

Appendix L. Formal Review Comments

South Fork Crow River Watershed CWMP

Formal Review Comments

					Change	<u></u>	=		
					Needed	Material	Editorial	Note	
Comment #	Commenter	Section	Page	Comment	(Y/N)	Mai	Edit	Ž	Resolution
				In the last paragraph on page 39, it says, "The short-term goal focuses on					
				implementation of conservation practices (e.g., WASCOBs, grade stabilization					
				structures, filter strips) to reduce peak flows and volume in receiving waters and					
				reduce erosion and sedimentation issues associated with public drainage					
				systems." The issues your goals need to address are Peak Flows and					
				Erosion/Sedimentation. The number of projects completed will not indicate					
				progress toward addressing the issues (Peak flow and Erosion/Sedimentation).					
				While we've had much discussion about simplicity for the sake of this goal, this					
				issue, Drainage Water Management, was the number one issue identified at the public kickoff event (Figure 3.2, page 25). As this was the number one issue					
				identified, we feel that measurable goals that can clearly show a planned pace of					
				progress towards addressing the issues are necessary beyond what is specified in					
				this draft. We recommend the goals include a reduction in TSS in tons/year and					
				water storage goal. The Stacking Multiple Benefits Column adds some confusion to					Anticipated benefits from those 250 drainage practices is included in the
				reviewers. For example, under the Drainage goal, Erosion and Sedimentation list s					"Stacking Benefits" section.
				165 tons/year TSS reduced. Is this the Erosion and Sedimentation Goal for the					-
				watershed as a whole or what you plan to accomplish via the Drainage projects?		1		l	Stacking Benefits section revised to indicate it is 36% of the overall goal for
1	BWSR	Measurable Goals	39	While useful information, the way it's presented adds confusion.	Υ	Х			Erosion and Sedimentation / Nutrients. This solution will also apply to each goal.
				Several of the measurable goals are not adequately reflected in the tables. For		1			
				example, in the Upper South Fork Planning Region Action Table, the currently					
				identified metric for the Drainage Goal (from the measurable Goals section) is the					
				number of projects. While we have issue with this measurable goal as stated in item 3 above, there is not a corresponding line in the Implementation Table. So,					
				assuming its part of the agricultural practices and non-structural practices, there is					
		Targeted		a ten-year output reflected in both items as acres treated. From what is provided,					
		Implementation		we have no way to determine the intended pace of progress towards achieving					Added load reduction benefits of practices implemented to output for structural
2	BWSR	Schedule	69	measurable goals.	Υ		Х		/ nonstructural practices
		Targeted		We have the same concern for the water storage goals, and erosion and					
		Implementation	69, 71, 73,	sedimentation goals and for the other sub-watershed action tables. Short term					Outputs added for water storage benefits of conservation practices and Capital
3	BWSR	Schedule	75, 76, 77	measurable goal metrics should correspond to these 10-year outputs.	Υ	Х			Improvements. Water Storage goal language revised accordingly.
		Targeted							
4	BWSR	Implementation Schedule	77	The last row in the table on page 77 has no 10-year output. This should not be blank.	Υ	х			Output royiced; one partner meeting per year, and 1 enrollment per year
4	BWSK	Targeted	//	Is Technical assistance reflected in the cost of implementing the plan on page 78?	Ť	^			Output revised: one partner meeting per year, and 1 enrollment per year
		Implementation		We assume its part of the "Support" identified on page 78 in Table 5.7, but it					Technical assistance is already the last action of each planning region action
5	BWSR	Schedule	78	should be more clearly specified.	N		х		table.
-				Per Plan Content Requirements There should be a paragraph on Drainage. There is					
				a small paragraph under Capital Improvements Projects but should be given its					Section on drainage added with language "County boards and the Buffalo Creek
		Plan		own heading and expanded on, especially considering it is a Tier 1 Priority for this					Watershed District serve as the drainage authorities for public drainage systems
6	BWSR	Implementation		plan.	Υ	Х			in the South Fork Crow River Watershed. "
		Land and Water							
		Resource		Should include paragraphs on Stormwater, Drainage systems and control		١			
/	BWSR	Inventory		structures.	Υ	Х	-		Sections added to LWRN
		Plan Administration		Page 93 there is still placeholder language for the formal agreement decision that					Placeholder language struck as it is not necessary to include information about
8	BWSR	and Coordination	93	needs to be finalized.	Υ	х			what the implementation group will be referred to
<u> </u>	D443I/	and coordination	33	The revisions to this portion of the plan since the internal review draft clearly	<u> </u>	^	1		what the implementation group will be referred to
		Plan		identifies amendment procedures. Thank you for working with us on this and we					
		Administration		recommend that all Policy Committee members are aware of how the Water		1			
9	BWSR	and Coordination		Management Districts differ from the rest of the plan.	N			Х	Comment noted with thanks
				On page 104, the statement that reads, "Policy Committee and will proceed					
		Plan		according to the procedure described in State statute." Should be changed to,		1		l	
		Administration		"Policy Committee and will proceed according to the procedure described in State		1		l	
10	BWSR	and Coordination	104	statute BWSR Policy."	Υ	<u> </u>	Х		Edited as requested to BWSR policy
1.1	DIAKED	A	A constant of	Appendix F still looks like it's in draft form with strikeout and underlined portions.	,,				Decreased for Association and detail or continue
11	BWSR	Appendices	Appedix F	This should be fixed.	Υ	Χ	L		Document for Appendix updated as available

					Change		Editorial	<u>e</u>	
					Needed	ate	i i i	Note	
Comment # C	Commenter	Section	Page	Comment	(Y/N)	Σ	ш		Resolution
				First paragraph of Groundwater and Drinking Water Resources. MDH's comment					
				in the first draft was to have the plan reflect the fact there are 5,859 private wells					
		Land and Water		with known locations throughout the watershed, or something to that effect. The					
		Resource		current draft states that the watershed is estimated to have over 5,800 private					
12 N	MDH	Narrative	16	wells that are used for drinking water consumption. MDH appreciates this edit.	N			Χ	Comment noted with thanks
				final sentence of the first paragraph. MDH had suggested that the Partnership					
				include "downstream surface water communities" as a focus Resource where					
				applicable in the Action Tables, as many of the activities proposed in the Action					
		Land and Water		Tables include activities that will have a positive influence on downstream surface					
		Resource		drinking water quality. The statement included on page 17 satisfactorily addresses					
13 N	MDH	Narrative	17	MDH's comment.	N			Х	Comment noted with thanks
				Table 3.6 lists arsenic as a potential groundwater contaminant, and Page 16, final					
				sentence of the penultimate paragraph notes that MDH has identified elevated					
				levels of arsenic as an additional issue with private wells. MDH had previously					
				commented that the plan does not address/emphasize the relatively high					
				incidence rates of arsenic (33.2% of samples exceed the Safe Drinking Water Act					
				standard of 10 μg/L and nearly 50% exceed 5 μg/L). Additionally, the lack of					
				activities in the plan that focus on arsenic outreach, education, and possible					
				testing clinics in the Action Tables may be a missed opportunity, and MDH					
				encouraged the inclusion of possible ideas such as website postings and/or					
				pamphlet mailings; arsenic clinics; outreach to realtors to ensure testing for real					
				estate transactions; partnerships with Local Public Health, others. MDH noticed					As groundwater is a Tier 3 issue, action will not be added to the implementation
14 N	MDH	Priority Issues	30	the current draft does not include this suggestion.	N	Х	ļ	ļ	schedule, but the local partnership supports MDH's efforts in this matter.
				Table 5.3 Upper South Fork Planning Region Action Table. MDH had commented					
				that the Action Description titled "Provide cost-share for well sealing" had listed in					
				the Focus Resources column: Drinking Water Source Management Areas, or					
		Targeted		DWSMAs. MDH had requested that the Focus Resource be changed from					
		Implementation		DWSMAs to Watershed-wide. The change was made and MDH appreciates this				l	
15 N	MDH	Schedule	69	edit.	N	-		Х	Comment noted with thanks
		Land and Water		5. 22.7					
		Resource	40	Figure 2.2: There are two stream layers being labeled – difficult to read. Example:	Υ		Х		Character labella accident
16 N	MPCA	Narrative	13	Buffalo Creek labels are overlapping.	Y		Х		Stream labels revised
		Land and Water							
17 N	MPCA	Resource Narrative	14	Incorrect calculation, should be 72 FB/ instead of 710/	Υ		Х		Text amended to 73%
1/	IVIPCA	Narrative	14	Incorrect calculation; should be 72.5% instead of 71%	Ť		^		Text amended to 75%
				Table 2.1: If definitions are of classes, may want to adjust descriptions unless you					
				were integrating from elsewhere:					
				a. The 2B, 2Bg, and 2Bm, do not include 'also protected for drinking water'			1	1	
				b. 2B: Cool and warm water aquatic life and habitat					
				c. 2Bg: Aquatic life and recreation – General Cool and Warm Water Aquatic Life			1	1	
				Habitat					
		Land and Water		d. 2Bm: Aquatic life and recreation – Modified Cool and Warm Water Aquatic Life			1	1	
		Resource		Habitat			1	1	
18 N	MPCA	Narrative	15	e. Clip to support definitions: (Spec is over in HEI Notes)	Υ	Х			Revised based on feedback from MPCA
				Could these be more concrete goals?					
				a. With only recording the number of projects, will you get the desired reductions					
				and thereby meet target goals to be successful? A project could be small and not			1	1	Projects will be selected based on scoring and ranking. Projects will rank higher
	MPCA	Measurable Goals	40 & 55	get significant changes.	N	Х			if in a priority area and if load reduction benefits are substantial.
20	MPCA	Appendix		I don't believe the reference section was added to the report.	Υ	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Х	References added to Appendix
				We are pleased that implementation projects offering multiple stacked benefits			1	1	
				are emphasized and prioritized throughout the plan. These projects provide a			1	1	
21 [DNR			higher benefit/cost ratio	N			Х	Comment noted with thanks
	DNR DNR			higher benefit/cost ratio It is excellent to see specific Capital Improvement Projects directly addressing the loss of water storage and altered hydrology detailed within the plan	N N				Comment noted with thanks Comment noted with thanks

					Change	-	<u>=</u>		
					Needed	Material	Editorial	Note	
Comment #	Commenter	Section	Page	Comment	(Y/N)	Σ	Edi	Z	Resolution
				Agricultural drainage system repair, maintenance, and management were					
				identified as one of the highest priorities in the plan due to increased erosion and					
				sediment delivery to receiving waters. The plan's storage and altered hydrology					
				sections consider options to offset the impact of increased water delivery to					
				downstream areas and identify goals to address altered hydrology by storing					
				water on the landscape. While the DNR is hopeful the plan will influence future					
				public and private drainage projects, the options considered in the plan for					
				offsetting drainage impacts may not be enough to produce measurable results.					
				Consider seeking more firm and specific commitments from the drainage					
				authorities to develop projects with numeric goals, moderate drainage					
				coefficients, and landscape-suitable water storage alternatives. The DNR suggests					
				identifying where Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) can be					103E requires storage to be considered. WBIF will be used to fund practices with
				utilized to implement projects that are not required to offset impacts from					water quality and storage benefits.
				drainage projects, and that will result in positive gains in water storage on the					Action has already been included for early coordination on drainage projects
23	DNR	Goals	39	landscape	N	Х			(see action #W5)
				In our priority concerns letter, we commented that the watershed plan must					
				influence public and private drainage. We noted that the cumulative effect of					
				increased drainage is straining public infrastructure, contributing to stream					
				channel erosion, and increasing the risk of flooding for homes and farmland. Per					
				statute requirements, the DNR's role is to review and comment on drainage					
				improvement projects' adherence to MN Statutes, including MN Statutes					
				§103E.015, which involves environmental considerations and identifying					
				alternative measures in locally adopted water management plans. It states, "This					
				investigation shall include early coordination with applicable soil and water					
				conservation district [SWCD] and county and watershed district water planning					
				authorities about potential external funding sources and technical assistance for					
				these purposes and alternative measures. The drainage authority may request					
				additional information about potential funding or technical assistance for these					
				purposes and alternative measures from the executive director of the Board of					
				Water and Soil Resources [BWSR]". The DNR recognizes the importance of early					
				coordination with the drainage authorities, drainage engineers, and local					
				conservation agencies. DNR also understands the complexity of achieving					
				adequate drainage and mitigating the negative environmental consequences of					
24	DNR	Goals		increased drainage system capacity.	N			Х	Importance of early coordination recognized by local Partnership, with thanks.
				Page 33 "Storage, Resiliency and Drainage": Restoring and enhancing drainage					
				function and installing conservation practices for drainage systems can lower					
				sediment transport and peak flow within localized systems; however,					
				implementation practices should consider prioritizing mitigation of potential					Comment noted with thanks. Additional goal for "Loss of Water Storage and
25	DNR	Issues	33	increased peak flows to downstream receiving waters	N			Х	Altered Hydrology" also aimed at mitigating potential increased peak flows.
				Descriptions within "Drainage Partnerships and Drainage Management" on page					
				39 and "Loss of Water Storage and Altered Hydrology" on page 42 emphasize					
				increasing water storage and reconnecting to the floodplain, restoring wetlands,					
				and building infiltration basins, but the associated action tables and goals include					
				strategies that only indirectly address these goals. While several capital				l	
				improvement projects have strategies to address the loss of water storage/altered					
				hydrology, we suggest including action items in the regional action tables to					Action #4.2 in each Diaming Degion Action Table is inclusive of the acceptant
				promote water storage and watershed flow reductions. Consideration of smaller-					Action #1-3 in each Planning Region Action Table is inclusive of the practices that
1				scale water storage practices in addition to the large capital improvement projects to show actionable goals addressing the loss of water storage and altered				l	will be the focus of the local Partnership in achieving these goals, including multipurpose drainage management practices, wetland restorations, soil health
26	DNR	Goals	39.42	y y	N	х		l	practices, stormwater ponds, etc.
۷۵	DINK	Quais	39,42	hydrology may also be a beneficial strategy.	IN	٨			practices, storniwater ponus, etc.

					Change	<u></u>	-		
					Needed	-	Editorial	Note	
Comment #	Commenter	Section	Page	Comment	(Y/N)	Maj	Ē	Z	Resolution
				The DNR highly encourages prioritizing water storage projects that leverage					
				natural features and processes and demonstrate multiple benefits not only to					
				water quantity and quality but also to aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, fish and					
				wildlife species, and public and private infrastructure/property. Temporary storage					
				via channels with well-connected floodplains and restored natural wetlands for					
				long-term retention are preferred methods to achieve those objectives, especially					
				in the upper reaches of the watershed. These practices aid in flood damage					
				reduction to help curb the effects of flooding and should be considered a higher					
				priority. The plan mentions water storage, flood damage reduction, and reduced					
				flooding as auxiliary benefits of another practice and not explicitly emphasized as					
				an individual actionable item goals. The plan addresses flooding locally within the					
				context of public drainage ditch functionality but not regionally or watershed-					
				wide. Flooding and reconnection to the floodplain are classified as a Tier 3 issue					
				(Table 3.6 Tier 3 Issues, page 30) to be addressed by others or other funding					
				sources. Consider including strategies in the plan to emphasize the importance of					Added sentence to 'what can be done' water storage section emphasizing the
27	DNR	Goals	43	flood damage reduction and restoring floodplain connectivity	Y	Х			importance of restoring connections to the floodplain
				Cignificant alterations of stream shannels have a second asset that			1		
				Significant alterations of stream channels have occurred, especially in headwater			1		
				areas. These altered watercourses generally exhibit limited floodplain					
				connectivity, excessive bank erosion, and poor fish and wildlife habitat. Combating					
				this degradation requires adopting resilient and progressive land management					
				practices. This plan builds on a framework to address the principles detailed in the					
				South Fork Crow Watershed Characterization Report published by the DNR in 2016. Natural channel restoration, dam removal, and enhanced buffers are					Local planning staff will support our partners in channel restoration, dam
				considered Tier 3 priorities in the plan. The DNR encourages prioritizing these and					removal, and enhanced buffer efforts as time and funding allows, but WBIF and
28	DNR			other practices related to natural channel processes and restoration	N			x	the focus of this plan will be on addressing Tier 1 and 2 priority issues.
20	DINK			Stream connectivity benefits the health of a watershed, aquatic organisms, and	IN			^	the focus of this plan will be on addressing fier 1 and 2 priority issues.
				floodplain access. Stream connectivity concerns are a Tier 3 issue in the plan with					
				other agencies managing and funding these practices. The DNR suggests more					
				emphasis in the plan on increasing stream connectivity. As implementation work					
				proceeds and conservation practices are installed throughout the watershed,					
				stream connectivity can be considered and incorporated into many of these					Added text saying stream connectivity should be a consideration of practices in
29	DNR	Goals	43	practices	Υ	х			the 'what can be done' section for altered hydrology
				The DNR recommends the plan consider the importance of perched culvert					, 0,
				replacement or restoration and culvert sizing to enhance stream connectivity.					
				Healthy streams with longitudinal connectivity can transport the water and					
				sediments of their watershed over time in a sustainable balance. Perched or					Culverts are a Tier 3 issue, because only a number of issues could be priorities
				improperly sized culverts require long-term maintenance and are at risk of failure					for realistic plan implementation. Local planning staff will support our partners
				during flood periods. Improving lateral connectivity (floodplain access) should also					with improving connectivity projects as time and funding allows, but
				be prioritized in this watershed, and the DNR may be able to assist with project					implementation of plan actions addressing Tier 1 and 2 priority issues are the
30	DNR	Issues	30	selection and design implementation	N	Х	<u>L</u>	<u> </u>	priority.
				The plan addresses habitat restoration and preservation and protection of natural					
				features, native species, and landscapes by preserving what remains and adding					
				825 acres of permanently protected land within ten years (Short-Term Goal, page					
				60). The DNR applauds this approach and suggests a strong emphasis on					
31	DNR	Implementation	60	preserving and protecting riparian areas in particular.	Υ	Х			Added text emphasizing the importance of protecting riparian land
				In this heavily altered and impaired watershed, the DNR applauds the 1W1P			1		
1				Steering Committee for prioritizing funding to address "nearly" and "barely"			1		
				impaired waters. However, this challenge is daunting, with over 70% of lakes in			1		
32	DNR	Implementation		the watershed impaired	N	1	<u> </u>	Х	Comment noted with thanks
				The DND assessment consideration of the state of the stat			1		
				The DNR recommends consideration of in-basin strategies like water level			1		
				management/temporary drawdown in shallow lakes and some wetlands. DNR			1		Comment and for involvementalism and the least of the lea
				staff have partnered with LGU staff, NGOs, and local landowners in many areas to			1		Comment noted for implementation purposes. Lake Internal Loading and In-
				complete such projects, which temporarily lower water levels to promote					Lake Management is a Tier 3 issue. Local planning staff will support our partners
22	DND	CI-3	603	emergent vegetation growth, improve water quality, and enhance wetland wildlife		.,	1		with these efforts as time and funding allows, but implementation of plan
33	DNR	Goals?	60?	habitat. We are available to help prioritize and implement these types of projects	N	Х	1	-	actions addressing Tier 1 and 2 priority issues are the priority.
34	DNR			It is excellent to see the vast extent of agricultural and urban BMP implementation	N.		1	v	Commont noted with thanks
34	NIK	i	ĺ	and proposed goals incorporated in the plan	N	1		X	Comment noted with thanks

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Invasive species are classified as a first 3 suss in the glant. We suggest resting invasive process is stored and impost within waterbald stargets and goals—especially strategies to prevent, contain, and/or control the spread of both against and the resting invasive process interest and suddishin, place complete the explain of both against and the resting invasive process and controlling invasives. The start adding this controlling invasives. The adding this controlling controlling the controlling invasives. The adding this controlling controlling the controlling of the controlling invasives. The adding this controlling controlling the controlling controlling controlling the controlling invasives. The adding the controlling control						Change	rial	rial	يو	
Invasive species are classified as a first 3 suss in the glant. We suggest resting invasive process is stored and impost within waterbald stargets and goals—especially strategies to prevent, contain, and/or control the spread of both against and the resting invasive process interest and suddishin, place complete the explain of both against and the resting invasive process and controlling invasives. The start adding this controlling invasives. The adding this controlling controlling the controlling invasives. The adding this controlling controlling the controlling of the controlling invasives. The adding this controlling controlling the controlling controlling controlling the controlling invasives. The adding the controlling control							ate	lito	Net	
invasive species as stokes and impacts within waterined strategies and goals— specially strategies to previous the spread of both aquatiful and terrestral involves species in addition, please consider liveringing least efforts with the property strategies to previous species in addition, please consider liveringing least efforts with the property strate register and the property strate register and the property strategies and the property strateg	Comment #	Commenter	Section	Page	Comment	(Y/N)	Σ	Ec		Resolution
specially strategies to growing, contain, and/or control the growed of both squarts and terrestrial involves species. 15 ONR Goals 61 reflective the special of the special of simulations of growind set of the special of simulations of growind set of special selections and for sure impacts in the special special selections and for sure impacts in the special special selections and special selections are important to the visual selections and special selections are important to selections and special selections are important to selections and special selections are important to constructions and special selections are important to construct the special selections are important for communicating why some sissues one of the special selection selection of selections are important for communicating why some sissues o					Invasive species are classified as a Tier 3 issue in the plan. We suggest treating					
and terestral invasive species. In addition, please consider fever againg social efforts with state programs with the good of imulianceuplity and visiting the special please consider making them a higher protrictions are included in the plan as a Tar's issuer, please consider making them a higher protriction protriction of interesting and interference protrictions are included in the plan as a Tar's issuer, please consider making them a higher protriction are included in the plan as a Tar's issuer, inflictants in a securital in reventing applier reclarge, specially in a rate and distinct of drainage the and improvisors discovered by shallow global is delicitied, and a security of distinction of drainage the and improvisors. Additional behavior to interface, particularly within low-ling or dependent of the consurage promotes statistically, microbial promotes and a surface surface and controlling invasives. Text adding this consideration and squifer reclarge. All watershed issues are important, but only a few could be Tier 1 or Tier 2 or Tie					invasive species as issues and impacts within watershed strategies and goals –					
with state program with the goal of animataneously improving water quality and controlling in the proving the spread of immulate spoties. Secondary Control of the province of the provin					especially strategies to prevent, contain, and/or control the spread of both aquatic					
Some one of the second process of mouse species of mouse species of mouse of the second of conductate/findings were protections are included in the plan as a Tier 3 issue; of least consider raising them a higher priority, given the importance of groundwater sustainability and furure impact in this watershed, surface water until full training and the second of conductate sustainability within low-ling of depressional areas, should be limited to help promote infiltration and saudier rechange. Additional benefits of more infiltration and saudier rechange are groundwater sustainability, including helpings to less surface water until and less flooding. The DNR can assist with strategy development to encourage groundwater sustainability, including helpings to less surface water until and less flooding. The DNR can assist with strategy development to encourage groundwater sustainability, including helpings to less surface water until and less flooding. The DNR can assist with strategy development to encourage groundwater sustainability, including helpings to less surface water until and less flooding. The DNR can assist with strategy development to encourage groundwater rechange and contract the protection of entire type of dishiking water and the surface of the plan included protection of additionability and protection with be considered in future plan amendments. We understand that Table 3.0 Ter 3 issues of the plan in for communicating why some issues were not demend a floor. So of this plan, for companible agastic measures second the plan in the cannot consider the surface of the plan in the cannot consider the surface of the plan in the cannot consider the surface of the plan in the cannot consider the					and terrestrial invasive species. In addition, please consider leveraging local efforts					
Groundwater/drinking water protections are included in the plan as a Tier all suse; please consider making them a higher priority, given the importance of groundwater sustainability and future impacts in this vatershed, Surface water infiltration is essential in increasing auginer rechange, especially in warea dominated by shallow glacial administration is estimated in increasing auginer rechange, especially in warea dominated by shallow glacial administration is estimated in increasing auginer rechange, especially in warea dominated by shallow glacial administration is estimated in increasing auginer rechange, especially in warea dominated by shallow glacial administration is a mission of administration of administration in include less without the production of administration and include less winter water runoff and less fronting. The following development to encourage groundwater sustainability, including beloing to identify groundwater rechange a rarea. The Renville SWCC Appendix No The Renville SWCC Appendix We understand that Table 3.6 Tier 3 issues of the potential conservation practices that will be implemented to address the gas and priorities outside to denote the potential conservation practices that will be implemented to address the gas and priorities outside the potential conservation practices added to the south Fork Crow River Partnership. Page 27. No Wester and Table 3.6 Tier 3 issues of the plan includes Aquastic invasive species was one of the highest-ranking sesus in the public invasive species was one of the highest-ranking sesus in the public invasive species was one of the highest-ranking sesus in the public invasive species was one of the highest-ranking sesus in the public invasive species was one of the highest-ranking sesus in the public invasive species was one of the highest-ranking sesus in the public invasive species was one of the highest-ranking sesus in the public invasive species was one of the highest-ranking sesus in the public invasive species was one of the highest-ran					with state programs with the goal of simultaneously improving water quality and					The wildlife habitat goal will be focused on protecting native species and
please consider making them a higher priority, given the importance of groundwater sustainability and future important in this waterhead. Surface water infiltration is resential in increasing author rectange, sepecially in areas dominated by halfowly glacial actions to the plant author surface supplies. The septical surface water furnification of drainings till and improvous surfaces, particularly within low-lying or depressional actors, houded be limited to deprey more infiltration and aduler certange. Additional benefits of more infiltration can include less surface water runnif and groundwater rectange. Additional benefits of the plant of the posterial conservation and squider rectange. Additional benefits of the plant of the posterial conservation practices that will be implemented to address the goals and priorities outlined in the South Force Own New Comprehensive Westernede Management. Plan. We understand that Table 3.6 Tile 3 issues of the plant includes Aquatic invasive Species: "The provision of the plant of the particular season and provision of the plant of the p	35	DNR	Goals	61	reducing the spread of invasive species	Υ	Х			controlling invasives. Text adding this consideration added to the wildlife goal.
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Comment #	Commenter	Section	Page	Comment	Change Needed (Y/N)	Material	Editorial	Note	Resolution
				If possible, it would be helpful for some of the education and outreach items to be more specific. For example, the action step "Conduct an annual meeting with SWCDs, BCWD, and drainage inspectors to gain a deeper understanding of drainage system operation to conduct proactive maintenance rather than reactive" (pg. 75) specifically outlines what is to be achieved, when, with who, and why it is needed. Here are a couple actions that it would be helpful if they could be more defined:					
				"Continue and expand surface water monitoring efforts to understand water quality, trends, and impacts of conservation action" (pg. 75) - Expand on how this will be done. Are new monitoring sites going to be added? New monitoring parameters? Is this action step perhaps to identify where and how to expand monitoring efforts in order to increase this understanding?					
43	Carver WMO	Implementation		"Continue and expand watershed education and outreach programming in each jurisdictional area." (pg. 75) – How will education and outreach programming be expanded? Through offering more programs? Attending public events?	Υ	х			Added reference to Implementation Programs section

South Fork Crow River One Watershed, One Plan Public Hearing: November 27th, 2023 6 P.M. Public Comments and Response

Doug Rathke

a. He is concerned about being notified; wants to know why farmers are not being notified directly via physical letter.

Response: Comment noted. The notification process appropriately followed state statute and is uniform to all other One Watershed, One Plan public hearings taking place statewide.

2. Kevin Buss

a. He stated Mcleod County created the problem on their own; is concerned about larger tile than what the ditches can handle. He does not want to be told how to operate his land and is not happy with non-profit organizations (i.e. Pheasants Forever).

Response: Comment noted. The Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan is a document that offers methods to improve water quality through a voluntary approach, this is a non-regulatory document and will not control how land is operated and/or sold.

3. Dave Jutz – Elsworth TWP, Meeker County

a. He stated that Elsworth has the greatest number of lakes in Meeker County and expressed interest in doing projects with the lakes. Concerned about private and public water courses that are not regulated by county controls. Issues include pipes that are set too high or too low, sediment filled, etc. He is looking for funds or ways to find funds to take care of said water courses without suing the landowners.

Response: Comment noted. Dealing with drainage and public water courses can be a tasking process that usually involves agencies such as the Department of Natural Resources as well as the Army Corps of Engineers. We hope that the plan can aid in the reduction of erosion issues on properties that are contributing to the sedimentation problems expressed. This will need to happen voluntarily as this plan cannot and will not force actions. The Drainage Partnership goal will hopefully expand education to those interested as to who (or what agency or entity) is responsible for drainage issues throughout the watershed.

4. Tom Dahl – Acoma TWP

a. He reiterated what Dave Jutz spoke on and spoke about issues with dikes and the Crow River. Commented on heavy costs on rip rap to protect their ditches.

Response: Comment noted. The planning partnership hopes that the efforts revolving around reducing peak flows stated in the plan can help eliminate the heavy flows coming from upstream and reduce the erosion occurring as a result.

5. Jim Steinbach

a. He claimed that BWSR was not on the notice. He showed contents of the plan, stating government agencies are unconstitutional. He showed maps from the plan and is concerned that the high priority regions are on the west end. He is concerned about the number of projects being proposed in the plan. He is concerned about the buffer law and drainage ditches. Went over his 3 minutes of allotted time.

Response: Comment noted. The plan utilized a computer model (HSPF SAM) to determine areas for conservation projects that would provide the greatest benefits from investment of

South Fork Crow River One Watershed, One Plan Public Hearing: November 27th, 2023 6 P.M. Public Comments and Response

funds. This is largely how the high priority, medium priority, and low priority areas were determined. The number of projects stated in the plan are an estimated number of projects that can be implemented with the anticipated amount of dollars received via Watershed Based Implementation Funds. These sites are largely unidentified and are hypothetical at this time.

6. Doug Benson

a. He is confused about the water plan, is it about help or control? He brought up previous conversations regarding drainage system projects. His brother feels that people who vote for this plan are traitors of government.

Response: Comment noted. Water plans have been in place since the 1980s and are used by local governments to steer efforts to make change toward water quality. This plan is to look at the watershed as a whole and not just the boundaries of each entity within the South Fork Crow River Watershed. It is not about control, but rather to establish an accurate means to direct efforts and funds to improve the water resources within the region.

7. Earl Schealler – Cosmos, MN

a. He is concerned about the budget and how much money will be spent. He claims it will be spent on meetings and not using the backhoe. He wants to see ditches and waterways cleaned out. He feels he can't farm/make hay along the river due to how it has been managed over the last 30 years.

Response: Comment noted: The planning partnership intends to use a vast majority of the funds for the implementation of Best Management Practices, both structural and non-structural, that will aid in water quality improvements.

8. Reed Seifelt

a. He asked about generational farmers in the crowd and asked how many folks in the crowd know how to farm.

Response: Comment noted. Irrelevant to plan content.

9. Rick Willey

a. He referenced history, the Constitution of the United States, and stated we the people quotes regarding the 4th branch of government.

Response: Comment Noted. Irrelevant to plan content.

10. Warren Klammer

a. He asked about appointments to the BWSR board, concerned that the carrot will be held out to the farmer and they will be expected to chase it. He was a member of the High Island Creek Watershed District, has not seen anything from BWSR that was good.

Response: Comment noted. The funds will be available to those who wish to utilize them, the plan will not force anyone to use the Watershed Based Implementation Funds.