

Pipestone County Local Water Management 2005 – 2009 Executive Summary

The original Pipestone County Comprehensive Local Water Plan was approved in 1991. A plan update was completed in 1995, and another in 2005 at which time the County also updated its County Comprehensive plan and joined the County Local Water Management plan. Thus creating one uniform and comprehensive plan, with these plans combined the county is able to incorporate and implement water quality based land use decisions. The current plan covers a ten year period 2005 – 2014 with a five year (2009) update of goal objectives and actions. This executive summary is included to provide an overview of the accomplishments that have been achieved over the past five years.

The Pipestone County Commissioners have delegated the water plan implementation to the Pipestone Soil and Water Conservation District who meet monthly to oversee accomplishments, review budgets, and provide direction on implementation. In addition the County also utilizes the Planning Commission to provide input and direction on land use related issues. The Pipestone Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors include: Anna May Fritz (Chair), Le Roy Stensgaard, Ian Cunningham, Cal Spronk, and Ed Loll. Pipestone County Planning Commission members include: Curt Johnson (Chair), Mike Moeller, Tom Nelson, Leon Hanenburg, Arvin Pater, Jamie Sumption, John Ruiter, and Wally Slinger.

A resolution was passed on March 24, 2009 by the Pipestone County Board of Commissioners to authorize the update of the Comprehensive local water plan. Public comments were accepted until May 15, 2009 from State agencies, local governments and general public. Plan updates were discussed during the July 9, 2009 Soil and Water Conservation District board of supervisor meeting and at the Pipestone County Planning Commission meeting held on July 13, 2009. Update recommendations were incorporated in a draft update by the Conservation and Zoning office staff. A copy of the plan was then submitted for State Agency, Local Government and general public review and notice of a final public hearing to be held on August 10, 2009 was published.

The following is a summary of the previous five years of water plan related accomplishments.

Third Generation Water Plan Accomplishments 2005 - 2009

- **Citizen Participation and Intergovernmental Cooperation**

A County and SWCD website was developed to provide the public with reports, program information, form and applications, and links to other pertinent sites.

Water plan implementation actions are overseen by both the Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors and Pipestone County Planning Commission.

Pipestone Creek and Rock River TMDL's both had an advisory committee which provided input and assisted in the development of the implementation plan. Each watersheds advisory committee consisted of approximately 12 members which represented various organizations.

- **Economic Development**

Assisted and supported development of the Casey Jones Trail and City of Pipestone walk study.

- **Natural Resources**

Staff obtained and maintain subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTS) inspector license to oversee proper installation of systems.

County SSTS ordinance was updated to require system upgrades on land transfers.

County Septic Loan Program: Pipestone County designated an initial \$200,000 to the Conservation and Zoning Office to create a revolving County Loan Program for SSTS upgrades. Funds are loaned at a rate of 3% interest over 7 years as a property tax assessment. Presently approximately \$160,000 has been loaned on 23 upgrades.

Staff assisted and overseen the design and installation of the City of Hatfield's central sewer upgrade.

Annually approximately 40 individual subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTS) designs are reviewed and installations inspected to confirm compliance with 7080 rules.

SWCD staff administered the Agriculture Best Management Practices (BMP) Loan Program to assist in BMP implementation, a total of \$1,749,136.00 have been loaned.

Total Maximum Daily Load's TMDL's:

Pipestone Creek TMDL, study and implementation plans were completed and approved. Conservation and Zoning staff coordinated the process, with the assistance from MPCA and DNR. A clean water legacy and 319 grant application was submitted by not approved for funding.

Rock River TMDL, study and implementation plans have also been completed and approved. Staff participated in watershed meetings and provided input throughout the planning process. An implementation grant has been submitted.

Des Moines TMDL, study is approved and implementation plan has just been completed. Staff participated in planning meeting and provided needed data for the study.

Redwood TMDL, the study is just in the beginning stages and implementation planning will follow. SWCD supervisors and staff will participate in planning meeting and provide input as needed. Implementation project will be done jointly with surrounding counties and the RCRCRA. BMP projects completed in Pipestone County in the Redwood Rider in the last five years include 14 sediment control basins (638's), 1 watering pond, and 9 SSTS low interest loan totaling \$70,000. Funding for SSTS upgrades was obtained by the Redwood Rivers Control Association through MPCA grant funds.

The County purchased a building for the County Recycling Program, \$75,000. The Building is utilized for monthly collections of electronics, household appliances, florescent bulbs, lead batteries, and empty pesticide containers. Staff also held a Household Hazardous Waste Collection for the collection and disposal of unwanted materials; these collections are done jointly with Lyon and Nobles mobile collection units. Annually estimated material collected amounts are 300 household appliances, 3500 florescent bulbs, and 84,000 lbs of electronics, 50 lead acid batteries, and collection of HHW from 300 households. Annual disposal costs paid are \$20,000.

Feedlot level 3 compliance inspections have been conducted on nearly all 614 county feedlots. Annually staff conducts inspections on approximately 10% (60 sites) for re-registration and 7020 compliance. Once sites are identified as having runoff concerns staff assist producers with the design of runoff control structures, and the cost-share application process when eligible.

Feedlot Runoff control practices are installed annually on approximately 5 feedlot sites. Engineering and cost-share assistance is provided. Annually approximately \$500,000 is spent on total practice installation. Water plan funds are also utilized to provide incentives when other funding sources are not available, \$5,000 has been provided towards one runoff control structure.

Wellhead protection plans have been approved for the Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water Holland and North Holland, City of Ruthton, and City of Edgerton wellfields. Staff attend relevant meeting and assisted with implementation measures when requested.

Well Sealing Program: Annually \$4,000 is designated towards the cost-sharing of sealing abandoned wells. Cost-share is paid at a rate of 50% not to exceed \$250. Annually approximately 30 wells are sealed.

- **Land Use Planning**

A comprehensive Geographic Information System (GIS) was created within the County. GIS projects are created by the Conservation and Zoning office and then published for other county departments use. A County wide parcel map has been created, along with other various GIS layers; these layers are maintained and utilized with all county departments. In 2007 a high resolution aerial flight of the county was completed for a cost of \$50,000. With this imagery staffs is able to accurately measure, design, plan, and complete other tasks without having to spend the time in the field.

The County's Soil Survey was updated, and published on web soil survey, Pipestone County, \$150,000

- **Public Investments**

Conservation and zoning office staff completed the BWSR ditch study and serve as the local ditch contact.

- **Public Awareness**

Bi-annual newsletters are published and distributed to county residents to promote existing programs and financial resources, annually, \$1,500.

A contract is maintained with the local radio station to air several 30 second public service announcements per day promoting Best Management Practices, annually \$1,850

Ecology Bus utilized to provide environmental education to county schools, annually \$4,000.

K-12 conservation related education programs are coordinated with area teachers.

Producer nutrient management training and manure economic classes held for county feedlot owners.

County Conservation Tour held to provide producers and government official's knowledge of today's farming practices and examples of best management practices which have been installed. This year's focus was on dead animal composting.

Distributed free water sampling and manure sample kits to county residents. A prepaid account with Stearns DHI lab is utilized. Annually 50 kits dispersed at an average cost of \$30 per kit, \$1,500 annually, Pipestone Conservation and Zoning.

Information booth staffed at County Fair and home shows promoting conservation, recycling and BMP's.

Water Plan Expenditure Summary 2005 - 2009

NRBG	Grant	Match	Total
Water Plan	\$100,375	\$9,590	\$109,965
Feedlot	\$256,348	\$185,658	\$442,006
SSTS	\$32,885		\$32,885
WCA	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$100,000
Shoreland	\$14,895	\$14,895	\$29,790
Total NRBG	\$454,503	\$260,143	\$714,646
County Expenditures			
Pictometry Flight and Software	\$50,000		
County SSTS Loan Program	\$200,000		
Recycling Building Purchase	\$75,000		

Ongoing Programs

Pipestone County continues to administer several programs that are vital to achieving the goals set forth in the Water Plan, including those related to feedlots, floodplain and shoreland management, Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS), solid waste, Wetland Conservation Act (WCA), state-cost share, Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM), conservation reserve program (CRP) and county zoning requirements. The continued funding of these programs has been identified as a high priority in the Five-Year Implementation Plan.