



Wellhead Protection Plan Part II – 2013

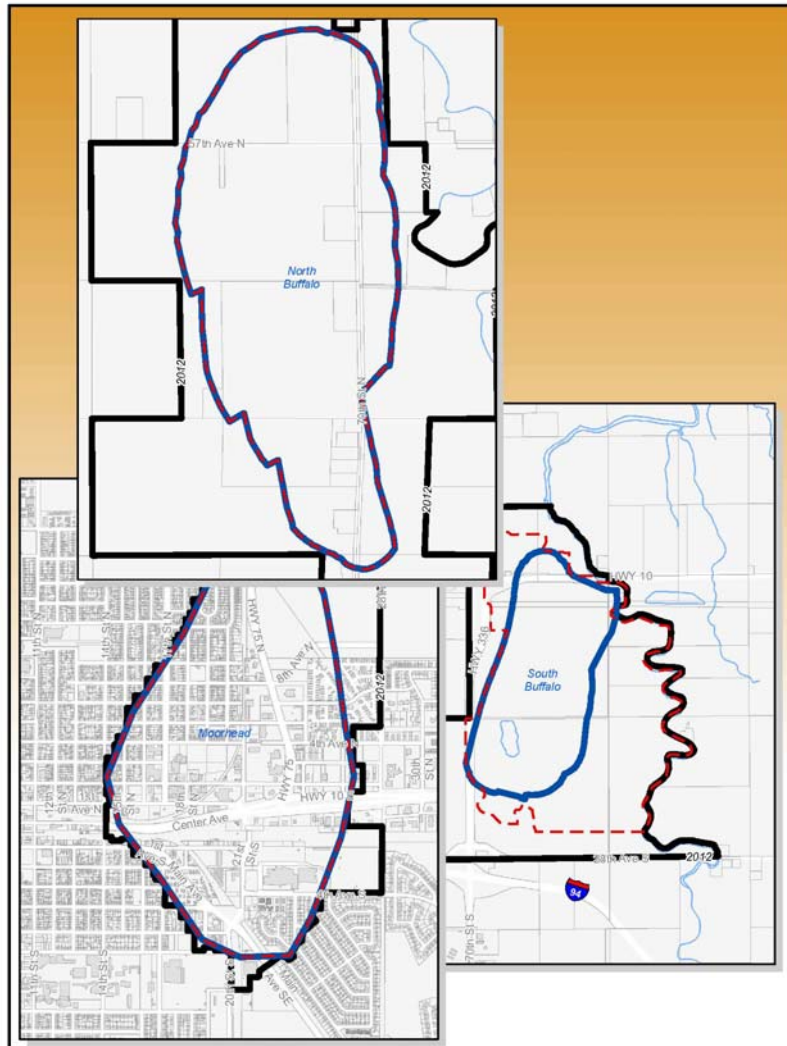


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PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY PROFILE

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

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WELLHEAD PROTECTION MANAGER

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ADDRESS	<u>500 Center Avenue P.O. Box 779</u> <u>Moorhead, MN 56561-0779</u>
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CONSULTANT

NAME	<u>Clifford McLain, P.E.</u>
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TELEPHONE NUMBER	<u>218-443-3962</u>
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GENERAL INFORMATION

UNIQUE WELL NUMBER(S)	<u>Moorhead: (6) 241492, (6B) 437645</u> <u>N. Buffalo: (1) 511085, (2) 511086</u> <u>S. Buffalo: (8) 222049, (9) 222050, (10) 222051</u>
POPULATION SERVED:	<u>8,436 Metered Residence, 322 Apartment/Trailer</u> <u>Parks, 671 Commercial, 4 Industrial, 2 Golf</u> <u>Courses and 1 Regional (City of Dilworth)</u>
COUNTY:	<u>Clay</u>

DOCUMENTATION LIST

STEP	DATE PERFORMED
Scoping Meeting 2 Held (4720.5340, subp. 1)	January 8, 2013
Scoping 2 Letter Received (4720.5340, subp. 2)	February 5, 2013
Remaining Portion of Plan Submitted to Local Units of Government (LUGs) (4720.5350)	March 21, 2013
Review Received From Local Units of Government (4720.5350, subp. 2)	May 13, 2013
Review Comments Considered (4720.5350, subp. 3)	April- May, 2013
Public Hearing Conducted (4720.5350, subp. 4)	May 29, 2013
Remaining Portion WHP Plan Submitted (4720.5360, subp. 1)	June 7, 2013
Final WHP Plan Review Received (4720.5360, subp. 4)	

MEMBERS OF THE WELLHEAD PROTECTION TEAM

Local Unit of Government	Title	First	Last	Phone No.
Buffalo-Red River Watershed District	Advisor	Bruce	Albright	218.354.7710
Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad	Environmental Operations Manager	Su	Hattenberger	612.816.8783
Clay County Commission	Commissioner	Kevin	Campbell	218.236.9347
Clay County Commission	Commissioner	Frank	Gross	218.287-2152
Clay County Environmental Health	Environmental Health Director	Bruce	Jaster	218.299.7195
Clay County Local Water Planner	District Manager	Kevin	Kassenborg	218.287.2255
Clay County Planning Commission	Commissioner	Tom	Jensen	701-893-5930
Clay County Planning Commission	County Planner	Tim	Magnusson	218.299.5002
Clay Soil and Water Conservation District	Advisor	Lynn	Foss	218.287.2255
Dilworth City Council	Council Member	Julie	Nash	218.287.2313
Glyndon Township	Township Member	Kevin	Nelson	218.498.0112
Glyndon Township	Township Member	Terry	Thomason	218.499.0112
Landowner (North Buffalo Aquifer)	Landowner	Bill	Borgen	218.236.4818
Landowner (South Buffalo Aquifer)	Landowner	Steve	Schroeder	701.239.8653
Minnesota Department of Health	Planner	George	Minerich	320.223.7314
Minnesota Department of Health	Hydrogeologist	Richard	Soule	651.201.4676
Minnesota Department of Health	State Program Admin	Trudi	Witkowski	
Moland Township	Township Member	Jeff	Winter	701.238.3727
Moorhead City Council	Council Member	Mark	Altenburg	218.299.5547
Moorhead City Council	Council Member (Alt)	Heidi	Durand	218.299.5543
Moorhead Commercial Customer	Customer	Michelle	Malott	218.477.5892
Moorhead Industrial Customer	Customer	Craig	Maetzold	236-4347
Moorhead Planning Commission	Commissioner (Alt)	Wayne	Ingersoll	218.233.0116
Moorhead Planning Commission	Commissioner	Paul	Krabbenhoft	701.799.0369
Moorhead Planning Commission	City Planner	Kristie	Leshovsky	218.299.5332
Moorhead Public Service	Consultant	Clifford	McLain	218.443.3962
Moorhead Public Service	Administrative Assistant	Casey	Serocki	218.299.5403
Moorhead Public Service	Water Division Engineer	Chris	Capecchi	218.299.5226
Moorhead Public Service	GIS Coordinator	Sam	Jenkins	218.299.5407
Moorhead Public Service	Water Division Manager	Kristofer	Knutson	218.299.5475
Moorhead Public Service Commission	Commissioner	Ralf	Mehnert-Meland	701.893.2091
Moorhead Public Service WHP Manager	General Manager	William	Schwandt	218.299.5404

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Part II of Moorhead Public Service's (MPS') Wellhead Protection Plan (Plan) speaks to Sections 4720.5220 through 4720.5290 of Minnesota Rules. This portion of the plan addresses data elements and their assessments; impacts of changes on the public water supply well; issues, problems, and opportunities; wellhead protection goals, objectives, and action plans; program review and evaluation; and alternative water supply and contingency strategy.

In Part I of MPS' Plan, the delineation of the Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA), the Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA), vulnerability of the wells, and vulnerability status of the aquifer in which the City of Moorhead's wells are located were completed and approved by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). This important information was utilized in the completion of this document.

While MPS draws the majority of its public supply water from the Red River of the North, it also has two wells in the Moorhead Aquifer (located within Moorhead) and five wells within the Buffalo Aquifer (located to the east of Moorhead). These aquifers lie below part of the Glacial Lake Agassiz lake plain area. This lake plain, formed nearly 10,000 years ago, is an extensively flat area. These wells are drilled to a depth between 114 and 273 feet and exist within a sand and gravel aquifer covered mainly by clay-rich till or lake clay.

The Moorhead Public Service Commission has spent considerable time, effort, and money to protect and facilitate the most effective use of the region's water supplies, including the Buffalo and Moorhead Aquifers. More than \$13 million have been invested in the construction of a new river water treatment plant. Additionally, MPS is currently constructing a new river intake and pump station to increase the quantity and reliability of river water supply, especially during flood events. These measures are part of a long-term plan to make greater use of the river water supply when it is available, so as to reserve greater amounts of water from the Buffalo and Moorhead Aquifers for use in periods of a long-term drought. In the event of a drought or contamination of the Red River, which is always an imminent possibility, the aquifers will become this region's primary source of drinking water. This plan will only be effective if the aquifers are protected from contamination. MPS cannot wait until a drought occurs before implementing the necessary actions to protect and preserve the water quality and quantity available in the aquifers.

The clay-rich till found throughout the DWSMA of the Moorhead Aquifer suggests a confining layer to the aquifer, and this aquifer, along with Well Nos. 6 and 6B, was given a non-vulnerable rating. However, Well Nos. 1, 2, 8, 9, and 10, located within the Buffalo Aquifer, were determined to be vulnerable to contamination. The Buffalo Aquifer was designated anywhere from a very high vulnerability where the water table is at the surface to a low vulnerability in areas with greater than 40 feet of clay/silt cover. The vulnerability was determined by

the potential for connectivity between land use and the quality of the water within the aquifer.

This vulnerable status calls for focus on all potential contaminant sources located within the DWSMA. The Wellhead Protection Team (Team) intends to continue to proactively work with Clay County, the cities of Moorhead and Dilworth, Glyndon Township, and the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District to establish protective regulation within the Buffalo Aquifer. The Team has made significant progress in terms of aquifer protection over the past ten years since the inception of the original Plan in 2003. One of the major Team accomplishments was the creation of an aquifer overlay district based on Aquifer Sensitivity Map RHA-3 created by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The implementation of the overlay district has placed several important measures that, if properly monitored, will protect the aquifer for many years to come. It is important that the Team continue to remain aware of changes in land use and monitor any potential threats to aquifer protection. It is the hope of the Team that, through these regulations and increased public awareness, habits will be established that will decrease the potential for future water problems and the community can continue to enjoy the current quality of water it has come to expect.

It is the intent of MPS to continue to pursue the development of an aquifer management plan for the Buffalo Aquifer. This plan would define the quantity of water available from the aquifer, and establish user needs and conservation practices in the event of a long-term drought. The development of the management plan would provide knowledge for the development of adequate and sustainable water supplies for all users and provide additional protection of the aquifer in the event of a long-term drought.

CHAPTER ONE

DATA ELEMENTS AND 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 16 to 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 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 shall be considered when developing management strategies within the DWSMA.

2. Geology

Geologic data elements pertinent to WHPA delineation and vulnerability status are included in Part I of this Plan and are on file with the MDH and 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 **Figures 1 and 2**. 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 3 and 4**. Moderately permeable soil textures of silt loam and silty clay loam 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 3, 4, and 6**. Parent material is the underlying geological material, generally bedrock, or superficial or drift deposit, in which soil horizons form. 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 through the north portion, as shown in **Figure 5**. Since no hydraulic connection between the land surface and this aquifer exists, no consideration of this water resource is required.

The Buffalo River runs along and through a portion of the east boundary of DWSMA of the north well field and the South Buffalo River runs along 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 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 5)** and listed as follows 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	82.22	11
Developed, Low Intensity	320.43	42.9
Developed, Medium Intensity	160.87	21.5
Developed, High Intensity	60.19	8.0
Pasture/Hay	31.36	4.2
Cultivated Crops	92.37	12.4
Total	747.44	100

The DWSMAs of the **Buffalo Aquifer** consist of 3,795 acres. Present land use of the North and South DWSMAs is shown in **Figures 10 and 11** and as follows:

Land Use	Acres		% of DWSMA	
	North	South	North	South
Water	3.30	75.71	0.2	3.3
Developed, Open Space	75.42	152.96	5.0	6.7
Developed, Low Intensity	1.33	60.23	0.1	2.6
Developed, Medium Intensity	0	12.24	0	0.5
Barren Land	0	1.33	0	0.1
Deciduous Forest	14.01	34.92	0.9	1.5
Evergreen Forest	0	3.34	0	0.1
Cultivated Crops	1,370.63	1,916.4	90.9	83.8
Woody Wetlands	42.33	30.64	2.8	1.3
Total	1,507.02	2,287.77	100	100

Property on the west side of Trunk Highway No. 336 is zoned “limited highway commercial in sensitive areas district” and must be addressed in the management strategies of this Plan. The Clay County Development Code’s “limited highway commercial in sensitive areas district” permits/limits commercial businesses that do not pose a threat to the environment. The “limited highway commercial district” standards address the WHP management measures in the 2003 Plan.

2. Public Utility Services

Moorhead Aquifer: Moorhead's utility map is available at 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 Buffalo DWSMA with 80-plus trains per day. Both the Williams and Tesoro petroleum pipelines transect the Buffalo Aquifer south of the DWSMA. An Xcel Energy natural gas pipeline transects the South Buffalo DWSMA along U.S. Highway No. 10. The Viking natural gas pipeline transects the northern portion of the north DWSMA. A transportation map is available in **Figures 7, 8, and 9**. The MPS Water and Emergency Conservation Plan details contingency planning related to 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 (**Appendix Item 7**) of this 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 River near Sabin, Minnesota, and Dilworth, Minnesota. Annual mean stream flows have been recorded since 1932 at the Dilworth site (**Table 2**) and since 1946 at the site near Sabin (**Table 3**). The region has been in a wet cycle since 1993, which has produced high annual mean flows, with the years 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 155 feet of volume has been drawn down, leaving an estimated 90-100 feet of water. The City of Moorhead has sealed six city wells, and two high-capacity wells have been sealed at Fairmont Creamery. There are no other known high-capacity wells within the DWSMA of the Moorhead Aquifer.

Buffalo Aquifer: 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 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 PCSI questionnaire was sent to all parcel owners located within the DWSMAs of the Buffalo Aquifer (**Appendix Item 2**). 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, 1 high-capacity irrigation well, 7 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 12, 13, and 14**, as well as **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

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 of Minnesota. Portions of the Buffalo and South Buffalo Rivers are on this list due to high turbidity and/or low dissolved oxygen. TMDLs, or Total Maximum Daily Loads, studies have begun within the watershed. The Buffalo-Red River Watershed District, Red River Management Board, RiverWatch, and DNR are working cooperatively with the MPCA to study the watershed.

Phase I of the Buffalo River Watershed-wide TMDL indicated 11 impairments on 8 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.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture initiated a surface water monitoring program in 1990. The program was expanded to include pesticides and nutrients in 2002. The Buffalo River at Georgetown is a Tier 3 sample site under the program. Tier 3 sample sites are sampled during anticipated peak pesticide concentration periods. Composite samples are collected over an extended four-day period. More than 20 samples are collected each year. The results from the 2010 Water Quality Monitoring Report (MAU-11-100) indicate that there were detections of the 23 pesticides analyzed, but none exceeded the standards. In most years, Acetochlor, Atrazine, and Metolachlor are detected more often in streams and rivers in Minnesota than any other pesticide. Samples from the Georgetown site for Acetochlor were not detected and Atrazine and Metolachlor results never exceeded 10 percent of the standards.

Treated effluent from the Glyndon, Hawley, and Barnesville, Minnesota, Wastewater Treatment Plants are discharged to the Buffalo Rivers. The City of Barnesville upgraded their wastewater treatment lagoons in 2005. The lagoons were nearly doubled in size and have resulted in improved water quality of the wastewater effluent, which is discharged to the South Buffalo River twice a year. The City of Detroit Lakes is evaluating their wastewater effluent discharge impacts on the Pelican River system. They are considering changing the discharge receiving waters from the Pelican River to the Buffalo River.

2. Groundwater Quality

A DNR Regional Hydrogeological 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 Sensitivity of Surficial Aquifers to Pollution Map can be viewed on MPS’ WHP Web site.

The Appendix contains a copy of the 2012 Consumer Confidence Report (**Appendix Item 4**). Water quality data is measured on the combined water sources, including approximately 80 to 100 percent of river water.

The MDH and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture investigated the occurrence of pesticides and pesticide degradates in Minnesota public water supplies in February 2010. Well No. 9 (222050) was sampled in the South Buffalo wellfield and Well No. 2 (511086) was sampled in the North Buffalo wellfield. The results can be seen in **Appendix Item 8**. There were no detects for any of the 88 pesticides and pesticide degradates analyzed in the study.

The MDH conducted a general water chemistry project in July 2012. Samples were collected from the Red River, Well Nos. 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 Item 8**.

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	Aquifer	Past Tritium Level	Date Sampled	Current Tritium Level	Date Sampled
6	Moorhead	Unknown		<0.8	9/20/2010
6B	Moorhead	<0.8	11/10/1997	<0.8	9/20/2010
1	Buffalo	3.1	08/09/1993	1.2	9/20/2010
2	Buffalo	Unknown		Unknown	
8	Buffalo	4.7	11/07/1997	2.3	9/20/2010
9	Buffalo	8.6	05/04/1990	1.1	9/20/2010
10	Buffalo	Unknown		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. 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. 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 4,500 GPM each or a maximum of 7,800 GPM with both pumps operating. The West Reservoir has two high service pumps with capacities to pump 2,800 GPM and 3,500 GPM, respectively. The pumps for each reservoir are on for about the same length of time each day. The pumps are alternated to 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 11,747 metered service connections, as follows:

- Residential 10,606
- Apartment / Trailer Parks 377
- Commercial 757
- Industrial 4
- Regional (Dilworth) 1
- Raw Water (Golf Courses) 2

The volume of water pumped has averaged 4.4 MGD for the past 10 years. The historic water use is as follows:

Historic Water Use Over The Past Ten Years (In Million Gallons)			
Year	River	Wells	Annual Water Pumped*
2003	1427.97	239.35	1611.20
2004	1337.94	262.20	1589.56
2005	1390.08	227.45	1621.76
2006	1392.92	330.23	1727.78
2007	1323.03	332.02	1713.89
2008	1346.83	209.54	1595.44
2009	1158.84	336.82	1565.00
2010	1242.87	263.91	1494.38
2011	1155.20	340.11	1479.68
2012	1129.04	609.56	1657.00

*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 10 water users in the Moorhead water service territory are Busch Agricultural Resources, City of Dilworth, Pactiv Corporation, City of Moorhead, American Crystal Sugar, Minnesota State University Moorhead, Concordia College, Moorhead Public Schools, Clay County, and Jen-Wright LLC. These 10 users comprise 40 percent of the total

water supplied. New industries are 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 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 Plan.

B. WELLHEAD PROTECTION AREA DELINEATION CRITERIA

The following data inputs were used in determining 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 Plan. Part I of the 2012 Amended Plan was completed by R.G. Soule, MDH. Leggette, Brashears, & Graham, Inc., completed the modeling, delineation, and vulnerability assessment for the Moorhead Aquifer. 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 2003-2012 discovered no violations of any parameters monitored under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

MPS' wells pump about 0.86 MGD, with river water usage making up the other 3.54 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 PCSI survey was sent to landowners within the **Buffalo Aquifer DWSMAs**. A summary of the survey can be reviewed in **Figures 12, 13, and 14**, 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, as well as 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 10 years.

Buffalo Aquifer: The expansion of the Trunk Highway No. 336 corridor has been completed by MNDOT, which includes four lanes between I-94 and Trunk Highway No. 10 with an overpass at Highway No. 10 and the railroad tracks. Within the next 10 years, an expansion of County Road 11 north of U.S Highway No. 10 is planned.

One gravel mine within the south DWSMA below the water table can have a direct impact on the aquifer. No restoration has occurred at this site. Future expansion or new mining within the Buffalo DWSMAs have been prohibited by the Clay County Development Code (**Appendix Item 5**).

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 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 regarding future annexation and development within the South Buffalo DWSMA. Both Moorhead and Dilworth have extraterritorial subdivision authority within the DWSMA. Future development cannot occur without city services.

Clay County is considering the potential of establishing an economic development authority within the county. The Clay County Commissioner serving on the Team has suggested that MPS and the Team consider and re-evaluate the adequacy of the standards of the WHP Overlay District in the Clay County Development Code. 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 Barnesville and Glyndon Sewage Treatment Plants, 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 that the community enjoys.

II. IMPACT OF CHANGES

A. EXPECTED CHANGES IN WATER USE

The Fargo-Moorhead area has experienced stable population increases over the past 10 years. Continued stable population growth will likely incrementally increase water demands over the next 10 years. Over the past 10 years, additional water demand has also occurred as incremental increases in water supply to the City of Dilworth have taken place. 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 Township) 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 10 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 Clay County Zoning and Glyndon Township Zoning. Potential exists within the south area for extraterritorial zoning within the two-mile radius of the cities of Moorhead and Dilworth. This would include subdivision controls beyond county and/or township zoning. Representative members from these governmental units have completed a Plan, and have been supportive of the preservation of Moorhead's DWSMA.

Regulatory control also exists within the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District. An updated overall plan was completed in 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.

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 funding in the Red River Basin. These considerations will assist in development of management strategies for the protection of the groundwater within the Buffalo Aquifer.

CHAPTER THREE

ISSUES, PROBLEMS, AND OPPORTUNITIES

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 months 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 the 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 10 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 the 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 DWSMA of the south wells abuts the Trunk Highway No. 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. Development on the east side of the corridor is 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 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 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 10-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 believes 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. Existing education programs,

promoting Best Management Practices (BMP), and working with local landowners on issues, is the approach proposed by MPS.

Clay County is considering the potential of establishing an economic development authority within the county. The Clay County Commissioner serving on the Team has suggested that MPS and the Team consider and re-evaluate the adequacy of the standards of the WHP Overlay District and other regulations within the Clay County Development Code. MPS staff will evaluate the adequacy of the measures protecting the DWSMAs.

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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 MPS' 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 and water quality 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 Plan 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**

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 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 in North Field		Number Located in South Field		Priority
		Number CWI	Number PCS	Number CWI	Number PCS	
Wells	Source					
	Domestic	15	14	7	5	M
	Commercial	0	0	1	0	M
	Irrigation	0	0	1	1	H
	Monitoring, Obs, Scientific	20	0	17	0	M
	Municipal	2	0	4	0	M
	Test Well	6	0	14	0	M
	Class 5 Injection	0	0	0	0	H
	Sealed	12	1	12	0	L
	Unused	0	1	0	0	H
		Number Located in North Field		Number Located in South Field		
Septic Systems	Tank plus Drain field	14		3		M
	Tank plus Mound	1		0		L/M
	Shop Drains	0		1		
	Unknown	1		2		H
Tanks	Underground/Not Specified	2 Gasoline (1,050 gal) 1 Diesel outside(2,000 gal)		0		H
	Above Ground	2 Diesel (1,500 gal) 1 Gasoline (500 gal)		2 Diesel (10,500 gal) 1 Gasoline (? gal)		H
	Heating Fuel Tanks	4 Fuel Oil (>620 gal) 11 Propane(>1,500 gal)		3 Fuel Oil (1,200 gal) 2 Propane (>500 gal)		M
Agriculture	Agriculture Parcels	12		9		L
	Livestock Parcels	1(4 horses)		0		M
Mining	Gravel Mining Parcels	0		1		H
	Asphalt Plant Parcels	0		1		H
	Borrow Pit Parcels	0		1		H
	Concrete Plant Parcels	0		1		L
Transportation	Major Highway Parcels	21 (Clay Co. 11)		2 (US 10,TH 336,Clay Co. 11)		H
	Railroad Parcels			3 (BNSF)		H
Pipelines	Natural Gas Pipeline Parcels	1 (Viking)		2 (Xcel)		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: Coordinate with Clay County to educate property owners regarding the environmental standards and other regulations for Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS).

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

MEASURE A-1-2: Monitor and reevaluate Clay County Development Code Section 8-5C-A-C-2 that requires 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, City of Moorhead, City of Dilworth, Glyndon Township
Time Frame: Spring 2013 and ongoing
Estimated Cost: \$2 million to serve the entire area
Goal Achieved: Preservation of existing groundwater resources by preventing potential contaminant sources.

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

MEASURE A-2-1: Monitor and reevaluate Clay County Development Code Section 8-5C-1-C-3 providing a WHP Resource Protection Overlay District associated with the DNR Sensitive Areas Map RHA-3 (Map 4

of 4) from the DNR Hydrogeological Assessment completed in 2000.

Source of Action: Clay County, WHP Manager
Cooperators: WHP Team, City of Moorhead, City of Dilworth, MPS
Time Frame: 2013 and ongoing
Estimated Cost: Staff time
Goal Achieved: Monitor sensitive areas for preservation of groundwater resources.

MEASURE A-2-2: Monitor and reevaluate Clay County Development Code Section 8-5C-1-C-4 providing zoning regulations that 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, City of Moorhead, City of Dilworth, MPS, Glyndon Township
Time Frame: 2013
Estimated Cost: Staff time
Goal Achieved: Prevent contamination of aquifer from land use in areas of known sensitivity.

MEASURE A-2-3: Monitor and reevaluate Clay County Development Code Section 8-5C-1-C-5 providing setback and land use regulations on existing gravel pits within the DWSMA.

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

MEASURE A-2-4: Monitor and reevaluate Clay County Development Code Section 8-5C-1-C-6 that prohibits expansion of existing and new gravel and mining operations and monitor sensitive areas of the Buffalo Aquifer.

Source of Action: WHP Team, WHP Manager
Cooperators: Clay County, City of Moorhead, City of Dilworth, MPS, Glyndon Township
Time Frame: 2013

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

MEASURE A-2-5: Monitor and reevaluate Clay County Development Code Section 8-5C-1-C-7 that prohibits temporary and permanent asphalt plants within sensitive areas of the Buffalo Aquifer.

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

***MEASURE A-2-6: Monitor the installation and permitting process for closed loop vertical cooling with antifreeze (geothermal) within the DWSMA.**

Source of Action: MPS, WHP Team, City of Moorhead Building Codes Department, WHP Manager
Cooperators: Clay County, City of Moorhead, City of Dilworth
Time Frame: 2013
Estimated Cost: Staff time
Goal Achieved: Prevent contamination of aquifer from land use in areas of known sensitivity.

***MEASURE A-2-7: Work with MDH to update the Inner Wellhead Management Zone (IWMZ) inventory in year eight of the Plan.**

Source of Action: MPS
Cooperators: MDH
Time Frame: 2021
Estimated Cost: Staff time
Goal Achieved: Routine monitoring for land use and potential contaminant source changes within IWMZ, 200-foot radius around well, in consideration of State Well Code requirements.

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

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

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

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
Time Frame: 2013 and ongoing
Estimated Cost: \$5,000
Goal Achieved: Prevent accidental spills from contaminating the aquifer.

MEASURE A-3-3: Monitor and reevaluate Clay County Development Code 8-5C-1-C-8 associated with the 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, City of Moorhead, City of Dilworth, Glyndon Township, WHP Team
Time Frame: 2013 and ongoing
Estimated Cost: Actual cost to landowner
Goal Achieved: Prevent accidental spills from contaminating the aquifer.

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. Utilize training resources provided

by MRWA and MDH regarding precision agriculture training.

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

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: 2013-2014 and ongoing
Estimated Cost: \$300-500 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.

*** MEASURE A-4-2: Offer cost sharing incentives of remaining 50% up to \$300 to seal unused, unsealed wells within the DWSMA.**

Source of Action: MPS, WHP Manager
Cooperators: WHP Team
Time Frame: 2013-2014 and ongoing
Estimated Cost: \$300 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.

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: 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 aquifers.

*** 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: City of Moorhead, City of Dilworth, Clay County, Glyndon Township, Watershed District
Time Frame: During update process
Estimate Cost: Staff time
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: Continue monitoring in 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' ability to provide an adequate and safe supply of drinking water.

*** 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: WHP Manager, MPS Staff
Cooperator: MDH
Time Frame: 2013 and ongoing
Estimated Costs: Staff time
Goal Achieved: Preservation of the Buffalo Aquifer in areas determined to be sensitive to surface contamination.

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.**

Source of Action: Buffalo-Red River Watershed District, MPCA, WHP Manager
Cooperators: MPS
Time Frame: 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. Monitor and

discuss the activities of BNSF regarding fueling on the railroad tracks within the DWSMA.

Source of Action: MPS, WHP Manager
Cooperators: MNDOT, Clay County Highway Department, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, MPCA, MDA
Time Frame: 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: 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.

MEASURE B-1-2: 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 Plan and the reasons for aquifer preservation needs.

*** MEASURE B-1-3: Information on Plan will be published on MPS' Buffalo Aquifer Web site with links to the City and County.**

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

MEASURE B-1-4: A nitrate clinic will be sponsored and mailings will be sent to all landowners of 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.

*** MEASURE B-1-5: Work with local media to achieve WHP Plan goals.**

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

*** MEASURE B-1-6: 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 Plan priorities and regulatory needs.

MEASURE B-1-7: Work with Clay County to distribute education materials regarding aquifer protection at the Clay County Fair and Clay County Government Day. Cooperate with Buffalo River State Park staff to educate public and distribute materials regarding the Buffalo Aquifer.

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

MEASURE B-1-8: 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.

MEASURE B-1-9 Advertise and notify landowners within the DWSMA of collection dates for waste pesticide containers and locations and provide information on WHP at www.buffaloaquifer.com.

Source of Action: Clay County, USDA, WHP Manager
Cooperators: WHP Team, MPS
Time Frame: 2013 and as needed
Estimated Costs: Staff time
Goal Achieved: Education of landowners and prevention of contamination of aquifer from land use in areas of known sensitivity.

C. MONITORING, DATA COLLECTION, AND ASSESSMENT

OBJECTIVE C-1: COLLECT ADDITIONAL DATA REGARDING THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF WATER IN THE BUFFALO AQUIFER.

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, MDA, WHP Team
Time Frame: 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.

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
Time Frame: 2013 and ongoing
Estimated Cost: Staff 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
Time Frame: 2013 and ongoing
Estimated Cost: Staff time. Water quality analysis is contingent upon \$200 per sample line item funding for water quality analysis.

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.

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.

***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.

MEASURE C-1-7: Work with MDH Hydrologist and staff to develop and implement a chloride/bromide study and temperature study, as well as further develop stable isotope information exploring the interaction between the Buffalo Aquifer DWSMA wells and surface waters. Obtain tritium and stable isotope measurements in year 8 of the Plan.

Source of Action: MPS, WHP Manager
Cooperators: SWCD, MDH
Time Frame: 2013 and ongoing
Estimated Cost: Staff time. Water quality analysis is contingent upon \$200 per sample line item funding for water quality analysis.
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. Pump tests are contingent on provision of external funding.
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. Pump tests are contingent on provision of external funding and permission from landowners.
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 on 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 municipal 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. The cost of pulling a well pump and obtaining a video log may vary considerably depending on a number of factors. Video logging is contingent on funding.
Goal Achieved: Determine condition of municipal wells.

***MEASURE C-3-2: 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.

***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, City of Moorhead, City of Dilworth, MPS, Glyndon Township WHP Team, CLWP, MPS, Watershed District, Fish and Wildlife Service, North Dakota Department of Health
Time Frame: 2013
Estimated Cost: Staff time
Goal Achieved: Prevent contamination of aquifer from land use in areas of known sensitivity.

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.**

Source of Action: MPS, WHP Manager, WHP Team
Cooperators: MN DNR, MDH, WHP Team
Time Frame: 2013
Estimated Cost: \$0. Development of the Aquifer Management Plan will require significant financial and staff resources.
Goal Achieved: Discussion of management of sustainable usage of the Buffalo Aquifer.

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.**

Source of Action: MPS, WHP Manager, WHP Team
Cooperators: WHP Team
Time Frame: 2013
Estimated Cost: Staff time
Goal Achieved: Discussion of WHP achievements, goals, and opportunities.

- * 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: Staff time
Goal Achieved: Discussion of WHP achievements, goals, and opportunities.

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, 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; County Local Water Plan Coordinator; and be placed on file at the Moorhead Public Library, MPS, and on MPS' Web site.

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 (**Appendix Item 6**).

DRAFT