

NEWS



Land Services Department
Environmental Services
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CROW WING COUNTY

BRAINERD, MINNESOTA 56401

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROW WING COUNTY WATER PLAN APPROVED

Crow Wing County's Local Comprehensive Water Management Plan has now been approved by local and state officials. At their regularly scheduled Board meeting on July 23, 2013, the Crow Wing County Board of Commissioners formally adopted the Water Plan and is now in effect until 2023. The plan identifies local priority concerns, objectives, and actions related to surface and ground water resources. It also includes a watershed based, land protection model that is the first of its kind in the State of Minnesota.

In an approval letter from the Board of Water and Soil Resources, Chair Brian Napstad stated, "The Crow Wing County Land Services office staff and County Board are to be commended for writing a plan that clearly presents the County's water management goals, actions, and priorities. With continued implementation of your water plan, the protection and management of Crow Wing County's water resources will be greatly enhanced."

In written comments, the Department of Natural Resources, noted that the plan "demonstrates the continued leadership of Crow Wing County in designing performance-based outcomes that protect water resources in the county. This is an excellent venture into watershed-based planning."

The Land Services Department also presented the County Board with a list of several new initiatives that will begin the implementation of the Water Plan, including a focus on stormwater management, private forest stewardship, increased testing for groundwater contaminants, and improved data management systems for septic systems and other County permitting data. The County plans to work with local, state, and federal partners to offer grants for some of these initiatives. Interested landowners should contact Land Services for more information.

Citizens are encouraged to view the Water Plan online at the website address at crowwing.us/index.aspx?NID=241. In appendix 1 of the plan, citizens can locate a map of the minor watershed in which they reside that includes detailed information about that watershed as well as specific water plan priorities that apply specifically to that watershed.

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 water planning or other land use questions.

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