
CHAPTER ONE

DATA ELEMENTS/ASSESSMENT

Minnesota Rules 4720.5200

I. REQUIRED DATA ELEMENTS

A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT DATA ELEMENTS

1. Precipitation

In the past ten years, the city of Moorhead has received ~~18-16~~ to ~~35-31~~ inches of precipitation annually. Precipitation data is located in **Table 1**.

Moorhead Aquifer: The study of the Moorhead Aquifer indicates no direct hydraulic connection with surface water. Precipitation data does not apply and need not be considered in the development of management strategies.

Buffalo Aquifer: The high vulnerability of the North and South Drinking Water Supply Management Areas (DWSMAs) and wells located within the Buffalo Aquifer were determined based on the presence of tritium in the well water and the lack of consistency in the confining layers between the land surface and the aquifer. Therefore, the ability of precipitation to carry contaminants from the land to the aquifer during recharge ~~must~~ shall be considered when developing management strategies within the DWSMA.

2. Geology

Geologic data elements pertinent to Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA) delineation and vulnerability status are included in Part ~~I-One~~ of this Wellhead Protection Plan (WHP or Plan) and are on file with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and Moorhead Public Service (MPS).

The geologic makeup of the **Moorhead Aquifer** consists of 100 feet or more of relatively low permeable clay and till soils. This forms a confining layer between the surface and the groundwater, making vulnerability of this aquifer a negligible issue.

Within the DWSMAs of the **Buffalo Aquifer**, areas of lowest to highest vulnerability have been delineated as shown in ~~Figure 1~~ Figure 1. These areas, especially those of highest vulnerability, must be addressed in the management strategies of this plan.

3. Soils

Because there is a protective layer of impervious material between the surface and the groundwater of the **Moorhead Aquifer**, this data element does not need to be considered within the DWSMA.

The surficial soils of the **Buffalo Aquifer** are shown in ~~Figures 2 and 3.~~ Figures 2 and 3. Moderately permeable soil textures of ~~sSilt lLoam~~ and ~~sSilty cClay lLoam~~ are predominant throughout the DWSMAs of this aquifer. Scattered small areas of gravel pits, sandy loam, and alluvial soils, with a higher permeability, are also found. The parent materials soil data are shown in Figures 2 and 3. The figures show the sufficiency of the soil to form a barrier to vertical migration. This Plan must verify and address the connection between soils, land use, and local groundwater quality.

4. Water Resources

There are no natural surface waters within the DWSMA of the **Moorhead Aquifer**. ~~—Ditch No. 41 flows along through the northwestern edge portion as shown in Figure 4.~~ —Ditch No. 41 flows along through the northwestern edge portion as shown in Figure 4. Since no hydraulic connection between the land surface and this aquifer exists, no consideration of this water resource is required.

The Buffalo River runs ~~through along and through a portion of the east boundary~~ through along and through a portion of the east boundary of DWSMA of the north well field and the South Buffalo River runs ~~along through the entire east boundary~~ along through the entire east boundary of the DWSMA of the south well field of the **Buffalo Aquifer**. ~~—There are no public drainage ditches located within the DWSMA. Near the north well field, water flows overland from the general direction of southeast to northwest and eventually into the Buffalo River. Near the south well field, a west to east surface water flow exists west of the South Buffalo River. Private and highway ditches aid in the movement of surficial water. Surface water issues must be addressed in the management of the Potential Contaminant Source Inventory (PCSI).~~

B. LAND USE DATA ELEMENTS

1. Land Use

The Moorhead DWSMA consists of 747.44 acres. The land use within the **Moorhead Aquifer** DWSMA (**Figure 4**) and listed below is not applicable to this plan except in the context of its relationship to abandoned or unused wells.

Land Use	Acres	% of DWSMA
Developed, Open Space <u>Grassy Areas</u>	16.33 <u>82.22</u>	2.1 <u>41.1</u>
Developed, Low Intensity <u>School</u>	320.43 <u>21.44</u>	42.9 <u>9.5</u>

2. Public Utility Services

Moorhead Aquifer: Moorhead's utility map is available at the MPS Business Office. Water and wastewater lines should have negligible impact on groundwater quality. Storm sewers discharge into ditches and, ultimately, into the Red River.

Buffalo Aquifer: Ground transportation corridors provide a potential source of contamination due to accidental spills and discharges. Trunk Highway No. 10 transects the south DWSMA and Trunk Highway No. 336/County Road No. 11 borders [and transects](#) the western edge of the south DWSMA and runs through the middle of the north [DWSMA](#). The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad transects the south DWSMA with 80+ trains per day. Both the Williams and Tesoro pipelines transect the Buffalo Aquifer south of the DWSMA. [The Viking natural gas pipeline transects the northern portion of the north DWSMA](#). A transportation map is available in **Figure 1**. The MPS Water and Emergency Conservation Plan ~~addresses~~ [details contingency planning related to options for](#) back-up water supplies and emergency preparedness in the event of a catastrophic event such as a hazardous release that may impact the public water supply.

Logs of MPS' wells are located in the appendix of Part I of the WHP Plan.

C. WATER QUANTITY DATA ELEMENTS

1. Surface Water Quantity

Moorhead Aquifer: As there is no hydraulic connection between surface water and groundwater within this aquifer, no information regarding surface water quantity is required for development of this Plan.

Buffalo Aquifer: USGS gauges exist on the Buffalo Rivers near Sabin and Dilworth. Annual mean streamflows have been recorded since 1932 at the Dilworth site (**Table 2**) and since 1946 at the site near Sabin (**Table 3**). ~~The years~~ [region has been in a wet cycle](#) since 1993, ~~have which has~~ produced ~~increas~~[high annual mean flows](#) ~~mean flows~~ with ~~the years~~ [1997 and 1998](#) [2009-2011](#) having the highest mean ~~flows~~ on record. ~~The South Branch has little or no flow during dry times. Aquifer recharge occurs from this river system, therefore, MPS is encouraged to monitor volume of flow at these sites if low flow becomes an issue.~~

2. Groundwater Quantity

Moorhead Aquifer: Groundwater recharge of this aquifer appears to be virtually non-existent. ~~Since initial use of this aquifer as a water supply in the early 1900s, approximately~~ [170-155](#) feet of volume has been drawn down, leaving an estimated ~~80 to~~ [90-100](#) feet of water.

The City of Moorhead has sealed ~~three~~ six city wells, and two high-capacity wells have been sealed at Fairmont Creamery. ~~Wells No. 4 and 5 exist at the water plant. They are presently used for monitoring only.~~ There are no other known ~~regular or~~ high-capacity wells in this aquifer. ~~Water quantity issues such as artificial recharge must be addressed in this Plan.~~

Buffalo Aquifer: ~~Adequacy of volume during drought periods has been addressed in Part One of the Plan.~~ According to a Water Resources Investigation Report conducted in 1997 by the U.S. Department of the Interior and the USGS, recharge occurs in areas **(Figure 7)** with less than 20 feet of sediment thickness to the aquifer, from the Buffalo River, and from leakage through overlying glacial Lake Agassiz sediments and adjacent till. —The general direction of groundwater flow is north/northwest, with some influence during high pumping.

A Contaminant Source Inventory Questionnaire was sent to all parcel owners located within the DWSMAs of the Buffalo Aquifer **(Appendix Item 7)**. Forty-six (46) of the 47 parcels responded, with the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad's response not received. According to this survey, in addition to the City's wells, ~~two~~ one high-capacity irrigation well, seven monitoring wells, and 27 residential wells are located within the north and south DWSMAs of the Buffalo Aquifer. Location and ownership of these wells are noted in **Figures 8 and 9** and **Table 4**. The irrigation wells for agricultural purposes are permitted by the DNR as follows:

- Paul Horn Farms, Incorporated
 - Well #232378
 - Acres – 570
 - Permitted MG/Y – 177
 - Used in 2000 – 76 MG

- ~~Ruth G. Landfield~~
 - ~~Well #147201~~
 - ~~Acres – 315~~
 - ~~Permitted MG/Y – 81.3~~
 - ~~Used in 2000 – 30.4 MG~~

Management strategies to address any additional high-capacity wells within this DWSMA will be included in Chapter Five of this Plan.

D. WATER QUALITY DATA ELEMENTS

1. Surface Water Quality

Moorhead Aquifer: As there is no hydraulic connection between surface water and groundwater within this aquifer, no information regarding surface water quantity is required for development of this Plan.

Buffalo Aquifer: The MPCA has compiled a 305(b) list of “impaired waters” within the state. Portions of the Buffalo and South Buffalo Rivers are on this list due to high turbidity and/or low dissolved oxygen (**Table 5**). ~~On these river reaches, TMDLs, or Total Maximum Daily Loads, will be instituted.~~ studies have begun within the watershed. -The ~~City of Moorhead,~~ Buffalo-Red River Watershed District, Red River Management Board, RiverWatch, and MN DNR and Clay County SWCD and Local Water Planner will be working cooperatively with the MPCA to designate study these parameters within the watershed.

Phase I of the Buffalo River Watershed-wide TMDL indicated 11 impairments on eight stream reaches. Results of this analysis showed that water quality issues in the watershed appeared to be more widespread than by the 2010 impaired waters listing.

Additional water quality data was collected in 2009-2010 by the groups. In addition, Index of Biological Integrity data was collected and a geomorphology study was completed by the MPCA and MN DNR. After completion of the 2009-2010 sampling, up to 25 impaired reaches with 44 impairments are proposed for inclusion on the 2012-2013 305(b) list of “impaired waters.” —E. coli is the most widespread impairment. The reach of the South Branch of the Buffalo River bordering the South Buffalo DWSMA is impaired for E. coli and turbidity. The reach of the Buffalo River bordering the North Buffalo DWSMA is impaired for E. coli. Both of these reaches of the river support fish and invertebrates on the Index of Biological Integrity.

Treated effluent from the Glyndon, Hawley and Barnesville Wastewater Treatment Plants are discharged to the Buffalo Rivers.

2. Groundwater Quality

A DNR Regional Hydrogeologic Assessment was completed in 2000 and results confirm a very high sensitivity to pollution within areas of the Buffalo Aquifer.— These areas were identified utilizing factors such as depth to water table and surficial sediment permeability.

The Appendix contains a copy of the ~~2001-2012~~ Consumer Confidence Report. —Water quality data is measured on the combined water sources, including approximately ~~85 to 90~~ 80 to 100 percent river water.

The Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture investigated the occurrence of pesticides and pesticide degradates in Minnesota public water supplies in February 2010. Well #9 (222050) was sampled in the South Buffalo wellfield and well #2 (511086) was sampled in the North Buffalo wellfield. The results can be seen in Tables ?XX and ?XX. There were no detects for any of the 88 pesticides and pesticide degradates analyzed in the study.

The Minnesota Department of Health conducted a general water chemistry project in July 2012. Samples were collected from the Red River, Well No. 6, 9, and 10, and treated water. Test results indicate compliance with maximum contaminant levels under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The study results can be seen in Appendix ?XX.

Tritium analysis was conducted as noted in the table below. Tritium is a radioactive isotope of hydrogen that was released into the atmosphere during testing of hydrogen bombs. When tritium is found in groundwater in amounts greater than one tritium unit, it is an indicator that recharge due to rainfall has occurred since 1953, when atmospheric testing of hydrogen bombs occurred in the United States.

In the **Moorhead Aquifer**, the water is considered “old” as tritium was not found. This shows that there is no surface activity influence in the aquifer and the water is not vulnerable to contamination.

In the **Buffalo Aquifer**, the tritium units range from 3.1 to 8.6, as shown below. This indicates the water in the aquifer has entered from the surface since 1953 and could be subject to contamination from surface activities. This relatively “young” age of the water helps determine the vulnerable status of the aquifer and must be addressed in the Plan.

Well Number	Aquifer	Tritium Level	Date Sampled
6	Moorhead	Unknown	
6B	Moorhead	<0.8	11/10/1997
1	Buffalo	3.1	08/09/1993
2	Buffalo	Unknown	
8	Buffalo	4.7	11/07/1997
9	Buffalo	8.6	05/04/1990
10	Buffalo	Unknown	

II. ASSESSMENT OF DATA ELEMENTS

A. USE OF THE WELL

The City of Moorhead utilizes seven wells ranging in depth from 111 to 273 feet.

Well Number	Unique Well #	Well Field Site	Depth (ft)
6	241492	Moorhead	270
6B	437645	Moorhead	273
1	511085	North Buffalo	198
2	511086	North Buffalo	203
8	222049	South Buffalo	116
9	222050	South Buffalo	111
10	222051	South Buffalo	124

Moorhead has two water treatment plants with a total capacity of 16 MGD. The new plant built in 1995 has a capacity to treat 10 MGD. It is used to treat both surface and groundwater. Ferric sulfate is added in the influent pipeline. Lime, soda ash, and a flocculent are added in the softening basins. Fluoride is added to the water ahead of the ozone/recarbonation contactors. There are six chambers in each of the two ozone contactors. Ozone is bubbled into the water in the first ozone chamber where the water has a pH of 10.6 to 11.4. Carbon dioxide and ozone are bubbled into the water in the third chamber of the ozone contactor. The pH is adjusted to 9.4 to 9.6 in the third chamber. Ozone is also bubbled in the fifth chamber. ~~Sodium metabisulfite~~ [Calcium thiosulfate](#) is added during the cold weather months to neutralize any ozone residual in the ozone contactor effluent water. Phosphate is added into the filter influent chamber. The water is then filtered. Ammonia and chlorine are added in the filter effluent chamber. Soda ash is added into the filter influent chamber or plant clearwell for pH adjustment during the summer months. The water is then pumped into the on-site reservoirs.

The 1960 plant (West Plant) has a capacity of 6 MGD and it is used to soften groundwater. The West Plant is a backup to the new plant. The water is lime-soda ash softened with ferric sulfate as the coagulant. Carbon dioxide is added to adjust pH. Phosphate, fluoride, ammonia, and chlorine are added to the filter influent. The water is filtered and pumped to the on-site reservoirs. The West Plant can be used to clarify and soften surface water, but the water would then be pumped to the new plant for ozone disinfection and filtration.

There are two underground concrete reservoirs located at the water plant site. The East Reservoir has a capacity of 2.4 MG. The West Reservoir has a capacity of 3.0 MG. ~~The~~ [Both the east and west](#) reservoirs are

connected with a 16-inch transfer line. The East Reservoir has two high service pumps with the capacity of pumping up to 4500 gpm each or a maximum of 7800 gpm with both pumps operating. The West Reservoir has two high service pumps with capacities to pump 2800 gpm and 3500 gpm, respectively. The pumps for each reservoir are on for about the same length of time each day. – The pumps are alternated to fluctuate cycle the water levels in MPS’ two water towers. –Only during peak pumping periods of the summer months is there more than one pump on at a time. – After midnight for two to four hours, there are no high service pumps on at the water plant. The pumps at the two distribution system underground reservoirs (500,000 gallons each) are operated during this time of night to change water in those tanks. MPS provides service to 9,43611,747 metered service connections, broken down as follows:

- o Residential 8,43610,606
- o Apartment / Trailer Parks 322377
- o Commercial 671757
- o Industrial 4
- o Regional (Dilworth) 1
- o Raw Water (Golf Courses) 2

The volume of water pumped has averaged ~~four~~4.4 MGD for the past ten years. ~~Water usage from the wells has decreased as pumping from the Red River has increased.~~ The historic water use is as follows:

Historic Water Use Over The Past Ten Years			
(In Million Gallons)			Annual Water Pumped*
Year	River	Wells	
1992	831.49	622.22	1423.87
2003 <u>1993</u>	1427.97 <u>790.24</u>	239.35 <u>565.96</u>	1611.20 <u>1381.94</u>
2004 <u>1994</u>	1337.94 <u>724.37</u>	262.20 <u>673.32</u>	1589.56 <u>1487.56</u>
2005 <u>1995</u>	1390.08 <u>1112.56</u>	227.45 <u>401.89</u>	1621.76 <u>1473.28</u>
2006 <u>1996</u>	1392.92 <u>1153.04</u>	330.23 <u>384.66</u>	1727.78 <u>1476.21</u>
2007 <u>1997</u>	1323.03 <u>1128.18</u>	332.02 <u>337.68</u>	1713.89 <u>1406.94</u>
2008 <u>1998</u>	1346.83 <u>1174.37</u>	209.54 <u>324.66</u>	1595.44 <u>1482.65</u>
2009 <u>1999</u>	1158.84 <u>1289.95</u>	336.82 <u>219.99</u>	1565.00 <u>1498.84</u>
2010 <u>2000</u>	1242.87 <u>1281.25</u>	263.91 <u>202.53</u>	1494.38 <u>1504.16</u>
2011 <u>2001</u>	1155.20 <u>1291.72</u>	340.11 <u>279.44</u>	1479.68 <u>1521.55</u>
<u>2012</u>	<u>1129.04</u>	<u>609.56</u>	<u>1657.00</u>

*The difference in annual water pumped and the sum of the river and wells is metering and sales of river water to golf courses.

The top ten water users in the Moorhead water service territory~~area~~ are Busch Agricultural Resources, ~~the City~~City of Dilworth, Pactiv Corporation, City of Moorhead, American Crystal Sugar, Minnesota State

University Moorhead, Concordia College, ~~Pactiv Corporation, Regal Estates,~~ Moorhead Public Schools, ~~Eventide Lutheran Home~~ [Clay County](#), and ~~the City of Dilworth~~ [Jen-Wright LLC](#). These ten users comprise 40 percent of the total water ~~sales~~ [sold](#). New industries are ~~being~~ actively recruited by the City of Moorhead as part of their economic development program. If new high-capacity water users are added to the system ~~or a long-term drought occurs~~, the City may need to pursue new groundwater sources. ~~The Red River Water Supply Project is working with the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District to explore the feasibility of utilizing water from the Missouri River as an alternate water supply during drought periods.~~ The installation of other high-capacity wells or increases in water use beyond the volumes used in the computer model for delineation in Part I of this Plan may affect the delineated WHPA and DWSMA and subsequently require a revision of this WHPP.

B. WELLHEAD PROTECTION AREA DELINEATION CRITERIA

The following data inputs were used in determination of the boundaries of the WHPA.

- 1. Time of Travel - 20 year**
- 2. Flow Boundaries**
- 3. Daily Volume**
- 4. Groundwater Flow Field**
- 5. Aquifer Transmissivity**

A detailed discussion of the delineation is found in Part I of the Plans. Part I of the ~~Amended Wellhead Protection Plan Moorhead Aquifer~~ was completed by ~~R.G. Soule, MDH, Jim Walsh, Leggette, Brashears, & Graham, Inc., MDH, and Part One of the Buffalo Aquifer~~ was completed by ~~Barr Engineering the modeling, delineation, and vulnerability assessment for the Moorhead Aquifer~~. ~~Both are~~ [The Plan is](#) available at MDH and MPS for review.

C. QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF WATER SUPPLYING THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY WELL

Results of routine sampling conducted by MDH in ~~2001~~ [2003-2012](#) discovered no violations of any parameters monitored under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

MPS' wells pump about ~~.077~~ [0.86](#) MGD, with river water usage making up the other ~~3.23~~ [54](#) MGD utilized by the city. During the months of November through March, 100 percent of the drinking water comes from the Red River.

D. THE LAND AND GROUNDWATER USES IN THE DRINKING WATER SUPPLY MANAGEMENT AREA

Due to the non-vulnerable status of the **Moorhead Aquifer**, the identification of contaminant sources is limited to the wells located within the DWSMA. No other [high-capacity](#) wells are presently known to be located within this DWSMA.

A Potential Contaminant Source Inventory survey was sent to landowners within the **Buffalo Aquifer DWSMAs**. A summary of the survey can be reviewed in **Figures 8 and 9** and is listed in the beginning of Chapter Five, with a discussion of the results at the beginning of Chapter Five.

Proactive management of existing wells, unused wells, unsealed wells, and underground storage tanks, and potential contaminants resulting from land use activity, must be included as part of the management strategies of this Plan.

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CHAPTER TWO

IMPACT OF CHANGES ON PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY WELL

Minnesota Rules 4720.5220

I. CHANGES IDENTIFIED IN:

A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Moorhead Aquifer: No physical changes in the environment are anticipated within the next ten years.

Buffalo Aquifer: The expansion of the Trunk Highway No. 336 corridor ~~is under construction~~ has been completed by MNDOT with four lanes between I-94 and Trunk Highway No. 10 with an overpass at Highway No. 10 and the railroad tracks. ~~MNDOT has been purchasing land and intends to construct clay-lined stormwater ponds and has agreed to place at least one foot of clay lining in the road ditches.~~ Within the next ten years, an expansion of ~~this road~~ County Road 11 ~~further north of U.S Highway~~ No. 10 is ~~also~~ planned.

One gravel mine within the south DWSMA ~~is~~ below the water table ~~with~~ can have a direct impact on the aquifer. ~~No restoration has occurred at this site; however, a berm has been erected to prevent overland runoff from entering the site.~~ Future expansion or new mining within the Buffalo DWSMA ~~s have been~~ will be discouraged. prohibited by the Clay County Development Code.

B. LAND USE

Moorhead Aquifer: Property along the major highway and railroad corridor has been down-zoned from Industrial to Commercial.

Buffalo Aquifer: Anticipated land use changes include pressure for commercial development along the Trunk Highway No. 336/County Road No. 11 corridor. ~~A study has been~~ authorized ~~completed~~ by the Fargo/Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments to discern the future plan for land development adjacent to this route around the cities of Moorhead and Dilworth. ~~An agreement has been reached and~~ Without orderly annexation, potential development ~~may~~ cannot occur without city services. Groundwater sensitivity will need to be considered during this planning process.

C. SURFACE WATER

Moorhead Aquifer: No hydraulic connection exists between the surface water and the Moorhead Aquifer. ~~This element need not be considered in the management strategies of this Plan.~~

Buffalo Aquifer: Regarding the Buffalo and South Branch of the Buffalo Rivers, water quality is anticipated to improve due to the upgrade of the Glyndon Sewage Treatment Plant, wetland restorations offered through a variety of programs (including a possible large restoration in the Manston Slough area currently being studied by the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District), and incentives through the USDA for CRP and buffers along the rivers. —Expected pressure for future development and the use of stormwater retention ponds must be a consideration in the management strategies of this Plan.

D. GROUNDWATER

Moorhead Aquifer: Potential artificial recharge to this aquifer is a consideration. —This could have an effect on both quality and quantity of the water contained within it.

Buffalo Aquifer: Any future well fields are expected to be located south of the already delineated DWSMAs. —This will accommodate the anticipated growth, both commercial and residential, in the cities of Moorhead and Dilworth. There are no expected changes in the good water quality the community enjoys.

II. IMPACT OF CHANGES

A. EXPECTED CHANGES IN WATER USE

~~With the additional provision of water to the city of Dilworth and expected increases in industrial and residential development, water use increases are projected in the next eleven years.~~

~~Existing space for expansion of the Moorhead Industrial Park and McCara Industrial Park allows for the likely growth that will occur. Anticipated increases in residential development to the northeast and south of the city and commercial growth along I-94, 336, and/or the new Trunk Highway No. 75 will likely affect the need for water usage increases.~~
The Fargo-Moorhead area has experienced stable population increases over the past ten years. Continued stable population growth will likely incrementally increase water demands over the next ten years. Over the past ten years, additional water demand was acquired as water allocations were increasingly provided to the City of Dilworth. As of 2011, Moorhead supplies 100 percent of Dilworth's water supply. Based on a 2011 MetroCog Population study, the Water Supply Area (Moorhead, Dilworth, and Oakport) population is projected to increase from 46,610 in 2015 to 52,710 in 2025, a 12 percent increase, respectively. Based on a Water Distribution Study conducted by Ulteig, Inc., in 2006, over this time period, projected average daily water demands are expected to increase from 5.29 MGD in 2015 to 5.86 MGD in 2025. The maximum daily water use is expected to increase from 8.38 MGD in 2015 to 9.28 MGD in 2025. As MPS' current new water treatment plant has a firm capacity of 10 MGD,

[the current treatment plant and pumping configurations will likely be able to supply demand for the next ten years.](#)

B. INFLUENCE OF EXISTING WATER AND LAND GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AND REGULATION

Moorhead Aquifer: The DWSMA of the Moorhead Aquifer exists within the city limits of Moorhead. The City of Moorhead has regulatory control within the city limits through a locally-adopted Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance. The City has been receptive to the recognition of the DWSMA in future land use planning efforts, as evidenced by recent zoning changes along the railroad corridor.

Buffalo Aquifer: The north DWSMA of this aquifer is regulated by Clay County Zoning ([Moland Township has no zoning authority](#)). The south DWSMA is regulated by ~~25%~~ Clay County Zoning (~~Moland Township has no zoning authority~~) and ~~7~~ Glyndon Township Zoning. Potential exists within the south area for extra territorial zoning within the two-mile radius of the cities of Moorhead and Dilworth. ~~This would include subdivision controls beyond county or township zoning. Representative members from these governmental units are actively participating in the writing of~~ [have completed a this](#) Plan, and have been supportive of the preservation of Moorhead's DWSMA. ~~The 336/11 land use study commissioned by the Metropolitan Council of Governments (Metro-COG) will provide greater direction from the local government about the extent of development and coordination of land use regulations.~~

Regulatory control also exists within the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District. An updated overall plan was completed in ~~1998~~ [2010](#) and priorities include utilizing existing USGS gauges and initiating water quality studies to provide a water quality database. Other priorities include technical assistance and education. District goals of protection and preservation of surface and groundwater are pertinent to this Plan.

C. ADMINISTRATIVE, TECHNICAL, AND FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

MPS and Clay County have been supportive of wellhead protection efforts. A Wellhead Protection Team has been formed and has been actively involved in the planning process. A line-item budget has been established for implementation of priority strategies identified in this Plan.

The WHP Manager will be responsible for implementation of this Plan. A re-allocation of position descriptions to provide staff hours to this endeavor will be completed. The team will continue to meet periodically to review and discuss implementation programs.

Clay County Water Planning, Soil and Water Conservation District, City Planning, and County Environmental Services have provided technical assistance for this plan along with the Watershed District and public utility.

~~In the past,~~ Clay County has implemented protective zoning within sensitive areas of the Buffalo River watershed. -NRCS has made wellhead protection a high priority for EQIP funding. Potential exists for legislative issuance of CREP dollars in the Red River Basin. -These considerations will assist in development of management strategies for the protection of the groundwater within the Buffalo Aquifer.

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CHAPTER THREE

ISSUES, PROBLEMS, AND OPPORTUNITES

Minnesota Rules 4720.5230

I. LAND USE ISSUES, PROBLEMS, AND OPPORTUNITIES RELATED TO:

A. THE AQUIFER

Moorhead Aquifer: The Moorhead Aquifer is confined based on geologic information and tritium results. This non-vulnerable aquifer appears unaffected by land use based on these factors and the quality of the well water.

Due to the limited recharge of this aquifer, quantity becomes an issue. Opportunities presented include: aquifer recharge during winter with treated river water, control of additional wells into this aquifer, and/or pursuit of Sole Source Aquifer Designation through the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Buffalo Aquifer: This aquifer providing Moorhead's Public Water Supply has been determined to be influenced by land use based on tritium dating of the water.

Opportunities presented include: investigation of potential land use impacts such as agricultural and/or commercial; identification of unsealed, unused wells; location of underground storage tanks; and development of a procedure for tracking new wells placed in the aquifer. Public education programs addressing potential contamination of the aquifer will be initiated.

[The development of an aquifer management plan has been supported by the governing bodies within Clay County and Minnesota State Agencies. Funding for the project through LCCMR has been unsuccessful. The opportunity to receive funding through the Legacy Amendment and the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund or other funding shall be pursued by MPS.](#)

B. THE WELL WATER

The city of Moorhead has adequate water for the projected use in the next ten years. Adding any high-capacity well may affect the WHPA and DWSMA and would require new delineation. MPS will work with the MDH and DNR to assist with location and construction of any proposed new high-capacity wells. Education is one of the main strategies in protection of drinking water supplies.

C. THE DRINKING WATER SUPPLY MANAGEMENT AREA

Moorhead Aquifer: Land use of the DWSMA within this aquifer has been relatively stable for years. A list of property owners, addresses, parcel Identification numbers, and current use classification is located on file at MPS and Moorhead City Hall.

Buffalo Aquifer: ~~The Trunk Highway No. 336/County Road No. 11 corridor study presently being completed presents an opportunity for planning before development occurs.~~ The DWSMA of the south wells abuts the ~~proposed corridor~~ T.H. Highway 336/County Road No. 11 corridor, with the recharge area of the aquifer within close proximity. Development west of Trunk Highway No. 336/County Road No. 11 would be less likely to affect the drinking water supply. ~~and should be encouraged, while~~ Development on the east side of the road corridor is more most vulnerable to changes in land use and should be discouraged and protected. A list of property owners, addresses, and parcel identification numbers is located in **Table 4**.

II. IDENTIFICATION OF:

A. PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES DISCLOSED AT PUBLIC MEETING AND IN WRITTEN COMMENT

The general public has expressed no concerns at public meetings. Issues identified at the WHP Team meetings include public education, agriculture impacts, potential commercial use, and wells.

B. DATA ELEMENTS

The State's Wellhead Protection Rule requires that existing information be utilized in developing the initial Wellhead Protection Plan. ~~—~~ Much of the data collected and utilized to delineate Moorhead's WHPA and DWSMA and to determine vulnerability of the aquifer to possible ~~contamination, contamination~~ comes from regional sources on a large scale. ~~—~~ While much regional information and data is being used as supplied by MDH, Moorhead has initiated verification of many of the contaminant sites and sources through a survey of all landowners within the **Buffalo Aquifer** to further protect public drinking water supplies.

The City will continue to compile data collected by all entities regarding groundwater and surface water to track potential changes in the quality of either. ~~—~~ This plan will be updated on ten-year intervals as required by the State of Minnesota. Updated data will be utilized at that time.

C. STATUS AND ADEQUACY OF OFFICIAL CONTROLS, PLANS, AND OTHER LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS ON WATER USE AND LAND USE

The WHP Team feels adequate protection of the DWSMA is available through existing land use ordinances in the cities of Moorhead and Dilworth, Glyndon Township, Clay County, and State well and groundwater appropriations permits. ~~The jurisdictions will be reviewing their land use policies related to development of the Trunk Highway No. 336/County Road No. 11 corridor to determine the appropriate extent, if any, of commercial development.~~ Existing education programs, promoting Best Management Practices (BMP), and working with local landowners on issues, is the approach proposed by MPS.

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CHAPTER FOUR

WELLHEAD PROTECTION GOALS

Minnesota Rules 4720.5240

III. GOALS

A. PRESENT AND FUTURE WATER AND LAND USE

The overall Goals of Moorhead Public Service's Wellhead Protection Plan are:

- **Quantity:** To promote public health, economic development, and community infrastructure by maintaining an adequate drinking water supply for all residents of the community and region, both now and into the future.
- **Quality:** To preserve and protect the quality of groundwater resources to assure continued safe and useable water supply.

MPS' water supply is located underground in two different aquifers. The Moorhead Aquifer, containing Well Nos. 6 and 6B, is classified as non-vulnerable, and the Buffalo Aquifer, containing Well Nos. 1, 2, 8, 9, and 10, is classified as vulnerable. Groundwater from these sources provides approximately 10 to 15 percent of actual water used in the Moorhead area. The rest is acquired from the surface waters of the Red River of the North. The Red River is susceptible to low flow and no flow under drought conditions. The groundwater supplies may provide up to 100 percent of Moorhead's water supply during prolonged periods of drought. [The development of an aquifer management plan for the Buffalo Aquifer could assure all users within Clay County of adequate water supplies into the future.](#) This program will focus on management strategies that address these differences.

Moorhead and surrounding communities enjoy a safe and adequate water supply. Through the implementation of this WHP Plan, these elements will be protected and preserved.

The Wellhead Protection Program will achieve these stated goals through existing and planned programs such as:

- **Public Education and Information**
- **Best Management Practices**
- **Well and Tank Identification**
- **Emergency Response Procedures**

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CHAPTER FIVE
OBJECTIVES AND PLANS OF ACTION
 Minnesota Rules 4720.5252

IV. ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES

A survey was developed by MPS, with assistance from MDH, and was sent to landowners within the DWSMAs of the Buffalo Aquifer to determine potential contaminant sources. A total of 47 parcels exist within these DWSMAs. The following table summarizes the results of this survey. MPS surveyed 450-plus parcels within the Moorhead Aquifer DWSMA for wells. No wells, other than MPS' wells, were found.

Category	Potential Contaminant	Number Located Within The Buffalo Aquifer		Priority
		North	South	
Wells	Source			
	Domestic	17	10	M
	High Capacity	2	5	H
	Monitoring	5	2	M
	Sealed	5	0	L
Septic Systems	Unused, Unsealed	0	1	H
	Tank plus Drain field	21	6	M
	Tank plus Mound	1	0	L/M
Tanks	Unknown	0	2	H
	Underground	0	0	H
	Above Ground	13 (120-1500 gal)	4 diesel, 3 gasoline (300-10,000 gal)	H
	Heating Fuel	10 fuel oil basement 1 fuel oil outside 9 propane (125-1500 gal)	3 fuel oil basement 5 propane 2 natural gas (12-1000 gal)	M
Agriculture	Chemical/Fertilizer Storage (bulk)	0	1	H
	Livestock	1(5 horses)	1(200 cattle)	M
	Potato Warehouse	0	2	M
Mining	Gravel Mining	0	1	H
	Asphalt Plants	0	0	H
	Borrow Pit	0	1	H
	Concrete Plant	0	1	L
Transportation	Major Highway	1 Clay Co. 11	3 US 10, TH 336, Clay Co. 11,	H
Pipelines	Railroad	0	1	H
	Pipeline (Petroleum)	0	0	H

V. OBJECTIVES

The following management strategies apply to the Buffalo Aquifer unless denoted by an asterisk, which would indicate applicability to both the Buffalo and Moorhead Aquifers.

A. LAND USE

OBJECTIVE A-1: **MANAGE SEWAGE TREATMENT LOCATED WITHIN THE DWSMA FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE AQUIFER.**

MEASURE A-1-1: Continue to inspect Individual Sewage Treatment Systems (ISTS) upon sale of property and/or when adding a bedroom. Systems not meeting regulations will be required to become compliant within ten months.

Source of Action: Clay County Public Health, WHP Manager
Cooperators: WHP Team, landowners
Timeline: Ongoing
Estimated Cost: Staff time and cost of upgrade to landowners
Goal Achieved: Facilitate systematic upgrade of non-conforming ISTS, education for owners of conforming systems.

Comment [KK1]: Clay County continues to enforce their regulations of ISTS.

MEASURE A-1-2: Require that new commercial businesses within the WHPA/DWSMA be connected to municipal sewage treatment and water supply.

Source of Action: MPS, WHP Manager
Cooperators: Clay County, cities of Moorhead and Dilworth, Glyndon Township
Time Frame: Spring ~~2003~~ 2013 and ongoing
Estimated Cost: \$2 Million to serve the entire area
Goal Achieved: Preservation of existing groundwater resources by preventing potential contaminant sources.

Comment [KK2]: The Clay County Board of Commissioners adopted this measure into the Clay County Development Code in Section 8-5C-1-C-2 in 2005.

OBJECTIVE A-2: **MANAGE POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS DISCHARGES, UNDERGROUND TANKS, AND GRAVEL PITS WITHIN THE DWSMA FOR PROTECTION OF THE AQUIFER.**

MEASURE A-2-1: ~~Propose~~ Monitor Clay County WHP Resource Protection Overlay District associated with Clay

~~County adoption of the~~ **DNR Sensitive Areas Map RHA-3 (map 4 of 4) from the DNR Hydrogeologic Assessment completed in 2000.**

Source of Action: Clay County, WHP Manager
Cooperators: WHP Team, cities of Dilworth and Moorhead, MPS
Timeline: ~~2003~~2013 and ongoing
Estimated Cost: Staff time
Goal Achieved: ~~Designation of~~ **Monitor** sensitive areas ~~in a defensible manner~~ for preservation of groundwater resources.

Comment [KK3]: The Clay County Board of Commissioners adopted the Sensitive Areas Map RHA-3 from the MN DNR Hydrogeologic Assessment completed in 2000 into the Clay County Development Code in Section 8-5C-1-C-3 in 2005.

Comment [KK4]: Continue Zoning Protection regarding RHA-3

MEASURE A-2-2: Propose land use zoning regulations to prevent placement of new underground tanks or bulk storage of hazardous materials within designated sensitive areas.

Source of Action: WHP Team, WHP Manager
Cooperators: Clay County, cities of Dilworth and Moorhead, MPS, Glyndon Township
Timeline: ~~2003~~2013
Estimated Cost: Staff time
Goal Achieved: Prevent contamination of aquifer from land use in areas of known sensitivity.

Comment [KK5]: The Clay County Board of Commissioners adopted this measure into the Clay County Development Code in Section 8-5C-1-C-4 in 2005.

MEASURE A-2-3: Propose setback and land use regulations on existing gravel pits within the DWSMA.

Source of Action: WHP Team, WHP Manager
Cooperators: Clay County, cities of Dilworth and Moorhead, MPS, Glyndon Township
Timeline: ~~2003~~2013
Estimated Cost: Staff time
Goal Achieved: Prevent contamination of aquifer from land use in areas of known sensitivity.

Comment [KK6]: The Clay County Board of Commissioners adopted this measure into the Clay County Development Code in Section 8-5C-1-C-5 in 2005.

MEASURE A-2-4: Prohibit expansion of existing and new gravel and mining operations ~~within~~ and monitor sensitive areas of the Buffalo Aquifer.

Source of Action: WHP Team, WHP Manager
Cooperators: Clay County, Cities of Dilworth/Moorhead, MPS, Glyndon Township
Timeline: ~~2003~~2013
Estimated Cost: Staff time
Goal Achieved: Prevent contamination of aquifer from land use in areas of known sensitivity.

Comment [KK7]: The Clay County Board of Commissioners adopted this measure into the Clay County Development Code in Section 8-5C-1-C-6 in 2005.

MEASURE A-2-5: Prohibit temporary and permanent asphalt plants within sensitive areas of the Buffalo Aquifer.

Source of Action: WHP Team, WHP Manager
Cooperators: Clay County, cities of Dilworth and Moorhead, MPS, Glyndon Township
Timeline: ~~2003~~2013
Estimated Cost: Staff time
Goal Achieved: Prevent contamination of aquifer from land use in areas of known sensitivity.

Comment [KK8]: The Clay County Board of Commissioners adopted this measure into the Clay County Development Code in Section 8-5C-1-C-7 in 2005.

MEASURE A-2-6: Investigate regulatory and permitting process for closed loop vertical cooling with antifreeze (geothermal). Lobby for proper oversight of this process.

Source of Action: MPS, WHP Team, WHP Manager
Cooperators: Clay County, Cities of Dilworth/Moorhead
Timeline: ~~2003~~2013
Estimated Cost: Staff time
Goal Achieved: Prevent contamination of aquifer from land use in areas of known sensitivity.

Comment [KK9]: The Minnesota Department of Health regulates closed loop vertical geothermal systems. City Codes contacts MPS when an application for geothermal wells are made within or near the Moorhead DWSMA.

MEASURE A-2-7: Establish pesticide waste and waste container collection dates and locations. Notify land owners within the DWSMA of these dates and locations and provide information on wellhead protection.

Source of Action: Clay County, USDA, WHP Manager
Cooperators: WHP Team, MPS
Timeline: ~~2003~~2013 and as needed
Estimated Cost: Staff time
Goal Achieved: Education of land owners and prevention of contamination of aquifer from land use in areas of known sensitivity.

Comment [KK10]: Clay County collects container annually. Typically they collect 2000 containers each year.

OBJECTIVE A-3: MANAGE ABOVE GROUND TANKS WITHIN THE DWSMA FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE AQUIFER.

MEASURE A-3-1: Inventory above ground tanks within the sensitive areas of the DWSMA for existing containment status.

Source of Action: MPS, WHP Manager
Cooperators: WHP Team
Timeline: ~~2003~~2013 and ongoing
Estimated Cost: Staff time
Goal Achieved: Knowledge of areas of potential contamination.

Comment [KK11]: MPS completed inventory for the 2003 WHP Plan. MPS continues to monitor development in the sensitive areas of the DWSMAs and aquifer.

MEASURE A-3-2: Offer cost sharing incentives on the voluntary construction of containment systems for above ground tanks at existing operations and/or farmsteads within the WHPA/DWSMA not covered by existing regulations.

Source of Action: MPS, WHP Manager
Cooperators: WHP Team
Timeline: ~~2003~~-2013 and ongoing
Estimated Cost: \$5,000
Goal Achieved: Prevent accidental spills from contaminating the aquifer.

Comment [KK12]: There have been several requests by landowners for cost sharing for new tank installations. None of the installations required additional containment measures beyond existing regulations.

MEASURE A-3-3: Require construction of containment systems around dispensing areas and around above ground tanks larger than 300 gallons at new development sites within the WHPA/DWSMA.

Source of Action: MPS, WHP Manager
Cooperators: Clay County, Cities of Moorhead/Dilworth, Glyndon Township, WHP Team
Timeline: ~~2003~~-2013 and ongoing
Estimated Cost: Actual cost to landowner
Goal Achieved: Prevent accidental spills from contaminating the aquifer.

Comment [KK13]: The Clay County Board of Commissioners adopted this measure into the Clay County Development Code in Section 8-5C-1-C-8 in 2005.

MEASURE A-3-4: Notify property owners in DWSMA about Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) eligibility. Promote CRP as a less intensive land use option in the DWSMA.

Source of Action: NRCS, SWCD, WHP Manager
Cooperator: Watershed District, WHP Team
Time Frame: Ongoing with plan adoption
Estimated Cost: Staff time, Intern hours
Goal Achieved: Less intensive land use would provide an additional level of protection in the WHP areas.

Comment [KK14]: NRCS, SWCD, and Buffalo Red Watershed District staff continue to promote CRP and other programs which are available to improve and protect water resources within Clay County.

OBJECTIVE A-4: SEAL UNUSED OR ABANDONED WELLS.

*** MEASURE A-4-1: Offer cost sharing incentives of 75% up to \$500 to seal unused, unsealed wells within the DWSMA.**

Source of Action: Clay County CLWP, WHP Manager
Cooperators: MPS, WHP Team
Time Frame: ~~2003~~2013-~~2004~~-2014 and ongoing
Estimated Cost: \$300-500 per well

Comment [KK15]: Clay County NRCS and SWCD manage this program. They have sealed 100 wells within the county during the past ten years

Goal Achieved: Private well owners will become more likely to properly seal their unused wells and MPS becomes aware of changes in well status.

* **MEASURE A-4-2:** Offer cost sharing incentives of remaining 25% up to \$500 to seal unused, unsealed wells within the DWSMA.

Source of Action: MPS, WHP Manager
Cooperators: WHP Team
Time Frame: ~~2003~~2013-2004-2014 and ongoing
Estimated Cost: \$500 per well
Goal Achieved: Private well owners will become more likely to properly seal their unused wells and MPS becomes aware of changes in well status.

Comment [KK16]: There have not been any reported or located unused or abandoned wells within the DWSMAs. MPS has sealed MPS high capacity wells 4, 5, and 7 during the past five years.

OBJECTIVE A-5: RAISE WELL OWNER AWARENESS AND PREVENT CONTAMINATION OF MPS WATER SUPPLY VIA PRIVATE WELLS.

MEASURE A-5-1: MPS and members of the WHP Team will— obtain and distribute brochures, describing proper well maintenance and operation to private landowners within the DWSMA.

Source of Action: WHP Manager, MPS
Cooperators: CLWP, Extension Service, MRWA, MDH
Time Frame: ~~2003~~2013
Estimated Cost: \$100-\$150 plus staff time
Goal Achieved: Private well owners will learn proper operation and maintenance of private wells, thereby reducing potential for contamination of City water supply.

Comment [KK17]: Clay County Environmental Services distributes brochures describing proper well maintenance and operations to private well owners.

* **MEASURE A-5-2:** Request that Buffalo-Red River Watershed District, Clay County, the Cities of Moorhead and Dilworth, and Glyndon Township formally identify the updated WHPA and DWSMA of wellfield sites when revising the County Water Plan, Watershed District Plan or County / City Comprehensive Land Use Plans.

Source of Action: WHP Manager
Cooperators: Cities of Moorhead and Dilworth, Clay County, Glyndon Township, Watershed District
Time Frame: During update process
Estimate Cost: Staff time

Comment [KK18]: The local units of government recognize the Moorhead DWSMAs along with the Minnesota Departments of Health, Natural Resources, and Pollution Control Agency.

Goal Achieved: DWSMA formally identified in Clay County Comprehensive Plan and CLWP for consideration in future land use decisions.

OBJECTIVE A-6: DEVELOP A LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS TO EVALUATE IMPACTS NEW WELLS MAY HAVE ON AN APPROVED WHPA/DWSMA.

* **Measure A-6-1:** The public water supplier will a.) Request copies of any new or revised groundwater appropriation permits that are submitted to the DNR for any high capacity wells in or near the approved DWSMA, and b.) Develop an administrative process to assess requests for proposed wells or increased pump rates from existing high-capacity wells in an approved DWSMA.

Source of Action: MPS, DNR, SWCD, WHP Manager
Cooperators: MDH, well operators, well drillers
Time Frame: ~~Begin in~~ [Continue monitoring in 2003-2013](#) and ongoing thereafter
Estimated Cost: Staff time and special studies if needed
Goal Achieved: This action will assist with the City of Moorhead's goal of identifying and reviewing new wells that are proposed for construction or increased pumping of existing high-capacity wells within the DWSMA and determine if those wells will affect MPS's ability to provide an adequate and safe supply of drinking water.

Comment [KK19]: There has not been any requests for revised groundwater appropriation permits for high capacity wells within the DWSMAs. The MN DNR regulations require notification of such applications to other large capacity well owners.

* **MEASURE A-6-2:** Review regulations regarding test well drilling and work with the MDH to ensure proper sealing of test wells within the DWSMA.

Source of Action: Wellhead Protection Manager, MPS
Cooperator: MDH
Time Frame: ~~2003-2013~~ and ongoing
Estimated Costs: Staff time
Goal Achieved: Preservation of the Buffalo Aquifer in areas determined to be sensitive to surface contamination.

Comment [KK20]: Clay County SWCD receives all well logs within Clay County from MDH. MPS receives copies of sealed well records within Moorhead.

OBJECTIVE A-7: DEVELOP A STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM UTILIZING MPCA GUIDELINES FOR PHASE II NPDES PERMITTING TO PROTECT THE BUFFALO AQUIFER WITHIN THE WHPA/DWSMA.

Measure A-7-1: Work closely with the MPCA to develop a stormwater management plan based on guidelines for Phase II of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal Permit Program (NPDES). Follow through of permitting process on new construction including inspections and filing of completion report.

Comment [KK21]: The City of Moorhead and Clay County have developed these management plans. MPS monitors new development within the DWSMAs.

Source of Action: Buffalo-Red River Watershed District, MPCA, WHP Manager
Cooperators: MPS
Time Frame: ~~2003~~ 2013 and ongoing
Estimated Cost: Staff time
Goal Achieved: Increased water quality within the Buffalo Aquifer due to better land management practices.

OBJECTIVE A-8: WORK TO ESTABLISH A COORDINATED SPILL RESPONSE PLAN WITH AREA AND STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ENTITIES.

MEASURE A-8-1: Establish working relationship with and coordinate spill response efforts with other agencies. Continue current practice with MNDOT of lining road ditches with clay within the sensitive areas of the DWSMA.

Comment [KK22]: The Minnesota Highway Patrol and the Minnesota State Duty dispatchers notify MPS if any spills occur. The Office of Pipeline safety also notifies MPS of any petroleum pipeline spills.

Source of Action: MPS, WHP Manager
Cooperators: MNDOT, Clay County Highway Department, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, MPCA, MDA
Timeline: ~~2003~~ 2013
Estimated Cost: Time
Goal Achieved: Spills along Trunk Highway No. 10, County Road No. 11 / Trunk Highway No. 336 and BNSF Railroad will be abated before aquifer contamination occurs.

B. PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

OBJECTIVE B-1: DEVELOP PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS AIMED AT AWARENESS AND PROTECTION OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.

~~* MEASURE B-1-1: Post signs at the perimeter of the WHPA on major roadway corridors to notify the public that they are in the DWSMA and to serve as a physical boundary identifier.~~

~~Source of Action: MPS, WHP Manager
Cooperators: WHP Team
Time Frame: 2003
Estimated Cost: \$500
Goal Achieved: General public notified of boundaries of the drinking water supply area.~~

Comment [KK23]: This measure was not implemented due to terror security concerns after 911.

MEASURE B-1-21: Information and brochures will be sent to utility customers in utility bills. County residents in the DWSMA will be sent letters educating and informing them of the Wellhead Protection Plan and Goals.

Source of Action: MPS, WHP Manager, WHP Team
Cooperators: CLWP in quarterly newsletter, MRWA
Time Frame: Annually
Estimate Cost: Staff time, printing costs
Goal Achieved: Public becomes more aware of issues related to protecting drinking water and how to care for their wells properly.

Comment [KK24]: Information regarding wellhead protection was distributed to MPS customers. The local media provided additional coverage when the Plan was approved. The MPS annual Consumers Confidence Report references the WHP website.

MEASURE B-1-32: Community Youth Water Festival: Groundwater Flow Model will be utilized to demonstrate the connection between land use and groundwater to area students. Discussion of Wellhead Protection needs will be included in the demonstration.

Source of Action: River Keepers, WHP Manager
Cooperator: WHP Team, CLWP, MPS, Watershed District, Fish and Wildlife Service, North Dakota Department of Health
Time Frame: Annually
Estimated Costs: Staff time
Goal Achieved: Students and parents become more aware of the WHPP and the reasons for aquifer preservation needs.

Comment [KK25]: MPS staff participates in the Community Youth Water Festival.

* **MEASURE B-1-43:** Information on WHPP will be published on Moorhead Public Service's Buffalo Aquifer website with links to the City and County.

Source of Action: MPS, WHP Manager
Cooperators: City of Moorhead, Clay County
Time Frame: ~~2003~~ 2013 and ongoing
Estimated Cost: Staff time
Goal Achieved: Increased public awareness of the WHP for web-users. [Information regarding Buffalo Aquifer Management Plan will also be posted.](#)

Comment [KK26]: Updates are now posted on Moorhead Public Service's Buffaloaquifer.com website

MEASURE B-1-54: A nitrate clinic will be sponsored and mailings will be sent to all landowners of the 27 domestic wells within the Buffalo DWSMA notifying them of the clinic and the importance of protecting the aquifer.

Source of Action: MPS, CLWP, WHP Manager, Clay County Environmental Health
Cooperator: WHP Team
Time Frame: Once in ten years – repeat if necessary
Estimated Costs: Staff time
Goal Achieved: Maintain public awareness of the connection between groundwater and land use.

Comment [KK27]: Clay County sponsors nitrate testing for private wells.

* **MEASURE B-1-65:** ~~Work with Local media articles will be published after adoption of to achieve~~ MPS WHPP goals.

Source of Action: MPS, WHP Manager
Cooperator: WHP Team
Time Frame: ~~2003~~ 2013
Estimated Costs: Staff time
Goal Achieved: Educate and maintain public awareness of the Wellhead Protection Plan.

Comment [KK28]: The local media were involved in promoting the adoption of the Moorhead WHP Plan.

* **MEASURE B-1-76:** Presentations will be made to local service organizations.

Source of Action: MPS, WHP Manager
Cooperator: WHP Team
Time Frame: Ongoing
Estimated Costs: Staff time
Goal Achieved: Community understanding and support of WHP priorities and regulatory needs.

Comment [KK29]: Several presentations have been made to local service clubs regarding the importance of the Buffalo Aquifer to Moorhead's water supply.

MEASURE B-1-87: Maps of DWSMA, educational posters, and brochures will be displayed at the Clay County Fair and other similar events.

Source of Action: SWCD, MPS, WHP Manager
Cooperator: WHP Team
Time Frame: Annually
Estimated Costs: Staff time
Goal Achieved: Public awareness of DWSMA and WHPP.

Comment [KK30]: MPS staff attended the Clay County Fair several years where maps and information of wellhead protection were displayed.

MEASURE B-1-98: Support students in the area school districts for participation in the River Watch Program, monitoring the South Branch of the Buffalo River for Water Temperature, Transparency (using the MPCA derived T-Tube), Turbidity in NTUs, Conductivity (us/cm), pH, Dissolved Oxygen (mg/l), Dissolved Oxygen (% saturation), Total Phosphorus (mg/l), NO3 (mg/l), Total Suspended Solids (mg/l).

Source of Action: CLWP, WHP Manager
Cooperator: WHP Team, River Watch coordinator, area schools, Watershed District
Time Frame: Monthly during open water season
Estimated Costs: Staff time
Goal Achieved: Information for local water resource management in the TMDL process. Education of high school age students on the connection between groundwater and surface water.

Comment [KK31]: Several schools within the County work with the watershed to monitor and educated the public about the Buffalo River.

MEASURE B-1-109: Establish education workshops for landowners within the DWSMA on ag irrigation and chemigation.

Source of Action: Clay County Extension Services, WHP Manager
Cooperators: CLWP, MPS, SWCD
Timeline: ~~2003~~2013
Estimated Cost: Staff time
Goal Achieved: Prevent contamination of aquifer from land use in areas of known sensitivity.

Comment [KK32]: Nothing was done regarding this measure.

C. MONITORING, DATA COLLECTION, AND ASSESSMENT

OBJECTIVE C-1: COLLECT ADDITIONAL DATA REGARDING THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF WATER IN THE BUFFALO AQUIFER ~~FROM LOCAL WELL DRILLERS AND THROUGH ADDITIONAL CHEMICAL TESTING.~~

MEASURE C-1-1: Monitoring for general chemistry and petroleum products will be conducted on samples acquired from municipal and other area wells.

Source of Action: MPS, WHP Manager
Cooperators: SWCD, DNR, WHP Team
Time Frame: ~~2003-2013~~ and to be determined thereafter
Estimated Cost: \$500 per sample, staff time
Goal Achieved: By monitoring numerous wells that surround MPS wells, changes in groundwater supplies and contaminants can be detected before they reach the PWS. Private owners gain information about the safety of their own drinking water.

Comment [KK33]: The MN Department of Health collects and analyzes samples from the MPS wells. The Department of Agriculture has sampled several MPS wells for pesticides and pesticides breakdown products. MPS staff monitors some general chemistry of the wells.

MEASURE C-1-2: Work with MDH Hydrologist to conduct groundwater monitoring to assess aquifer water quality (or quantity) over time for the Buffalo and Moorhead Aquifers. Work with MDH Hydrologist to collect geochemical data to determine whether the quality of the well water is changing over time due to pumping or deterioration of the well.

Source of Action: MPS, WHP Manager, WHP Team
Cooperators: MDH, Clay County
Timeline: 2013 and ongoing
Estimated Cost: Time
Goal Achieved: Water quality and static levels will aid in aquifer modeling efforts.

MEASURE C-1-3: Monitor water quality of unconfined portions of Buffalo Aquifer for standard water quality parameters and petroleum based compounds.

Source of Action: MPS, WHP Manager
Cooperators: MDH, Clay County
Timeline: 2013 and ongoing
Estimated Cost: Staff time
Goal Achieved: Prevent contamination of aquifer from land use in areas of known sensitivity.

MEASURE C-1-4: Work with the MPCA to establish a monitoring program on the South Buffalo River as part of the TMDL process – including hydrologic and hydrogeologic modeling.

Source of Action: Watershed District, WHP Manager
Cooperators: SWCD, CLWP, MPCA, WHP Team
Time Frame: 2013 and ongoing
Estimated Cost: Staff time, monitoring costs
Goal Achieved: The WHP team will become involved in the establishment of discharge limits on the river, thus helping to preserve the quality of the waters flowing through the DWSMA.

Comment [KK34]: The Buffalo Red River Watershed District has started a watershed wide TMDL Study within the Buffalo River Watershed.

MEASURE C-1-5: Work with the USGS to establish a low flow monitoring program on the Buffalo and South Buffalo Rivers.

Source of Action: Watershed District, WHP Manager
Cooperators: SWCD, CLWP, WHP Team
Time Frame: 2013 and ongoing
Estimated Cost: Staff time
Goal Achieved: Establishment of database to monitor trends in losing and gaining reaches of the river and surface water quantity.

Comment [KK35]: The region has been in a wet cycle since 1993. Low flow conditions have not occurred during the past ten years.

*** MEASURE C-1-6: Explore possible sources for recharge of the Moorhead Aquifer.**

Source of Action: MPS, WHP Manager
Cooperators: SWCD, CLWP, WHP Team
Time Frame: 2013 and ongoing
Estimated Cost: Staff time
Goal Achieved: Potential replenishment of limited resource of groundwater within the Moorhead Aquifer.

Comment [KK36]: MPS submitted grant applications for funding aquifer recharge and storage for the Moorhead Aquifer. Neither application was granted.

*** MEASURE C-1-7: Work with MDH Hydrologist and staff to: develop and implement a chloride/bromide study, temperature study, and further develop stable isotope information exploring the interaction between in the Buffalo Aquifer DWSMA wells and surface waters.**

Source of Action: MPS, WHP Manager
Cooperators: SWCD, MDH
Time Frame: 2013 and ongoing
Estimated Cost: Staff time

Goal Achieved: Obtain a better understanding of hydraulic connection between the Buffalo Aquifer and the Buffalo River.

OBJECTIVE C-2: CONDUCT AQUIFER PUMP TESTING AND ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING WELLS.

MEASURE C-2-1: Work with MDH Hydrologist to conduct an aquifer test on one or more of the public water supply wells. Work with MDH to develop a work plan that identifies steps and resources to complete work

Source of Action: MPS, WHP Manager

Cooperators: MDH, WHP Team

Time Frame: 2013 and ongoing

Estimated Cost: Staff time

Goal Achieved: Pump tests on the Buffalo and Moorhead Aquifers will aid in Aquifer modeling efforts and lead to a better understanding of recharge of the Aquifers.

MEASURE C-2-2: Work with MDH Hydrologist to conduct an aquifer test on other wells completed in the same aquifer as the city wells. Work with MDH to develop a work plan that identifies steps and resources to complete work.

Source of Action: MPS, WHP Manager

Cooperators: MDH, WHP Team

Time Frame: 2013 and ongoing

Estimated Cost: Staff time

Goal Achieved: Pump tests on the Buffalo and Moorhead Aquifers will aid in Aquifer modeling efforts and lead to a better understanding of recharge of the Aquifers.

MEASURE C-2-3: When planning for a new municipal well, contact MDH Hydrologist about the need to conduct an aquifer test plan. Work with MDH to develop a work plan that identifies the steps to complete the aquifer test in accordance with WHP program rule requirements and parameters necessary for test pumping a new city well.

Source of Action: MPS, WHP Manager

Cooperators: MDH, WHP Team

Time Frame: 2013 and ongoing

Estimated Cost:	Staff time
Goal Achieved:	Pump tests on the Buffalo and Moorhead Aquifers will aid in Aquifer modeling efforts and lead to a better understanding of recharge of the Aquifers.

OBJECTIVE C-3: MUNICIPAL WELL CONSTRUCTION REVIEW.

MEASURE C-3-1: Video log well casings to determine its construction and state of repair, or to complete geophysical logging to collect geologic information to substantiate well vulnerability issues.

Source of Action:	MPS, WHP Manager
Cooperators:	MPS, MDH
Time Frame:	2013 and ongoing
Estimated Cost:	Staff time
Goal Achieved:	Determine condition of municipal wells.

MEASURE C-43-2: **Gather new and existing well construction logs by working with SWCD. Well logs from areas within the DWSMA will be sent to MPS for evaluation and mapping.**

Source of Action:	SWCD, MPS, WHP Manager
Cooperators:	MDH, WHP Team
Time Frame:	Ongoing
Estimated Cost:	Staff time
Goal Achieved:	Better geologic information about the aquifer will be obtained in a cost effective manner that will enhance and improve future WHP planning.

Comment [KK37]: The Clay County SWCD receives new well logs. The information is also located on the MN County Well Index website.

MEASURE C-3-3: It is always difficult to foresee or plan for the future. If a critical issue or potential contaminant threat becomes an issue in the future for MPS, MPS will promptly take actions to prevent this contaminant source from polluting their drinking water supply.

Source of Action:	WHP Team, WHP Manager
Cooperators:	Clay County, Cities of Dilworth/Moorhead, MPS, Glyndon Township WHP Team, CLWP, MPS, Watershed District, Fish and Wildlife Service, North Dakota Department of Health
Timeline:	2013

<u>Estimated Cost:</u>	<u>Staff time</u>
<u>Goal Achieved:</u>	<u>Prevent contamination of aquifer from land use in areas of known sensitivity.</u>

D. WATER SUPPLY PLANNING AND CONSERVATION

OBJECTIVE D-1: WORKING COLLABORATIVELY WITH OTHER LARGE GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, DEVELOP AN AQUIFER MANAGEMENT PLAN (AMP) TO ASSURE SUSTAINABLE WATER USE FOR MOORHEAD, DILWORTH, AND ALL OF CLAY COUNTY.

* MEASURE D-1-1: Hold annual meeting with the WHP Team and local resource partners involved in plan implementation to discuss development of the AMP.

<u>Source of Action:</u>	<u>MPS, WHP Manager, WHP Team</u>
<u>Cooperators:</u>	<u>MN DNR, MDH, WHP Team</u>
<u>Time Frame:</u>	<u>2013</u>
<u>Estimated Cost:</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<u>Goal Achieved:</u>	<u>Discussion of management of sustainable usage of the Buffalo Aquifer.</u>

E. WHP COORDINATION, REPORTING AND EVALUATION

OBJECTIVE E-1: DEVELOP METHODS FOR ASSESSMENT OF WHP PLAN

* MEASURE E-1-1: Hold annual meeting with the WHP Team and local resource partners involved in plan implementation to discuss new WHP issues, past year's accomplishments and activities planned for the upcoming year.

<u>Source of Action:</u>	<u>MPS, WHP Manager, WHP TEAM</u>
<u>Cooperators:</u>	<u>WHP Team</u>
<u>Time Frame:</u>	<u>2013</u>
<u>Estimated Cost:</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<u>Goal Achieved:</u>	<u>Discussion of WHP achievements, goals, and opportunities.</u>

* MEASURE E-1-2: Complete an Evaluation Report every 2.5 years that evaluates the "progress of plan of action and the impact of a (any) contaminant release on the

aquifer supplying the public water supply well”
MN WHP Rule 4720.5270.

Source of Action: MPS, WHP Manager, WHP TEAM
Cooperators: WHP Team
Time Frame: 2013
Estimated Cost: \$0
Goal Achieved: Discussion of WHP achievements, goals, and opportunities.

~~efforts.~~

~~MEASURE C 1 3: Work with the MPCA to establish a monitoring program on the South Buffalo River as part of the TMDL process including hydrologic and hydrogeologic modeling.~~

~~**Source of Action:** Watershed District, WHP Manager
Cooperators: SWCD, CLWP, MPCA, WHP Team
Time Frame: 2004 and ongoing
Estimated Cost: Staff time, monitoring costs
Goal Achieved: The WHP team will become involved in the establishment of discharge limits on the river, thus helping to preserve the quality of the waters flowing through the DWSMA.~~

~~MEASURE C 1 4: Work with the USGS to establish a low flow monitoring program on the Buffalo and South Buffalo Rivers.~~

~~**Source of Action:** Watershed District, WHP Manager
Cooperators: SWCD, CLWP, WHP Team
Time Frame: 2003 and ongoing
Estimated Cost: Staff time
Goal Achieved: Establishment of database to monitor trends in losing and gaining reaches of the river and surface water quantity.~~

~~* MEASURE C 1 5: Explore possible sources for recharge of the Moorhead Aquifer.~~

~~**Source of Action:** MPS, WHP Manager
Cooperators: SWCD, CLWP, WHP Team
Time Frame: 2003 and ongoing
Estimated Cost: Staff time
Goal Achieved: Potential replenishment of limited resource of groundwater within the Moorhead Aquifer.~~

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CHAPTER SIX

EVALUATION PROGRAM

Minnesota Rules 4720.5270

The success of the Potential Contaminant Source Management Strategy must be measured regularly to ensure the plan is meeting the community needs on wellhead understanding and compliance.

Moorhead's WHPA has been designated as non-vulnerable within the Moorhead Aquifer and vulnerable within the Buffalo Aquifer.- The designation of vulnerability requires monitoring of all potential contaminant sources within the Buffalo DWSMA. —A program to ensure this is completed has been documented in Chapters One through Five. In addition to this, to ensure compliance, MPS will:

- Track the implementation efforts completed;
- Determine the effectiveness of these efforts; and
- Identify any implementation changes needed to accomplish the goal of the plan.

To accomplish the above, the following activities will be completed:

1. Changes in land use and other development within the Buffalo Aquifer will be monitored.- MPS employees will conduct a review of air photography annually within the Buffalo DWSMA to identify these and any changes in contaminant source management practices and their potential impact on the aquifer.
2. The WHP Team will meet as needed but at least annually to review completed objectives and their effectiveness.- Necessary modifications to the Plan will be discussed with strategies added as needed.
3. An annual written report will be presented to the MPS Commission, Moorhead City Council, and Clay County Board of Commissioners stating progress in implementation of objectives. —This report will be sent to the Minnesota Department of Health, Source Water Protection Planner; Minnesota Rural Water Association, Wellhead Liaison; The County Local Water Plan Coordinator; and be placed on file at the Moorhead Public Library, MPS, and on their Web site.

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CHAPTER SEVEN

ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLY; CONTINGENCY STRATEGY

Minnesota Rules 4720.5280

The Moorhead Public Service Emergency and Conservation Plan has been completed under Minnesota Statute 186 and Minnesota Rules, part 6115.0770 and was approved by the Minnesota DNR on December 17, 1996.

This Plan meets the requirements of a contingency strategy as documented in Minnesota Rule 4720.5280, subpart 2.

A copy of the DNR approval letter is included in the Appendices of this Plan and the complete document is on file at MPS.

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