

PRAP

Performance Review and Assistance Program

2010 Level II Review: Martin County (*Martin 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 **Martin County** local water management program in concert with the review of the Martin 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 program. The water plan committee and county staff are responsible for taking any actions they decide are necessary in response to the recommendations in this report.

Martin County Local Water Management Summary of Performance Review Results

What BWSR Found

The county is making good progress in addressing its water management responsibilities as described in the county local water plan. At the midpoint of the plan implementation cycle the county has addressed the objectives within its areas of main responsibility.

One example of proactive water resource management is the drainage system redetermination of benefits providing a fairer user-pays approach that allows improved maintenance of the agricultural water management systems in the county. This effort is resulting in reduced erosion and sedimentation. Another example is the imminent health threat abatement septic system grant to “fix” 17 systems that was recently awarded to the county.

In the area of feedlots in particular, and to a lesser extent shoreland and subsurface sewage treatment systems, there is room for improvement in the communication and coordination of these county responsibilities with other local water management activities in the county. This could be easily achieved by having county program staff regularly attend quarterly water plan committee meetings to provide status reports of funding levels, expenditures, activities and any program results or outcomes.

Martin County local water management is commended for:

- ★ Public drainage records: meet modernization guidelines
- ★ Annual plan priorities based on water quality trend data for key water resources
- ★ Non-state \$ leveraged with all state funds
- ★ Comparison of planned with actual program expenditures
- ★ Data collected to track outcomes for each priority concern
- ★ Water quality trends tracked for priority water bodies
- ★ Obtain stakeholder input: within last 5 yrs
- ★ Partnerships: liaison with SWCD for cooperative projects
- ★ Report to water plan advisory committee on plan progress
- ★ County local water plan on county website
- ★ Water management ordinances on county website

BWSR recommends that the county ensure regular reporting of program status at water plan committee meetings.