

III. Goals and Objectives

Priority Concern 1:

Contaminated runoff from both urban and agricultural land entering surface waters.

Objectives and Actions

Objective A

Encourage and promote urban and agricultural land use practices to protect surface water resources.

Actions

1. Promote the use of existing federal, state and local conservation programs that reduce soil erosion and sedimentation through the establishment of buffer strips, wetland restorations, field windbreaks and grassed waterways.
2. Promote participation in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to establish BMPs such as conservation tillage and nutrient management in conjunction with established buffer strips.
3. Provide educational information to landowners to assist them with the implementation of the Non-Point Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program that requires the development and implementation of approved erosion and sediment control measures on development and re-development projects.
4. Promote and implement the upgrading of individual sewage treatment systems in rural and lakeshore areas.
5. Promote and implement the use of animal waste management systems for feedlot facilities.
6. Encourage the proper application, storage, and disposal of agricultural, industrial, and household chemicals and their containers.
7. Assist volunteers with surface water monitoring activities on high priority lakes and rivers to determine and evaluate point and non-point pollution sources.
8. Encourage all of the cities in Grant County to install buffer strips or stormwater retention basins at the outlets of storm sewers.
9. Promote the establishment of buffer strips, rain gardens and wetlands in urban and lakeshore areas.

Priority Concern 2:

Excessive runoff water volumes, from urban and agricultural land.

Objectives and Actions

Objective A

Improve stormwater runoff quality and reduce quantity by increased utilization of stormwater management practices throughout the County.

Actions

1. Enforce existing state law regarding a one rod grassed buffer strip on either side of new and improved county and joint county ditches.
2. Promote the use of vegetated buffer strips, to reduce runoff, erosion, and sedimentation.
3. Promote the voluntary restoration of drained wetlands through CRP, CREP, WRP and other programs, to increase water storage, provide filtration of sediment and pollutants, and increase wildlife habitat.
4. Protect existing wetlands through the Wetlands Conservation Act to retain existing water storage, provide filtration of sediment and pollutants, and maintain wildlife habitat.
5. Coordinate with the Bois de Sioux Watershed District, County Highway Department and Local Townships to develop an inventory of all roads and ditch authority culverts in the County.
6. Promote the use of rain gardens and other best management practices that reduce runoff rates in urban and lake shore areas.
7. Ensure that storm water runoff issues are addressed in any new development within the shoreland area. By requiring and reviewing a copy of the storm water permit and storm water pollution prevention plan before issuing any shoreland zoning permits.
8. Promote the modification of ditch systems, when landowners on the ditch system desire to restore drained wetland basins.
9. Encourage through information and education a reduction in impervious surface within the shoreland and urban areas.
10. Encourage the County Commission and County Planning Commission to adopt county wide zoning that provides for improved storm water runoff protection through sub division ordinances.

Priority Concern 3:

Management of shoreland areas, and surface water use, specifically on natural environment lakes, rivers, and sensitive areas, on recreational and general development lakes.

Objectives and Actions

Objective A

Protect and improve the water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat of protected surface water resources of Grant County by initiating a process to reclassify lakes, or portions of lakes where appropriate, and clearly defining and mapping sensitive areas.

Actions

1. Utilize current technology and available data to review current classification of county lakes based on lake depth, acres per mile of shoreline, soils, vegetation and total lake acres to determine if the current classification is appropriate.
2. Where the current classification is documented to be inappropriate based on the selected parameters described in item 1 above, the County will petition the Commissioner of DNR to reclassify the lake into the appropriate class or establish a sub-class for portions of the lake.
3. Work with the cities of Barrett, Herman, Ashby and Elbow Lake to review the current classification of lakes which have a portion within the city limits. When the current classification can be documented to be inappropriate to adequately protect the resource, the cities will be encouraged to join with the County in petitioning the Commissioner of DNR to reclassify the lake into the appropriate class or establishing a sub-class for portions of the lake.
4. Work with the County Planning Commission to clearly define the parameters of sensitive areas.
5. Develop a county wide map of sensitive areas based on the defined parameters for sensitive area utilizing GIS technology.
6. Encourage the County Planning Commission to amend the shoreland ordinance to create a new classification for shallow lakes or a sub-class for Natural Environment Lakes that establishes standards appropriate for fish and wildlife habitat, and rural residential use.
7. Encourage the County Commission and County Planning Commission to amend the shoreland ordinance to create legal authority and jurisdiction over all protected waters and wetlands 10 acres in size and larger.
8. Encourage the County Commission and County Planning Commission to amend the shoreland ordinance to raise the current shoreland area on rivers from 300 feet to 1,000 feet.

Objective B

Identify a process of enacting surface water use regulations on selected lakes, portions of lakes and rivers.

Actions

1. Provide educational opportunities to lake associations, landowners and elected officials on the potential benefits of surface water use regulations.
2. Work in cooperation with riparian landowners and the public to develop ordinances on lakes of high priority to landowners and stakeholders.
3. Work in cooperation with local township boards to identify and implement surface water use ordinances on locally selected lakes.
4. Conduct landowner surveys in cooperation with the township boards to gauge the interest in adopting surface water use regulations on lakes within that township.

Objective C

Identify and prioritize selected shallow lakes for accelerated fish and wildlife habitat protection activities.

Actions

1. Encourage the DNR, landowners and sportsman's groups to engage in a process of selecting and prioritizing shallow lakes for increased protection through designation as waterfowl management lakes or waterfowl feeding and resting areas.
2. Adopt a new classification in the Shoreland Management Ordinance for waterfowl management lakes with development standards appropriate for that use.
3. Promote the control and elimination of exotic species.