



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Kittson County Local Water Management Plan**

***The Kittson County Local Water Management Plan (CLWP) will be in effect for 10 years, with a five year implementation plan.***

This section addresses the following items:

- Purpose and version of the CLWP;
- Description of the priority concerns that will be addressed;
- A summary of the goals and actions 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 fourth version of the Kittson County Water Management Plan, dated January 1, 2010.

The Kittson County Local Water Plan has three purposes:

1. To identify existing and potential problems or opportunities for protection, management and development of water resources and related land resources in Kittson County.
2. To develop and implement a plan of action to promote sound hydrologic management of water and related land resources in Kittson County.
3. To work toward effective environmental protection and management in Kittson County.

This CLWP focuses on priority concerns as identified in coordination with other local governments and state agencies and an implementation plan that addresses the priority concerns.

### **Description of Priority Concerns:**

The priority concerns in which the Kittson County Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) will focus on are as follows:

- **Land Use** – Wind and Water erosion is a big problem in Kittson County. Wind erosion is the biggest cause of siltation in watercourses, ditches and wetlands in the county. Because of Kittson's flat topography water erosion is also a concern. The following subwatersheds (Little Joe Diversion, North Branch at Outlet, Judicial Ditch #10 and the Unnamed Coulee) were selected for areas of study and implementation of programs to reduce sediment loads.
- **Surface Water** – The main objective in this category will be to focus on impaired waters/Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL), such as the Joe River Watershed District. Our primary focus will be on Turbidity, Bacteria and Nutrients in the TMDL sites listed. Other sites when added to the TMDL list will be considered in this section of the priority concerns.
- **Groundwater** – Protecting our drinking water resources will be the main priority for groundwater. All public water supplies in Kittson County come from an underground water source. None of the communities rely on surface water.

Education and outreach are a part of each of the priority concerns.

With the decrease in funding for Water Management Implementation, we will address issues that are doable with the funds we receive. Other implementation items will be accomplished through other funding sources.

### **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 include:

#### **Priority Concern: *Land Use***

The goal summary of this priority concern is to reduce erosion and sedimentation in Kittson County through enforcement of existing regulations, use of existing programs and development of new programs.

Summary of the actions and costs include:

- Contact landowners one on one and identify any resource protection needs on their properties;

- Promote and enroll landowners in easement programs (CCRP, CRP, RIM) and implement conservation practices such as grass filter strips, field windbreaks, living snow fence, farmstead shelterbelt, wetland restorations, etc.;
- Promote and enroll landowners in other incentive laden programs, such as EQIP and implement conservation practices such as No Till, Field Borders, Cover Crop, Prescribed Grazing, etc.;
- Promote said conservation programs at annual Ag meetings, township meetings and the Kittson County Crop Improvement Day.

Approximate cost: \$1,401,000 (majority for CCRP, EQIP, CRP, RIM)

**Priority Concern: *Surface Water***

The goal summary of this priority concern is to provide for protection of all surface waters in Kittson County.

Summary of the actions and costs include:

- Assist with the development of TMDL and also assist with water quality monitoring;
- Inventory possible side inlets to legal ditches and look for funds to reduce erosion potential at them;
- Develop a septic system inventory that determines which systems are failing;
- Implement conservation practices such as grass filter strips, field windbreaks, living snow fence, farmstead shelterbelt and wetland restorations.

Approximate cost: \$510,000 (majority for Grants, CCRP, State Cost Share)

**Priority Concern: *Groundwater***

The goal summary of this priority concern is to provide for protection of ground waters in Kittson County.

Summary of the actions and costs include:

- Continue with Kittson SWCD well sealing program;
- Inventory all potential abandoned wells in Kittson County;
- Work with rural water associations on wellhead protection plans.

Approximate cost: \$200,150

### **Summary of Consistency/Inconsistency of the Plan with other Plans:**

Summary of the consistency of the Kittson County Water Management Plan with other pertinent local, state and regional plans and controls include:

- The CLWP is also the plan in which the Kittson Soil and Water Conservation District uses as their Comprehensive Plan.

Parts of the following plans are incorporated in the CLWP:

- Joe River Watershed District Overall Plan
- Two Rivers Watershed District Overall Plan
- Roseau River Watershed District Overall Plan
- Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District
- Other state and local reports, information, etc.

There are no inconsistencies that we are aware of with other plans.

### **Summary of Recommended Amendments to other Plans/Controls:**

The Kittson County Local Water Management Plan does not have any recommended amendments to other plans/controls.