

## **Plan Section: Analysis and Prioritization of Issues**

### **Western Douglas County/LSB Watershed Goals**

**Overarching (Long-term) Goal: Restore ecosystem services in Western Lake Superior Basin watersheds through coordination of land use management practices that improve the hydrologic condition of watersheds**

#### **Watershed-wide Goals:**

- Coordinate land use management activities at the HUC 12 subwatershed scale
- Expand partnerships and increase coordination between private, municipal, county and state entities to address watershed problems (NRBP \*)
- Coordination of watershed activities will be implemented by local watershed-wide organization (NRBP)
- Establish educational programs for landowners (NRBP)

#### **Issue identification process**

##### **Sediment/erosion/hydrology**

Reduce occurrence of ‘flashy’ stream conditions (unstable hydrology) caused by increased volume and velocity of surface water runoff during storm events

Reduce stream channel erosion and sediment through landscape/land use management that is implemented on a HUC 12 watershed scale

- Implement appropriate land use BMPs to protect aquatic resources that include management of open land cover to attain 40% or less and establishment/maintenance of riparian buffers
- Demonstration projects that evaluate the most effective BMPs in reducing erosion
- Protect, enhance and restore wetlands (from NRBP)
- Restore/protect healthy riparian areas (NRBP)

##### **Forestry**

Forest management will be coordinated between private, municipal, county and state managers in order to:

- Coordinate timber harvests to maintain 40% or less open land in HUC 12 watersheds
- Manage forests to increase species and age class diversity of stands
- Incorporate expected changes in forest species diversity due to climate change
- Reduce impacts of urbanization on municipal forest
- Upland forest management (NRBP)
- Best management practices for logging road construction and maintenance (NRBP)
- Coordination of forest road layouts (NRBP)

##### **Agriculture**

Agricultural producers will understand and employ best management practices to reduce soil loss and reduce runoff from their fields.

- Tax incentives
- Artificial drainage in fields (tiles/other structures)
- PFOS/PFAS
- Agricultural waste and livestock management (NRBP)

### **Fisheries/ Wildlife**

Fish and wildlife habitat will be preserved, enhanced and restored through protection of water quality and establishment of easements/land acquisition.

- In-stream fish habitat improvement (NRBP)
- Beaver management (NRBP)

### **Water Quality**

Improve surface water quality to meet clean water standards and develop TMDLs for surface waters that do not meet standards

- Improve/support local efforts to monitor drinking water (especially for sulfites)
- Increase temperature monitoring to provide baseline information on potential for toxic algal blooms

### **Invasive Species**

Control and early detection of invasive species will be coordinated between local governments and natural resource agencies; city and county resource managers will identify program opportunities in support of increasing local capacity

### **Transportation**

Roads and other transportation corridors will have appropriately sized and placed culverts to accommodate extreme hydrologic events:

- Culverts will be evaluated and designed to accommodate for fish passage
- Information/ and training on roadside erosion control practices will be available to towns/municipalities (NRBP)
- Funding will be available to municipal and town governments to maintain aging transportation infrastructure
- Transportation corridors will be designed to minimize floodplain fragmentation

### **Economics**

Opportunities and funding support for stormwater management will be identified to increase local capacity for protecting and restoring healthy watersheds in Douglas County

Healthy watersheds and the diverse fish, wildlife and forest communities that are supported by them will be marketed for their important cultural, recreational and aesthetic values

### **Cultural Values**

The watershed issues described will be evaluated from a climate change perspective in order to increase the resiliency and adaptation potential of the natural communities that are important to the residents of the Lake Superior region.

\* NRBP refers to Nemadji River Basin Project, 1998