
Chapter Six: Goals, Objectives, Policy Guidelines & Action Steps

This Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan establishes Pipestone County's goals, objectives and policy guidelines. They will be used to help make land use and planning decisions by everyone responsible for the County's future. The goals have been organized into eight topic areas. These areas are similar to the eleven ones established by the Community-Based Planning Act, which was passed by the State of Minnesota in 1997 (some of the eleven were combined into the other eight). The eight goals are used as a framework for the objectives and policy guidelines which, in turn, provide specific information on how decisions will be made by County officials on a day-to-day basis. If a policy guideline identifies that the County should proactively be doing something (rather than a pure policy statement), an action step follows the guideline. Each action step identifies who is responsible, when it should be completed, and how much it will approximately cost (i.e., who, when, cost, etc.).

Throughout the Comprehensive Plan, goals, objectives and policy guidelines are defined in the following way:

Goal: This is an idealistic statement intended to be attained at some undetermined future date. Goals are purposely general in nature.

Objective: Objectives are action-oriented and can be measurable if a date, dollar amount, etc. is included. Objective statements always begin with an action verb. There may be more than one objective for a goal.

Policy Guideline: These statements support the action of the objective. The statements are recommendations qualified by the word "should". Policy guidelines can also be converted into action work plans.

Action Steps Acronyms & Definitions

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|--------------|--|----------------|-----------------------------|
| CB | = County Board | PC | = Planning Commission |
| SWCD | = Soil & Water Conservation District | P&Z | = Planning & Zoning Office |
| EDA | = Economic Development Authority | CE | = County Engineer |
| TWNS | = Township Boards | Cities | = Pipestone County's Cities |
| NRCS | = Natural Resources Conservation Service | FSA | = Farm Service Agency |
| USFWS | = US Fish and Wildlife Service | DNR | = Dept. Natural Resources |
| MPCA | = Minnesota Pollution Control Agency | DH | = Dept. Health |

Ongoing = The action step does not have a clear starting and ending point

Annually = The action step should be conducted *and reviewed* annually

Year (i.e., 2005) = The action step should be completed by the identified year

\$1,500 = The action step should cost approximately \$1,500 in the identified time-frame

Goal One: Citizen Participation and Intergovernmental Cooperation

To promote cooperation among citizens, governmental units and agencies to work toward the most efficient, cost-effective and successful delivery of services

Objective A: Keep the public advised of important planning issues and events.

- Guideline 1: The media should be sent copies of all agendas and be notified regarding any special meetings (P&Z).
- Guideline 2: The media should be explained the nature and consequences of important planning issues (P&Z).
- Guideline 3: Use the Internet and other multi-media, when feasible, to keep the public informed on key County activities and issues (P&Z).
- Guideline 4: The County should hold public meetings periodically to identify issues and to discuss the nature of important planning issues (CB, PC).
- Guideline 5: The County Board should appoint Task Forces to properly address key issues (CB).
- Guideline 6: Residents should have ample time to provide input into important community decisions (CB).

Objective B: Use the Planning Commission to advise the County on issues of growth and development.

- Guideline 1: Members should have a wide variety of experiences and should represent a geographical, demographic and cultural balance of the County (CB).
- Guideline 2: The Planning Commission should meet with the County Board at least annually to discuss important planning and zoning issues (PC).

Objective C: Proactively work with governmental agencies to equitably administer various statutes, regulations and County Ordinances.

- Guideline 1: The Comprehensive Plan should identify issues, goals, objectives, policy guidelines and action steps.
- Guideline 2: The County should periodically review and update the Comprehensive Plan (at least once every two years) to establish a framework within which governmental, public and private interests can effectively follow clear policies (CB).

Guideline 3: Government programs and ordinances should be coordinated among units of government so they are efficiently provided to the public (P&Z).

Objective D: Meet on a regular basis as needed with local units of government, including cities, townships and various governmental agencies.

Guideline 1: The County should host an annual public meeting and invite local governmental units (i.e., cities and townships) to discuss important planning issues and to determine what should be done to work together to solve any problems (P&Z, PC).

Guideline 2: Cities and townships should be consulted on major land use issues and decisions, especially ones that affect land in designated Urban Growth Areas or land that is adjacent to the Cities (P&Z).

Guideline 3: Assistance should be provided to municipalities and townships, where necessary, in implementing planning goals and sustainable development activities (P&Z).

Goal Two: Economic Development

To create sustainable economic development strategies that retain, enhance and create economic opportunities

Objective A: Encourage the expansion, continuation and development of business, technology, housing and tourism.

Guideline 1: An inventory of existing business and housing needs and trends should be made periodically (P&Z, EDA).

Guideline 2: Encourage business and residential developments that are environmentally friendly (P&Z).

Guideline 3: Businesses should be given planning assistance to expand or improve their operations, including the awareness of existing financing tools (EDA).

Guideline 4: Redevelopment and reclamation of existing commercial and industrial areas should take priority over creating new developments, when feasible.

Guideline 5: Marketing strategies should be encouraged that promote the use of goods and services produced or provided in the County (EDA).

Guideline 6: Marketing strategies should be developed that promote the County as a place to work and live, focusing on available commercial and residential lots (EDA).

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- Guideline 7: Encourage local government units to develop and plan for infrastructure necessary to retain and expand businesses (EDA).
 - Guideline 8: Groundwater supply limitations should be recognized and evaluated prior to major development (EDA).
 - Guideline 9: Businesses should be encouraged to implement sustainable business practices (EDA).
 - Guideline 10: Agricultural activities should be considered an existing industry and plans should be implemented to promote agricultural related business.
 - Guideline 11: Assistance in retaining or expanding existing businesses should be emphasized (EDA).
 - Guideline 12: Business and industrial expansion should be encouraged in existing municipal areas in an effort to preserve agricultural land and natural resources (PC, CB, P&Z).

Objective B: Encourage a diversified type and number of businesses.

- Guideline 1: A diversified tax base offering a large number and wide variety of employment opportunities at different education and skill levels should be promoted.
- Guideline 2: Recruitment of new business and industry should take into consideration its size, type, wage, jobs, utility demand and compatibility with existing land uses and natural resources (EDA).
- Guideline 3: Efforts should be made to attract new industrial and commercial businesses that pay a liveable wage (EDA).
- Guideline 4: Encouragement and preference should be given to industrial and commercial interests with long-range commitment to the County.
- Guideline 5: Farmers should be encouraged to diversify and add value to commodities (i.e., bio-fuels, specialty products, etc.).

Objective C: Promote tourism as an existing and growing industry.

- Guideline 1: Programs, activities and events that draw visitors to Pipestone County should be encouraged.
- Guideline 2: A diversified range of recreational activities for every season should be identified and promoted (EDA).
- Guideline 3: Promotion of tourism should include provisions for protecting the County's natural resources.

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- Guideline 4: Tourism should be coordinated with existing entities, such as State parks and trails (EDA).
 - Guideline 5: Residential development near Wildlife Management Areas and Waterfowl Production Areas should be discouraged by establishing buffer zones for gun safety and habitat purposes (PC, CB, P&Z).
 - Guideline 6: The County's primary entrance corridors should portray a positive image of Pipestone County with proper signage, a County theme, etc. (EDA, \$5,000).
 - Guideline 7: The County's hunting opportunities should be promoted as a tourism opportunity (EDA).
 - Guideline 8: The County should pursue the promotion of wildlife and bird watching with assistance from the Minnesota DNR Nongame Wildlife Program (P&Z).

Objective D: Help develop and improve the human and natural resources of the County.

- Guideline 1: Efforts should be made to prevent the out-migration of area youth and to best utilize the older citizens of the community.
- Guideline 2: Planning should occur to protect scenic and environmentally sensitive areas, especially the National Monument and Split Rock Creek State Park (PC, CB, P&Z).
- Guideline 3: The County and private enterprise should work together to achieve and retain a skilled and highly trained labor force.
- Guideline 4: "Quality of life" indicators should be recognized as measures of the County's economic success.
- Guideline 5: The County should actively seek funds for a variety of business, people and natural resource needs (EDA).
- Guideline 6: Planning should occur to protect agricultural lands as a natural and economic resource (PC, CB, P&Z).

Goal Three: Natural Resources

To protect, preserve and enhance the area's natural resources, including agricultural land, wooded areas, water (both surface and groundwater), native vegetation, native prairie, scenic areas and significant historic sites.

Objective A: Create standards for environmental protection.

- Guideline 1: Land use activities should not greatly impact the area's unique or sensitive natural resources (PC, CB, MN DNR).
- Guideline 2: Land use plans and ordinances should encourage the preservation of prime agricultural land, wetlands, wooded areas, native prairie areas and other unique natural resources (PC, CB).
- Guideline 3: The County should make land use decisions that help to protect aggregate resources with an emphasis on minimizing residential and environmental conflicts (PC, CB).
- Guideline 4: The disturbance or removal of natural resources, such as mining, should be performed in a manner that will minimize the impact on the environment and efforts should be made to return those disturbed areas back to an original or environmentally beneficial state that is compatible with the surrounding landscape (PC, CB, P&Z).
- Guideline 5: All gravel pits should have closure requirements and reclamation plans that are closely monitored and enforced by the County (P&Z, PC, CB).
- Guideline 6: Care should be taken to minimize the disturbance of fragile eco-systems.

Objective B: Reduce priority pollutants to acceptable levels (i.e., soil erosion, storm water, wastewater, etc.).

- Guideline 1: Point and non-point pollution sources should be identified and abated, especially in wellhead protection areas (P&Z, SWCD).
- Guideline 2: The County should support the proper location, design, installation and maintenance of septic systems..
- Guideline 3: Managed/cooperative wastewater treatment systems should be encouraged in rural areas with high-density housing (P&Z).
- Guideline 4: Work cooperatively with cities to develop and implement storm water management plans (SWCD).
- Guideline 5: Recycling programs should be encouraged, supported, and altered to meet the public needs and increase recycling rates. (P&Z, SWCD).

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- Guideline 6: Voluntary septic inspections should be promoted to determine eminent health threats (P&Z).
- Guideline 7: The County should assist with developing manure application plans. (P&Z, SWCD, Extension, annually, \$5,000).
- Guideline 8: The County should help promote programs that can help minimize soil erosion (SWCD).
- Guideline 9: Construction sites should be protected with temporary and permanent erosion control measures (P&Z, SWCD).
- Guideline 10: A Residue Management Transect Survey should be completed annually in order to log tillage trends and estimate erosion rates (SWCD, annually, \$2,000).
- Guideline 11: Erosive areas should be protected with appropriate conservation measures (SWCD).
- Guideline 12: All projects should be held accountable for minimizing water runoff and soil erosion (SWCD).
- Guideline 13: Land use practices should be implemented that minimizes runoff (SWCD).
- Guideline 14: The County should provide incentives to landowners to plant native trees and shrub species that will provide protection from blowing and drifting snow (SWCD, CE).
- Guideline 15: Landowners should be given incentives to plant buffer strips (SWCD).
- Guideline 16: State cost-share programs should be used to assist in the installation of conservation practices(SWCD, annually, \$20,000).
- Guideline 17: The County should apply for grant dollars and utilize the Agriculture Best Management Practices (BMP) Loan Program to assist in BMP implementation (SWCD, annually \$100,000).
- Guideline 18: The County should proactively participate in getting waters off the MPCA's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) listing of impaired waters. Current listings include the Redwood River, Pipestone Creek, Split Rock Creek and Rock River. Assistance should also be provided to complete a TMDL study and implementation plan for the Redwood River and Split Rock Creek (P&Z, SWCD, ongoing).
- Guideline 19: The County should actively pursue implementation dollars to complete goals, objectives, and actions identified within TMDL implementation plans. Currently plans are approved for Pipestone Creek and Rock River. (SWCD, annually, \$300,000).

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- Guideline 20: The County should continue pursuing the development of a Household Hazardous Waste Facility with improved and more economical methods of collection, processing and disposal of Hazardous Waste and recyclable materials (CB, by 2011, \$250,000).
 - Guideline 21: The County should cooperate to inventory and prioritize potential contaminant sources, such as conducting a buffer study, Level III Feedlot Inventory, SSTS inventory, etc. (P&Z, SWCD, ongoing, \$10,000).
 - Guideline 22: Feedlot compliance inspections should be conducted annually on 10% of all feedlots or approximately 50 per year (SWCD, P&Z; ongoing; \$25,000).
 - Guideline 23: The County will pursue funds to complete four high priority feedlot runoff plans annually (SWCD, P&Z; \$20,000 for staff and \$80,000 for projects annually). It is estimated that approximately 30 feedlots need assistance.
 - Guideline 24: The County should work with unsewered communities (City of Trosky) and other unsewered cluster developments to bring them into compliance with 7080 rules.(P&Z, MPCA, City of Trosky 2010 Cluster developments 2011).

Objective C: Enhance the quantity and quality of surface water resources.

- Guideline 1: Ordinances should be implemented that regulate land use near surface water, wellhead protection areas, wetlands, and flood plains (PC, CB).
- Guideline 2: Water retarding and flood control structures and practices should be encouraged and implemented (SWCD, MN DNR, USFWS, NRCS, FSA).
- Guideline 3: Conservation programs, such as conservation tillage, pest and nutrient management, buffer strips, pasture management, and wetland restorations, should be promoted county wide, especially in sensitive areas. (SWCD, MN DNR, USFWS, NRCS, FSA).
- Guideline 4: The County should work closely with watershed organizations and Clean Water Partnerships in an effort to protect water resources (P&Z, SWCD).
- Guideline 5: Integrated watershed management activities should be encouraged.
- Guideline 6: The County should work with willing landowners on restoring natural water management resources, where appropriate (SWCD).
- Guideline 7: Wetland preservation activities should be encouraged in response to a demonstrated need and as a part of a complete natural resource management effort which considers water conservation, recreation and preservation of wildlife habitat (SWCD, MN DNR, USFWS, NRCS, FSA).

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- Guideline 8: Increased emphasis should be placed upon shoreland, flood plain and watershed plans and regulations in an effort to preserve these environmentally sensitive areas.
 - Guideline 9: Encourage temporary retention and settling basins to enhance surface water quality (SWCD).
 - Guideline 10: Encourage the restoration of drained wetlands by willing landowners.
 - Guideline 11: The entire County should be designated as a high priority wetland area for the consideration of grants and the implementation of various programs. (MN DNR, USFWS, SWCD, NRCS, FSA)
 - Guideline 12: The Wetland Conservation Act should be enforced county wide to ensure a no net-loss of wetlands (SWCD; annually; \$30,000)
 - Guideline 13: Surface water monitoring should be conducted on all waters to determine compliance with clean water standards. The county will submit any monitoring data to MPCA to help address impaired waters. (MN DNR, MPCA, SWCD, P&Z, annually, \$10,000)

Objective D: Enhance the quantity and quality of groundwater resources.

- Guideline 1: Groundwater quality and quantity should be closely monitored (SWCD, DH).
- Guideline 2: The County should examine developing a drought contingency plan (CB, \$3,000).
- Guideline 3: The County should continue to assist with the development and implementation of wellhead protection plans for Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water and the cities of Edgerton, Ruthton and Pipestone (SWCD, ongoing, \$1,500 annually).
- Guideline 4: The County should promote wellhead protection on all private wells and assist with implementation for those who are interested (SWCD, DH).
- Guideline 5: The County should cost-share the proper sealing of abandoned wells at 50% with a maximum payment of \$250 (SWCD, annually, \$5,000).
- Guideline 6: Water testing should be promoted and problems should be analyzed (P&Z, SWCD).
- Guideline 7: Sensitive groundwater recharge areas should be identified and proactively protected (PC, CB, SWCD, DH).

Objective E: Raise public awareness on a number of key natural resource issues.

Pease refer to “Goal Eight: Public Awareness” at the end of this Chapter

Goal Four: Housing

To an maintain and promote an adequate supply of
housing for people of all ages and incomes

Objective A: Help assure an adequate and affordable housing supply that provides a convenient, safe and aesthetically appealing living environment.

- Guideline 1: The County should consult and cooperate with appropriate agencies on important housing-related issues (EDA).
- Guideline 2: Encourage preservation and, where necessary, rehabilitation of existing housing stock, if economically feasible.
- Guideline 3: The County should conduct and/or participate in various housing studies periodically to assess the quality, quantity, type and need for housing (EDA).
- Guideline 4: The County should create clear development standards for new residential subdivisions, including clear storm water management requirements (PC).

Objective B: Establish greater cooperation between the public and private sector.

- Guideline 1: Existing public and private institutions should be involved in housing efforts as much as possible.
- Guideline 2: Residential subdivisions should be encouraged to occur in areas that are or will soon be supplied with municipal services to preserve the rural character of the County (PC, CB, P&Z).
- Guideline 3: Prime residential land should be identified countywide (P&Z, PC).
- Guideline 4: Cluster development should be encouraged, where appropriate (P&Z, PC).
- Guideline 5: Subdivision policies should be reviewed periodically to ensure that safe, efficient and aesthetically pleasing housing designs are encouraged (PC).

Goal Five: Transportation

To provide and preserve a balanced mix of transportation
options that safely and efficiently move people and goods

Objective A: Support a public and private balanced transportation system that encompasses air, highway, rail, public transit and pipeline systems which economically move people and products.

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- Guideline 1: The planning for the transportation system should focus on helping meet the County's economic and social needs (CE).
 - Guideline 2: The consideration of both direct and indirect impacts should be evaluated for each major transportation project (CE).
 - Guideline 3: Public transportation and ride sharing should be given a high priority.
 - Guideline 4: Consideration should be given to the aging and disabled populations when designing transportation programs (CE).
 - Guideline 5: Pedestrian and bicycle facilities should be implemented to help provide balance to the transportation system. The use of under- or overpasses should be considered where feasible.
 - Guideline 6: Long range planning should address a variety of transportation issues, with special consideration given to issues associated with inter-regional corridors (PC,CE).
 - Guideline 7: Planning and design standards should address both the aesthetic and functional needs of the County (CE).
 - Guideline 8: Flood control benefits should be incorporated into future road and bridge enhancements, when feasible (CE).

Objective B: Encourage the maintenance, reconstruction and construction of a highway and street system capable of providing for the safe, convenient and economical movement of persons and commodities.

- Guideline 1: Highway and street improvements should include consideration for sidewalks, lighting and beautification.
- Guideline 2: Safety improvements, including signing or traffic lights at intersections with high traffic volume should be made in anticipation of problems rather than in reaction to them (CE).
- Guideline 3: The County should continue to seek funds for the funding of bridge replacements (CE).
- Guideline 4: Programs or projects with the potential for reducing damage to highways caused by frequent heavy loads should be encouraged and supported.
- Guideline 5: Programs or projects designed to improve highway safety should be supported, including ones to lesson highway congestion.
- Guideline 6: The County should coordinate the placement of signs in an effort to keep Pipestone County safe and attractive (P&Z).

Guideline 7: The County should evaluate the County's roadway system to possibly better serve the residents of Pipestone County by transferring jurisdictional responsibilities of certain roadways in response to changing population densities throughout the County. This is referred to as a jurisdictional study and one should be completed every five years or as needed (CE, PC, TWNS).

Objective C: Invest strategically in transportation infrastructure to enhance the vitality of the County.

Guideline 1: Priority should be given to the preservation and maintenance of the existing transportation system.

Guideline 2: Current and planned right-of-ways for transportation system improvements should be identified and preserved (CE).

Guideline 3: The County should work with the townships, cities, neighboring counties and Mn/DOT to plan for an orderly regional transportation system while maintaining control over the transportation system within the County (CE).

Guideline 4: Transportation services should be developed that are consistent with local land use plans as well as with other development plans (CE, P&Z).

Guideline 5: A transportation system should be provided that encourages employment growth, economic productivity and fosters economic competitiveness (CE, EDA).

Guideline 6: Public and private partnerships in all forms of transportation investments should be encouraged.

Guideline 7: Recreational trails should be an important part of the overall transportation plan and should be developed and/or enhanced where needed (CE).

Guideline 8: Cul-de-sac development should be discouraged to help maintain a system of interconnected roads unless they are the only feasible option.

Guideline 9: Consideration should be given to classify appropriate segments of County Roads and Trunk Highways as scenic with planted areas to buffer developed land.

Objective D: Develop and implement access management guidelines to protect the integrity of the designed roadway system.

Guideline 1: Land use guidelines, zoning ordinances and subdivision ordinances should be amended to include access management standards. These standards should be developed for each functional level of roadways in the County (PC).

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- Guideline 2: Land use along major transportation corridors should be carefully planned to minimize future access management problems.
 - Guideline 3: All new developments should mitigate impacts directly related to new access points (P&Z).
 - Guideline 4: Access management regulations should take into account the design needs of larger agricultural equipment and heavy commercial vehicles where appropriate (CE).
 - Guideline 5: New private direct access to the County's major highways should be strongly discouraged. Adjacent roadways should be used whenever applicable (CE, CB).

Objective E: Develop a safe and financially responsible transportation plan (CE).

- Guideline 1: Create a roadway management system with a consistently updated comprehensive inventory of roadways and bridges to assist in the prioritization of projects (CE).
- Guideline 2: A multi-year road improvement program should be created as part of a capital improvement program to include maintenance, safety upgrading, paving and reconstruction work prioritized by year along with costs and methods of financing (CE).
- Guideline 3: Transportation impacts should be examined before land use decisions are made, including the decision if the existing roadways are suitable for the proposed land use or if improvements will be needed (P&Z, CE).
- Guideline 4: Efficiency in transportation services should be encouraged or promoted.
- Guideline 5: The location of commercial and industrial development should be encouraged in areas that avoid through traffic in residential areas.
- Guideline 6: Decisions on roadway characteristics should be based on current and anticipated land use trends (CE).
- Guideline 7: Rural development should be encouraged to locate near appropriate transportation corridors (PC, CE).
- Guideline 8: Gravel roads should be recognized as ideal in many rural situations.
- Guideline 9: Safety should always be the top priority in transportation planning.

Objective F: Support the maintenance and improvement of a railroad system capable of safe, convenient, economical and timely movement of people and commodities.

- Guideline 1: Truck and rail inter-modalism for agricultural products should be encouraged.

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- Guideline 2: Safety improvements should be supported at railroad crossings where the improvements are warranted.
 - Guideline 3: Private enterprise should be encouraged to work closely with government and the railroad companies to improve railroad lines, facilities and equipment.
 - Guideline 4: Brush and other potential site obstructions at rail crossings should be evaluated and cleared if deemed necessary for safety (CE).
 - Guideline 5: Set-back distances from the rail line should be increased for future industrial areas to help facilitate future rail expansion to these facilities (PC).

Objective G: Encourage the improvement of air transportation services and facilities.

- Guideline 1: Support improvements to the Pipestone Municipal airport.
- Guideline 2: The County should encourage airport zoning to help ensure that compatible land use decisions are made, including the height of structures (PC).

Objective H: Help support the long-range vision of the U.S. Highway 23 Interregional Corridor in order to preserve the corridor as a vital economic link for Pipestone County and western Minnesota.

- Guideline 1: Pipestone County will work with Mn/DOT to develop an access management plan for the Highway 23 corridor in Pipestone County in order to improve the safety of the roadway and to help maintain the travel time for the corridor. As a part of that access management plan, the location of future frontage/backage roads will be shown so that future development will not inhibit the County's ability to grow along Highway 23 and likewise will not compromise the access management strategy of Mn/DOT for Highway 23 (CE).
- Guideline 2: Pipestone County should work with Mn/DOT to develop a set-back ordinance for future development along the corridor that will allow sufficient room along Highway 23 to expand the corridor should conditions warrant it (PC).
- Guideline 3: As new development occurs along Highway 23, Pipestone County will work with developers to extend local parallel roadway infrastructure out to the developments (PC).
- Guideline 4: Pipestone County encourages and supports Mn/DOT's efforts to maintain Highway 23 at a condition level higher than other principal arterials because of its interregional corridor nature.

Guideline 5: Pipestone County will partner with Pipestone County and Mn/DOT to identify ways to improve the safety of U.S. Highway 23 in balance with the need to maintain the mobility function of Highway 23 (CE).

Goal Six: Land Use Planning

To establish a community-based land use process that recognizes that we have the responsibility and tools to shape good land use decisions while setting clear guidelines and treating people fairly

Objective A: Encourage a balanced and harmonious use of land consistent with natural features and socio-economic factors.

Guideline 1: The County's Zoning Ordinances should be reviewed periodically and updated as needed (P&Z, PC, CB, ongoing, \$5,000).

Guideline 2: Efficient and functional municipal growth and development should be encouraged to help minimize urban sprawl (PC, Cities).

Guideline 3: Adjacent local units of government and State agencies should be consulted on important land use issues (P&Z).

Guideline 4: Urban growth boundaries should be identified and planning should occur to account for growth in those boundaries (Cities, TWNS, P&Z, PC).

Guideline 5: The process of orderly annexation should be done in conformance with current and future land use plans (Cities, TWNS, PC).

Guideline 6: High-density residential growth should occur in areas that adequate infrastructure, such as public sewer and water (Cities, TWNS, PC).

Guideline 7: Commercial and industrial growth or expansion should occur near existing commercial and industrial areas and should occur where sewer, water and other municipal services are available or soon will be available (PC, Cities).

Guideline 8: New high-density development should be located in urban growth areas to help minimize urban sprawl and to help preserve the rural character of the surrounding landscape (Cities, PC).

Guideline 9: Strong consideration should be given to redeveloping and intensifying the use of already developed areas, especially as related to commercial and industrial growth (Cities, PC).

Guideline 10: Consider the impact of land uses upon unique scenic areas when making land use and zoning decisions.

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- Guideline 11: Open space planning and conservation subdivisions should be encouraged (PC).
 - Guideline 12: Off-premise advertising signs should be regulated to maximize public safety (PC, P&Z).
 - Guideline 13: Zoning regulations should be encouraged that protect prime agricultural land from urban growth and non-agricultural growth (PC).
 - Guideline 14: Regulations for nuisances and pollutants should be closely monitored and enforced in an effort to provide for a safe and healthy living environment for all residents (P&Z).
 - Guideline 15: Consider the impact of land uses upon sensitive areas when making land use and zoning decisions (PC, CB).
 - Guideline 16: The placement and impacts of small and large Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS), distribution and feeder lines and sub-stations should be examined for multiple purposes, including the protection of scenic and cultural landscapes (PC, CB).
 - Guideline 17: Existing ground water data should be analyzed to assist in making land use decisions (P&Z).

Objective B: Assist in providing recreational and outdoor opportunities.

- Guideline 1: Both active and passive recreation areas should be encouraged. (MN DNR, USFWS, SWCD, NRCS, FSA)
- Guideline 2: Improvements of existing outdoor recreational facilities should be encouraged where necessary and/or possible.
- Guideline 3: Recreational facilities should be planned on the basis of anticipated future population and overall needs.
- Guideline 4: State and Federal programs should be used to help protect wildlife and fish habitat. (MN DNR, USFWS, SWCD, NRCS, FSA)

Objective C: Promote the preservation of land and structures that possess scenic, historic or unique value to County's residents.

- Guideline 1: The County should actively identify land with scenic, historic and unique value and should develop a plan to successfully protect these areas (P&Z, PC).
- Guideline 2: The Historical Society should be consulted on important planning issues to ensure that areas with historical significance are preserved (P&Z, PC).

Guideline 3: The County should work closely with the National Park Service on protecting the Pipestone National Monument, including providing comments on the Monument's draft General Management Plan in Fall 2004 (P&Z).

Objective D: Create a comprehensive and accurate Geographic Information System (GIS) database for the County to assist in land use decisions.

Guideline 1: The County should support future and expanded uses in GIS, this may include software upgrades, aerial flights, lidar, or layer creations.(CB, 30,000).

Guideline 2: A GIS needs assessment should be conducted and updated regularly (P&Z, \$5,000).

Guideline 3: The County should maintain and distribute a Countywide parcel map (CB, \$10,000).

Guideline 4: GIS data (i.e. biological surveys, wellhead protection areas, floodplains, etc.) should be used to assist in making land use decisions (P&Z, PC, CB).

Guideline 5: Current City Urban Growth Areas should be kept on file in the GIS database and displayed on the County's Zoning Map (Cities, P&Z).

Guideline 6: The County should maintain a database of wind turbine locations (P&Z).

Guideline 7: The County's current land use and zoning maps should be regularly updated (Cities, TWNS, P&Z).

Goal Seven: Public Investments

To account for the full environmental, social, and economic costs of public investments while making the best use of existing infrastructure to minimize costs.

Objective A: Facilitate the development of basic infrastructure and services to as many of the residents of the County as possible without creating any substantial economic or environmental problems.

Guideline 1: The orderly development of streets and roads should be planned for and coordinated with the cities and townships (CE).

Guideline 2: The County should assist in providing quality and efficient law enforcement and emergency management to all residents.

Guideline 3: Sanitation and landfill management and development should be done to account for increased waste produced from new development and growth (P&Z).

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- Guideline 4: The County should work with State and Federal agencies to provide more access to recreation and open spaces for use by all residents and visitors.
 - Guideline 5: The County should support good telecommunication services but also encourage and promote co-location to minimize environmental impacts.
 - Guideline 6: The County should cooperate with cities and townships in developing mutually beneficial infrastructure.
 - Guideline 7: The County should work with State and Federal agencies to maximize compatible use of publicly owned lands (P&Z).

Objective B: Conduct capital improvements programming and budgeting to achieve desired types and levels of public facilities and services.

- Guideline 1: A periodic inspection and maintenance schedule should be developed and implemented for all County property and facilities (CB).
- Guideline 2: Plans for proposed new, upgraded or expanded services and facilities should be coordinated with applicable units of government and agencies.
- Guideline 3: Public facilities and services should not be duplicated (PC, CB).
- Guideline 4: The County's infrastructure should be analyzed in terms of maintenance versus replacement costs.
- Guideline 5: A capital improvements plan analyzing short- and long-term needs should be updated regularly (CB).

Objective C: Promote safe rural sewer and water systems.

- Guideline 1: Whenever feasible, areas should be extended the opportunity of being serviced by public sewer and water systems.
- Guideline 2: The County should work with the Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water in addressing adequate supply and water quality needs.
- Guideline 3: The County should work with the townships in enforcing strong septic system controls (P&Z).

Objective D: Continue and support the maintenance of a Countywide ditch system.

- Guideline 1: The ditch system should be maintained so that it effectively manages the movement of water using best management practices to minimize pollution and sediment (County Ditch Committee, SWCD).
- Guideline 2: The installation of filter strips should be enforced where appropriate and encouraged elsewhere (County Ditch Committee, SWCD).

Guideline 3: The replacement of needed ditch tile should be evaluated and planned accordingly (County Ditch Committee, SWCD).

Guideline 4: The County should appoint a task force to examine the development of a drainage ordinance (CB, 2007, \$4,000).

Goal Eight: Public Awareness

To support research and provide information on the County's important fiscal, environmental and social issues.

Objective A: Increase public awareness on the County's key fiscal and social issues.

Guideline 1: The County should inventory and prioritize issues annually and developing strategies to raise public awareness on the priority issues (P&Z, PC).

Guideline 2: The County should create newsletters periodically to explain key issues and to promote existing programs and financial resources (P&Z, SWCD, annually, \$1,500).

Guideline 3: The County should cooperate with townships on providing "rural living" handouts for potential new rural residents.

Objective B: Increase public awareness on the County's key environmental and water planning issues.

Guideline 1: The County should develop and use radio advertisements on a number Best Management Practices (SWCD, annually, \$1,300).

Guideline 2: The County should continue to maintain and improve a countywide youth (and adult) curriculum on important environmental education (P&Z, annually, \$4,000).

Guideline 3: Water conservation should be emphasized countywide and a K-12 education program should be developed (SWCD).

Guideline 4: An educational program on how land use activities affect water quality (both groundwater and surface water) should be developed (SWCD).

Guideline 5: The many benefits of wetland protection and restoration should be promoted (SWCD, MN DNR,USFWS, NRCS, FSA).

Guideline 6: Phase II storm water construction requirements (on projects over one acre in size) and general runoff education should be promoted (SWCD).

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- Guideline 7: Proper septic system design, operation and benefits to the environment should be promoted (SWCD, P&Z).
- Guideline 8: The importance of recycling should be promoted (P&Z).
- Guideline 9: Education efforts should be promoted regarding manure management, nutrient management and residue management plans, along with the application of other potential pollutants (SWCD, annually, \$5,000).
- Guideline 10: Water conservation education should be developed that focuses on reducing water usage through countywide water conservation plan (P&Z, SWCD).
- Guideline 11: Existing wetland restoration programs should be promoted (SWCD, MN DNR, USFWS, NRCS, FSA).
- Guideline 12: Educational programs that promote soil conservation should be offered (SWCD, annually, \$3,000).
- Guideline 13: The County should promote existing conservation programs and work with landowners on enrollment. Efforts should be initially focused on the County's environmentally sensitive areas (SWCD, \$7,500, annually).
- Guideline 14: The County should work with the DNR and other agencies on projects related to learning more about or providing public education on the County's threatened or endangered habitats and species (P&Z).
- Guideline 15: Producer informational meeting should be held annually to educate and update producers on programs and requirements. Trainings may include nutrient management, manure economics, etc. (P&Z, SWCD, \$3,000, annually)
- Guideline 16: Host an annual conservation tour. (SWCD, \$2,000, annually)