, dissolved oxygen, and total phosphorus TMDL
16. Complete DEM Hydro Conditioning analysis within Waseca County.	2015-2018	2016	GBERBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GBERBA awarded Clean Water Funds to complete hydroconditioning within the Blue Earth, Le Sueur, and Watonwan watersheds

Objective 2: Properly manage pollution caused by feedlots and industry.

Planned Actions	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Contributing Agencies	Accomplishments to Date
7. Continue to locally administer the County's Feedlot Program to assist feedlot operators in obtaining and maintaining compliance with State regulations, developing manure management plans, and using proper land application techniques.	2015-2018	2016	Waseca P&Z, MPCA, Producers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 land application and nutrient management plans reviewed
8. Ensure registration of all feedlots capable of holding 50 or more annual units (AU) or 10 in shoreland areas. Inspect a minimum of 7% of all registered feedlots per year. Ensure EAW completion for proposed feedlots over 1,000 AU or 500 AU in sensitive areas.	2015-2018	2016 to date	Waseca P&Z	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7% of all registered feedlots inspected to date, inspections scheduled for 10% of all registered feedlots Reviewed and provided comment on 1 EAW for proposed feedlot over 1,000 AU

Objective 3: Identify non-compliant septic systems.

Planned Actions	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Contributing Agencies	Accomplishments to Date
6. Provide educational and financial assistance, as available, to homeowners to upgrade noncompliant SSTs.	2015-2018	2016 to date	Waseca P&Z, Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$89,987 AgBMP dollars used to update County SSTs 2 systems replaced using 50% cost-share low income funding

Goal 2: Maintain and Enhance the County's Drainage System and Wetland Resources

Objective 1: Properly manage the County's drainage system.

Planned Actions	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Contributing Agencies	Accomplishments to Date
27 & 28. Ensure installation of 50 foot average, 30 foot minimum vegetative buffer strips width along all public waters, by November 1, 2017, and 16.5 ft continuous buffer width for public ditches by November 1, 2018.	2015-2018	2016	Waseca P&Z, Waseca SWCD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require buffer implementation plan when applying for a zoning permit, conditional use permit (CUP), variance or sub division. Tracking progress for and assisting landowners with achieving buffer compliance.

Goal 2: Maintain and Enhance the County's Drainage System and Wetland Resources

Objective 1: Properly manage the County's drainage system - *Continued*

Planned Actions	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Contributing Agencies	Accomplishments to Date
31. Regulate flood waters associated with drainage systems through the construction and maintenance of structures including water and sediment retention basins, 2-stage ditches, or other structures that lower drainage water levels.	2015-2018	2016	Waseca County, Le Sueur River Watershed Network, Waseca SWCD, City of New Richland, Freeborn County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnered with Le Sueur River Watershed Network to hold 2 community meetings to identify short and long term flood reduction solutions—70 community member attendees Submitted Clean Water Fund proposal for funds to conduct an engineering feasibility study
32. Achieve 22,700 new adoption acres of conservation tillage and 8,900 new adoption acres of cover crops in the Le Sueur River Watershed to act as part of WRAPS 10-year 5% reduced flow goal.	2015-2018	2016	Waseca SWCD, CRWP, BWSR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$5,000 awarded to SWCD from Cannon River Watershed Partnership 6-5-4 Proposal for cover crop implementation \$40,000 awarded to SWCD from BWSR Capacity Funds for cover crop implementation 976 acres of cover crops implemented throughout County
44. Pursue open tile inlet alternatives including inlet risers, rock inlets, and intensive tiling for local farmers. Install 15 per year.	2015-2018	2016	Waseca County, GBERBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GBERBA staff assisted County Ditch Inspector with potentially installing 18 water quality tile intakes on CD 48 and CD 21

Objective 2: Preserve and restore wetlands.

Planned Actions	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Contributing Agencies	Accomplishments to Date
29. Ensure existing wetlands are protected through the enforcement of existing State and Federal regulations, including the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act and Swampbuster.	2015-2018	2016 to date	Waseca P&Z, Waseca SWCD, BWSR, DNR, USACE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 County TEP meetings held, participation in 2 City TEP meetings 3 wetland banking proposals reviewed, 5 boundary/type applications, 2 no-loss applications, 2 enforcement efforts, 44 wetland inquiry cases Attended 9 wetland training sessions at annual BWSR Academy County staff became voting member of Minnesota Wetland Professionals Association (WPA) Participated in annual WPA field trip

Goal 3: Protect and Enhance the County’s Shoreland and Natural Corridors

Objective 1: Develop and implement reasonable strategies to protect and enhance shorelands.

Objective 2: Develop and implement reasonable strategies to protect and enhance natural corridors.

Planned Actions	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Contributing Agencies	Accomplishments to Date
49. Continue to administer the Waseca County Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program. Utilize the County Watercraft Inspector to minimize invasive species introduced to County lakes by inspecting Clear Lake, Reeds Lake, St. Olaf and Lake Elysian. Acquire a minimum of 100 inspections hours during each annual inspection season.	2015-2018	2016	Waseca P&Z, DNR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Level 1 Watercraft Inspectors hired as County employees • 566 inspection hours logged resulting in a total of 905 Level 1 watercraft inspections—conducted on Elysian, Reeds, Clear and St. Olaf lakes • Contracted for services with Steele County to assist in implementation of Steele County AIS Prevention Program—conducted 125 inspections on Beaver Lake • Attendance at the 2016 Aquatic Invaders Summit II • Annual update of Waseca County Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Plan in progress—to be submitted to DNR by December 31 • DNR completing design to implement \$900,000 electric fish barrier on tributary of Le Sueur River to block invasive carp travel to Lake Elysian and Buffalo Lake
51. Treat for Aquatic Invasive Species in infested County lakes.	2015-2018	2016	Waseca PZ, Waseca Lakes Association, DNR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State awarded County AIS Prevention funds awarded to the Waseca Lakes Association for the treatment of 8.23 acres of Eurasian watermilfoil and 21.77 acres of curly-leaf pondweed

Goal 4: Increase Awareness on Key Water Planning Issues

Objective 1: Expand the public's knowledge and understanding of important water issues and resources.

Planned Actions	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Contributing Agencies	Accomplishments to Date
55. Continue to hold the annual Waseca County Farmer Forum. Educate public on drainage, AgBMP, feedlot, wetlands, nutrient management, and various topics relating to water quality.	2015-2018	2016	Waseca P&Z, BWSR, MPCA, U of M, MDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 120 attendees at the 2016 Farmer Forum Showcased talks on MN Buffer Initiative, GIS Tools and the Watershed Approach, Targeting Water Storage to Maintain Productive Land and Restore Clean Water, MDA's Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan, and MPCA's Demolition Procedures
58. Convene the Water Plan Task Force at a minimum of once per year to discuss accomplishments and future water plan actions.	2015-2018	2016	Waseca P&Z, SWCD, DNR, MPCA, Area Lake Associations, Ag Producers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Plan Task Force convened on November 16, 2016—discussions held on 1W1P; hydrologic regimes; MN Buffer Law, 2016 accomplishments and challenges; and 2017 prioritization
61. Continue to be involved in Cannon River Watershed WRAPS development meetings.	2015-2018	2016	Waseca County, Cannon River Watershed Partnership, MPC A, Rice SWCD, BWSR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participated in WRAPS finale meeting on February 17, 2016 Cannon River Watershed WRAPS approved on October 20, 2016 Waseca County supported submittal of proposal for One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) planning grant by Rice SWCD August 26, 2016: Rice SWCD informed that the BWSR Board selected the 1W1P application for funding—P&Z staff involved in the planning work group and plan development subgroup
64. Participate in the Waseca County Free Fair annually by holding an Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention booth. Distribute educational materials at this booth and call for members of the public for involvement in AIS taskforce.	2015-2017	2016	Waseca P&Z	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AIS Prevention Booth held at Waseca County Free Fair Distribution of AIS watch cards, boat plug docks, MN AIS Regulations sheets, educational brochures

Kelly Hunt
Waseca County Water Resource Specialist
Kelly.Hunt@co.waseca.mn.us
(507) 835-0615