

Land Services Department

Mark B. Liedl.....Land Services Director

Environmental Services

Christopher Pence.....Land Services Supervisor

Douglas R. Morris.....Solid Waste Coordinator

David Landecker, PLS.....Surveyor Coordinator

Property Valuation and Classification

Gary Griffin.....Land Services Supervisor

Public Land Management

Kirk Titus.....Land Services Supervisor



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
LAND SERVICES BUILDING
322 LAUREL STREET, SUITE 14
BRAINERD, MN 56401

TELEPHONE (218) 824-1125
FAX (218) 824-1126
Chris.Pence@co.crow-wing.mn.us

CROW WING COUNTY
BRAINERD, MINNESOTA 56401

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CONTACT: Chris Pence
218-824-1125

CROW WING COUNTY SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON WATER PLAN

Crow Wing County is seeking input from citizens on the County's local comprehensive water plan, which will be updated in 2013. Water planning is identifying what works best to protect and enhance the water resources we all use and enjoy. The water plan document is a reflection of local priorities and helps the County establish goals to preserve and protect local water resources.

Because of the local nature of the water plan, Crow Wing County is offering citizens a unique opportunity to provide input as part of the process. A letter with a link to a brief, 12 question online survey is being sent to all lakeshore property owners on lakes with County land use jurisdiction. The County is also asking for feedback from citizens who may not live on a lake but would like to provide input regarding management of water resources. The link to the survey can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/water-plan-survey1>. A paper copy of the survey will also be available at the Environmental Services Office.

Based on public input, a draft revision of the water plan will be developed. In addition, there will be a public comment period and public hearing prior to adoption of the water plan. "Crow Wing County is welcoming public input throughout this process and is specifically seeking feedback from all County residents about what they value and how they use the water resources within the County," stated Water Protection Specialist Mitch Brinks.

Water management in Minnesota developed as a result of the statewide drought in the late 1970s, which caused the legislature to encourage more effort at the local level to develop and implement local water management plans to better preserve and protect water and related land resources. County water planning efforts began in earnest in the late 1980s as state funding assisted local units of government in developing their water plans.

Crow Wing County initially started the water planning process in 1990. The county's current water plan was adopted in 2008 and is set to expire in 2013.

The Land Services Department is committed to providing excellent customer service while helping landowners make wise choices that protect Crow Wing County's extraordinary natural resources. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Environmental Services Office at (218) 824-1125 or environmental.services@crowwing.us to discuss land use and water protection activities. Crow Wing County information and resources can be found at www.co.crow-wing.mn.us

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