

1.1 THIRD GENERATION MANAGEMENT GOALS AND ACTIONS

Guided by the identification and prioritization of issues in the watersheds, the Commission has developed goals that will guide activities over the coming decade. These goals were derived from the Gaps Analysis and a review of the accomplishments and unfinished business from the Second Generation Plan; discussions with Commissioners, Technical and Citizens Advisory Committee members, state agency staff, and other city staff.

The framework to achieve these goals is set forth in the Implementation Plan and Capital Improvement Program detailed in the following sections. Member cities supplement and complement these actions with additional policies and programs tailored to their unique priorities and needs. The philosophy of the Joint Powers Agreement and this Plan is that the management plan establishes certain common goals and standards for water resources management in the watershed, agreed to by the member cities, and implemented by those cities by activities at both the Commission and local levels. Successful achievement of the goals in this Plan is dependent on those member cities and their dedication to this effort.

1.1.1 Water Quantity

A statutory responsibility of watershed management organizations is to prevent and mitigate flooding. This Plan accomplishes this by ensuring that development and redevelopment does not create excessive new volumes and rates of runoff that may cause downstream flooding. A second responsibility is promoting groundwater recharge, which impacts stream baseflow and lake levels, and maintaining adequate hydrology to wetlands.

The Third Generation management goals for water quantity are focused on reducing, or at minimum achieving no increase in, the rate of runoff discharging to the streams in the watershed, to reduce potential for erosive velocities and minimize further streambank erosion and mass wasting. An additional management goal is to maintain the current flood profile of Elm Creek and tributaries.

Goal Area A. Water Quantity

- Goal A.1. Maintain the post-development 2-year, 10-year, and 100-year peak rate of runoff at pre-development level for the critical duration precipitation event.
- Goal A.2. Maintain the post-development annual runoff volume at pre-development volume.
- Goal A.3. Prevent the loss of floodplain storage below the established 100-year elevation.
- Goal A.4. Reduce peak flow rates in Elm, Diamond, and Rush Creeks and tributary streams to the Crow and Mississippi and preserve conveyance capacity.

Water Quantity Actions:

- a. The Commission shall maintain Rules and Standards requiring development and redevelopment meeting certain criteria to meet runoff rate control and runoff volume and infiltration requirements.
- b. Landlocked depressions that presently do not have a defined outlet and do not typically overflow may only be allowed a positive outlet provided the downstream impacts are addressed and the plan is approved by the Commission.
- c. The local communities shall be responsible for removing deadfall in creek channels as appropriate provided that the deadfall is no longer attached to the land. For deadfall that remains attached to the land, it is the responsibility of the landowner to remove the deadfall. The Commission shall mediate deadfall removal issues as requested by the member communities.
- d. Member cities shall adopt local controls and local stormwater management plans that are at least as stringent as the Commission Water Quantity goals and policies and the Commission Rules and Standards.
- e. Crossings of watercourses for roads, driveways, or utilities must maintain the 100-year flow profile and hydraulic capacity and mimic 1- and 2-year conditions.
- f. The Commission will, as necessary and requested, coordinate intercommunity stormwater runoff design and planning with the member communities.

Goal Area A. Water Quantity

Floodplain Actions:

- a. The Commission adopts the current FEMA study as part of the Elm Creek floodplain for parts of Hassan (now Rogers) and Dayton that drain to the Crow and Mississippi Rivers. The Commission adopts the Elm Creek Watershed Study and its associated flood elevations.
- b. The Commission requires a plan review by the local permitting authority for development or redevelopment if any part of the development is within or affects a 100-year floodplain
- c. The Commission shall maintain Rules and Standards requiring development and redevelopment affecting the 100-year floodplain to meet Commission compensatory storage, low flow elevation, and timing requirements.
- d. Member cities shall adopt a floodplain ordinance and any other required local controls, and local stormwater management plans that are at least as stringent as Commission Floodplain goals and policies and the Commission Rules and Standards.

1.1.2 Water Quality

The Elm Creek Watershed TMDL report and the Elm Creek Watershed WRAPS plan establish water quality improvement and protection goals for several lakes and the major streams in the watershed. The Third Generation goals for water quality are focused on making progress to improve the lakes and streams in the watershed as well as protect those that are not impaired waters. The goals are aggressive; some of them will require much dedication and effort and public and private resources to achieve. However, public input received for this Plan, the WRAPS, and other sources show that achieving a high standard of water quality is a priority for the public as well as required by state statute, and the Implementation Plan includes actions to help meet these goals.

Goal Area B. Water Quality

- Goal B.1. Improve Total Phosphorus concentration in the impaired lakes by 10% over the 2004-2013 average by 2024.
- Goal B.2. Maintain or improve water quality in the lakes and streams with no identified impairments.
- Goal B.3. Conduct a TMDL/WRAPS progress review every five years following approval of the TMDLs and WRAPS study.
- Goal B.4. Identify high priority areas where the Commission will partner with cities and other agencies to provide technical and financial assistance.

Water Quality Actions:

- a. The Commission adopts as water quality goals the standards for Class 2b waters in the North Central Hardwood Forest ecoregion as set forth in Minn. Rules 7050.0222.
- b. The Commission shall undertake a routine lake and stream monitoring program to assess progress toward meeting these goals.
- c. The Commission shall maintain Rules and Standards requiring development and redevelopment meeting certain criteria to meet water quality requirements.
- d. The Commission shall maintain Rules and Standards requiring development and redevelopment meeting certain criteria to meet erosion control requirements.
- e. The Commission will develop and implement a program to provide technical and financial assistance to the member cities in identifying appropriate and cost-effective nutrient and sediment load-reducing Best Management Practices in priority areas.
- f. The Commission shall contribute to the cost of TMDL capital implementation projects as established in the current Cost Share policy, under the authority provided by Minn. Stat. 103B.251 Section VIII, Subd. 5, to certify for payment by the county all or part of the cost of an approved capital improvement.
- g. The Commission shall work in partnership with other organizations and agencies to pursue grant and other funding to implement improvement projects and feasibility studies.
- h. The Commission shall update this Plan as necessary following TMDL/WRAPS progress reviews.

Goal Area B. Water Quality

- i. Member cities shall adopt local controls and local stormwater management plans that are at least as stringent as Commission Water Quality goals and policies and the Commission Rules and Standards.
- j. Member cities shall adopt a manure management ordinance using the Commission's model ordinance for guidance, or adopt other standards and practices that will accomplish the objective of reducing phosphorus loading from new livestock operations.

1.1.3 Groundwater

The Commission has undertaken limited groundwater management activities in the past, primarily by encouraging projects requiring project review to infiltrate a portion of runoff. Over the past decade cities that rely on groundwater for drinking water have worked with the Minnesota Department of Health to adopt wellhead protection plans and to implement policies and official controls to protect drinking water sources. In this Third Generation Plan, the Commission has adopted a new infiltration requirement for new development and redevelopment to promote groundwater recharge and reduce runoff.

Goal Area C. Groundwater

- Goal C.1. Promote groundwater recharge by requiring abstraction/infiltration of runoff from new development and redevelopment.
- Goal C.2. Protect groundwater quality by incorporating wellhead protection study results into development and redevelopment Rules and Standards.

Groundwater Actions:

- a. The Commission shall maintain Rules and Standards requiring development and redevelopment meeting certain criteria to meet abstraction/infiltration requirements.
- b. Member cities shall adopt local controls and local stormwater management plans that are at least as stringent as Commission Groundwater goals and policies and the Commission Rules and Standards.
- c. The Commission will partner with the DNR, USGS, MDH, and other agencies to educate the member cities and watershed community officials about groundwater issues and their relation to stormwater management and surface water quality.
- d. The Commission shall develop and maintain a map showing the wellhead protection zones within its boundaries upon completion of a local wellhead protection plan for use in determining vulnerable areas that should be exempted from infiltration.
- e. The Commission will develop and implement a program to provide technical and financial assistance to the member cities in identifying appropriate and cost-effective abstraction/infiltration and groundwater recharge Best Management in priority areas to reduce stormwater runoff.

1.1.4 Wetlands

The Commission's primary tool for managing wetlands is the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). The Commission serves as the Local Government Unit (LGU) for WCA administration in Champlin and Corcoran, and the other five member cities administer WCA themselves. The Commission requires submittal of a functions and values assessment using the latest version of MnRAM whenever an applicant proposes wetland impacts.

Goal Area D. Wetlands

Goal D.1. Preserve the existing functions and values of wetlands within the watershed.

Goal D.2. Promote wetland the enhancement or restoration of wetlands in the watershed.

Wetland Actions:

- a. The Commission shall maintain Rules and Standards requiring development and redevelopment meeting certain criteria to provide buffers adjacent to wetlands, lakes, and streams.
- b. Member cities shall adopt local controls and local stormwater management plans that are at least as stringent as Commission wetland goals and policies and the Commission Rules and Standards.
- c. The Commission shall act as the Local Government Unit (LGU) for the Wetland Conservation Act for those communities that choose to so designate.
- d. Developers must complete a wetland delineation by a wetland professional to identify the location and extent of any wetlands present within the development site.
- e. For any development or redevelopment proposing impacts to any wetlands in the watershed, a functions and values assessment using the most recent version of the MnRAM protocol must be completed and submitted to the Commission and to the respective LGU.

1.1.5 Drainage Systems

Hennepin County retains ditch authority over several jurisdictional ditches in the watershed. The primary Third Generation activity related to drainage systems is to periodically review the advantages and disadvantages of ditch authority and if requested to reconsider jurisdiction.

Goal Area E. Drainage Systems

Goal E.1. Continue current Hennepin County jurisdiction over the county ditches in the watershed.

Drainage System Actions:

- a. If requested, reconsider the jurisdiction over the county ditches in the watershed.

1.1.6 Operations and Programming

These goals guide the routine programs and operations of the Commission, and include the education and outreach program; maintenance of rules and standards; the annual monitoring program; and programs and activities to stay abreast of changing standards and requirements, search for grant and other funds to supplement the regular budget, and operate a capital improvement program and share in the cost of projects.

Goal Area F. Commission Operations and Programming

- Goal F.1. Identify and operate within a sustainable funding level that is reasonable to member cities.
- Goal F.2. Foster implementation of priority TMDL and other implementation projects by sharing in their cost and proactively seeking grant funds.
- Goal F.3. Operate a public education and outreach program to supplement the NPDES Phase II education requirements for the member cities.
- Goal F.4. Operate a monitoring program sufficient to characterize water quantity, water quality, and biotic integrity in the watersheds and to evaluate progress toward meeting goals.
- Goal F.5. Maintain rules and standards for development and redevelopment that are consistent with local and regional TMDLs, federal guidelines, source water and wellhead protection requirements, nondegradation, and ecosystem management goals.
- Goal F.6. Serve as a technical resource for member cities.

Operations and Programming Actions:

- a. Annually review and adopt the budget and Capital Improvement Program.
- b. Prepare and implement an annual monitoring plan and summarize the results in an annual report.
- c. According to the schedules set forth in the WRAPS study, periodically evaluate progress toward meeting those water quality goals, and adjust the Implementation Plan as necessary to achieve progress.
- d. Every five years or as necessary review the development rules and standards for adequacy and make revisions as necessary.