

**PRAP****Performance Review and Assistance Program****2010 Level II Review:  
Isanti County Local Water Management** (*Isanti County*)**Why BWSR did this review**

BWSR conducts Level II performance reviews to help local government water management entities to be the best they can be in plan implementation and overall operational effectiveness. In 2010 BWSR is conducting Level II performance reviews of eight different local water management entities.

BWSR has conducted a routine Level II performance review of the **Isanti County** local water management program in concert with the review of the Isanti SWCD. Both entities use the same long-range plan.

This document includes findings, conclusions and recommendations to enhance the overall operation and effectiveness of the county's local water management program. The county is responsible for taking any actions they decide are necessary in response to the recommendations in this report.

**Isanti County Local Water Management  
Summary of Performance Review Results****What BWSR Found**

The Isanti County local water planning and management program has made some significant strides since BWSR approved the county's plan in 2006. They hired a county-based, half-time water planner who reinvigorated the water plan task force and made outreach efforts to surrounding counties. Particular areas of focus have been the Rum River and the North Branch of the Sunrise. These improvements are significant.

However, recent budget cuts to the County Planning and Zoning Department resulted in the loss of the half-time water planner and the splitting of those duties among the remaining department staff. While the water plan implementation will still be administered, these changes are likely to result in a reduction of the growth of the local water management efforts. Hopefully, once the budget shortfalls within the county have been addressed, restoration of the water planner would be a high priority.

The Isanti local water management efforts should continue and there should be an increased focus on the Clean Water Fund grants to implement the water plan action items.

The Isanti County water management task force has one action item to be addressed in the short-term: provide a public information piece updating recent activities and efforts.

The county is commended for meeting the following high performance standards:

- ★ Partnerships: liaison with SWCDs/WDs and cooperative projects/tasks done
- ★ Track outcomes for public education objectives
- ★ County local water plan on county website
- ★ Water management ordinances on county website

BWSR recommended that the county follow-up on the action item and maintain the excellent work of the water management task force.