



Draft Groundwater Plan Update and Proposed Submission to State for Final Review and Approval

Dakota County Planning Commission

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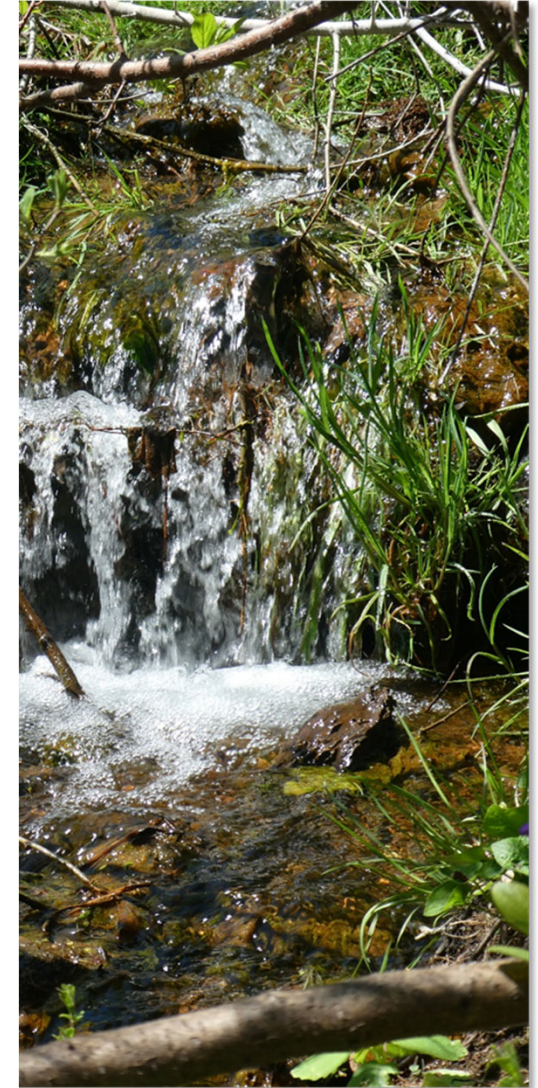
Environmental Resources

August 27, 2020



Overview

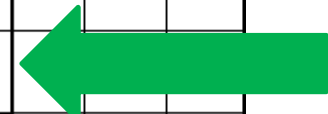
- Timetable
- Stakeholder Acknowledgement
- Significant Changes to Plan in Response to Comments
 - Planning Commission
 - Public Review and Comment
- New Efforts Under Way
- Next Steps
- Planning Commission Questions and Comments
- Request: *Recommend to County Board that the Groundwater Plan be submitted to the State for Final Review*



Timetable



Task	Q1 2020			Q2 2020			Q3 2020			Q4 2020		
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Round 2 Stakeholder Engagement	█	█										
Complete draft Plan		█	█	█	█							
TAG Meeting #6 (feedback via email on draft Plan)			█									
Present draft Plan & engagement summary to Planning Commission (4/23/2020)				█								
Present draft Plan to PDC (5/12/2020)					█							
Present draft Plan to Board , request release for 60-day public review (5/19/2020)					█							
60-day Public Review (May 20 – July 20, 2020)					█	█	█					
Compile/ summarize public review comments							█	█				
TAG Meeting #7 (feedback via email on revised Plan)								█				
Complete revised Plan and Response to Comments								█				
Present revised Plan to Planning Commission (8/27/2020)								█				
Complete Public Hearing (9/1/2020) & Present revised Plan to Board , request submit for final review (9/1/2020)									█			
Final review by State Agencies & BWSR Approval									█	█	█	
Present Final Plan to PDC-Board											█	█
Obtain County Board adoption of approved Plan											█	█



Stakeholder Acknowledgement



Dakota County Planning Commission

Groundwater Plan Technical Advisory Group

Stakeholder Engagement Participants in 2019-2020

Type and Number of Events	Estimated Number of Participants
Open Houses -- 4	150+
Workshops -- 5	60+
Nitrate Clinics -- 2	100+
Groundwater Surveys -- 2	300+
Intercept Boards at County Libraries and Service Centers	300+



Significant Changes: Planning Commission



Draft Plan V.4, Chapter & Section	Change to Plan
Executive Summary	Added “Water Supply Challenges” and mention of industrial pollution to Executive Summary to express urgency of acting on the Plan. Added estimates of costs of not taking action.
Chapter 1, Goals, Strategies, and Tactics Chapter 2, Plan Implementation	Reworded Tactic 1B1F to include potential partnerships for farm demonstration project.
Chapter 5	Clarified discussion in Chapter 5 of “Industrial Pollutants and Contaminated Sites” and the Inver Grove Heights Special Well Construction Area to be sure industrial contamination is appropriately addressed (UMORE, Flint Hills).

Significant Changes: Public Review and Comment



Comments Received From:

County Residents

Black Dog Watershed Management
Organization

Cannon River Watershed Partnership

City of Apple Valley

City of Sunfish Lake

Dakota County Soil & Water
Conservation District

Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend LLC
Refinery

Freshwater

Hastings Environmental Partners

Metropolitan Council

MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

MN Department of Agriculture

MN Department of Health

MN Department of Natural Resources

Executive Director, Legislative
Subcommittee on MN Water Policy

University of Minnesota

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers
Organization

Washington County

Significant Changes Public Review and Comment



Draft Plan V.4, Chapter & Section	Change to Plan
Executive Summary	Clarified text describing "Proposed new activities."
Goals, Strategies, and Tactics Strategy 1A3, Tactics 1A3A, 1A3E, 1A3G	Clarified water testing tactics as fee-for-service or at no cost to private well owners. Added communication expectations.
Goals, Strategies, and Tactics Strategy 1B1, Tactics 1B1A and 1B1B	<p>Tactic 1B1A: clarified Best Management Practice (BMP) and Alternate Management Tools (AMT) terms.</p> <p>Tactic 1B1B: clarified that ACRE process will consult with farmers and other stakeholders and is intended to be more protective of the health of drinking water than the state's Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan and Groundwater Protection Rule.</p>

Significant Changes Public Review and Comment



Draft Plan V.4, Chapter & Section	Change to Plan
<p>Goals, Strategies, and Tactics</p> <p>Strategy 1A3, Tactic 1A3H</p> <p>Strategy 3A, Tactic 3A1H</p> <p>Strategy 3B, Tactic 3B1H</p>	<p>Added Tactics 1A3H, 3A1H, and 3B1H and associated 10-year outcomes to address equity and inclusion. Added collecting demographic information from well owners participating in water testing programs because the County lacks this information and therefore does not know if it has specific populations who are being disproportionately impacted by unhealthy drinking water.</p> <p>Added tactics to provide information for the general public and for private well owners in languages other than English and/or in formats besides print or one-on-one conversations.</p>

Significant Changes Public Review and Comment



Draft Plan V.4, Chapter & Section	Change to Plan
Goals, Strategies, and Tactics Strategy 2A1	Reworded as "Ensure that large groundwater appropriation requests are sustainable and limit groundwater exports" since tactics were not just related to groundwater exports.
Goals, Strategies, and Tactics Strategy 2A1, Tactics 2A1B and 2A1C	Tactic 2A1B: clarified to reflect that a change in State law is required for appropriations permits greater than 3.6M gal/year. Tactic 2A1C: clarified County intent to evaluate ways to protect groundwater resources through its delegated well construction regulatory authority.
Goals, Strategies, and Tactics Strategy 2A2	Tactic 2A2B: added cost-share funding for water audits.

Significant Changes Public Review and Comment



Draft Plan V.4, Chapter & Section	Change to Plan
Plan Implementation, Priorities for Water Quality Goal 1B1: Reduction of agriculture chemical contamination	Explained that ACRE process will extensively consult with stakeholders. Clarified that nitrogen loss reduction estimates pertain to the area of the applied practice only, and that the list is not comprehensive. Noted which practices would reduce pesticide or chloride leaching to groundwater. Added link to MDA website.
Plan Implementation, Priorities for Water Quantity Goal 2A2: Promote water conservation	Estimated how much water conservation and reuse tactics would reduce annual groundwater usage (8-16%, or 2-4 billion gallons per year).

Significant Changes Public Review and Comment



Draft Plan V.4, Chapter & Section	Change to Plan
Planning Overview, Plan amendment process and timeframes.	Added text about the County's intent to revise this Plan prior to its ten-year expiration.
Roles, Responsibilities, and Official Controls -- WMOs.	Updated description of "One Watershed, One Plan" as it applies to watersheds within the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.
Groundwater Quality, Pesticides, Health Concerns	Explained how County staff consult with MDH about health concerns of specific pesticides found in drinking water and how to communicate risk information and water treatment recommendations, and how staff consult with MDA regarding strategies for reducing agricultural chemicals in groundwater.

Significant Changes Public Review and Comment



Draft Plan V.4, Chapter & Section	Change to Plan
Groundwater Quality, Aggregate Mining	Added paragraph explaining potential thermal or biogeochemical changes to local groundwater resulting from aggregate mining.
Any other highlighted changes in the revised Groundwater Plan	No substantive changes – changes made for clarity and consistency

Groundwater Plan New Efforts Under Way



- Community-Focused Private Well Testing Program.
- MDA/Dakota County Monitoring Well Network.
- County Ordinance No. 114, Well and Water Supply Management, revision to restrict construction of certain types of large-capacity wells.
- Large groundwater appropriations permit applications -- working with Department of Natural Resources to improve communications and processes.

Groundwater Plan Next Steps



- Agricultural Chemical Reduction Effort (May be delayed because program development will require in-person meetings with farmers, postponed due to Covid-19).
- County Groundwater/ Source Water Collaborative.
- County-wide water supply/ conservation initiative.
- State rules on water re-use.
- Drinking water treatment system grant program for low-income households.

Planning Commission Questions and Comments



Does the revised draft Plan fully address the comments received?

Is the Plan ready to submit to the State for final review and approval?

Other questions or comments?



**Recommend to County Board
that the
Dakota County Groundwater Plan
be submitted to the Metropolitan
Council, the state review agencies, and
the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil
Resources for Final Review**

Thank you!

