

CHAPTER FIVE GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICY GUIDELINES

This chapter of the BCWD Overall Plan establishes the District’s goals, objectives and policy guidelines. Collectively, they will be used to guide future management activities and decisions. *More importantly; however, the objectives and policy guidelines provide a framework that the District’s Board of Managers can use to base day-to-day decisions upon.*

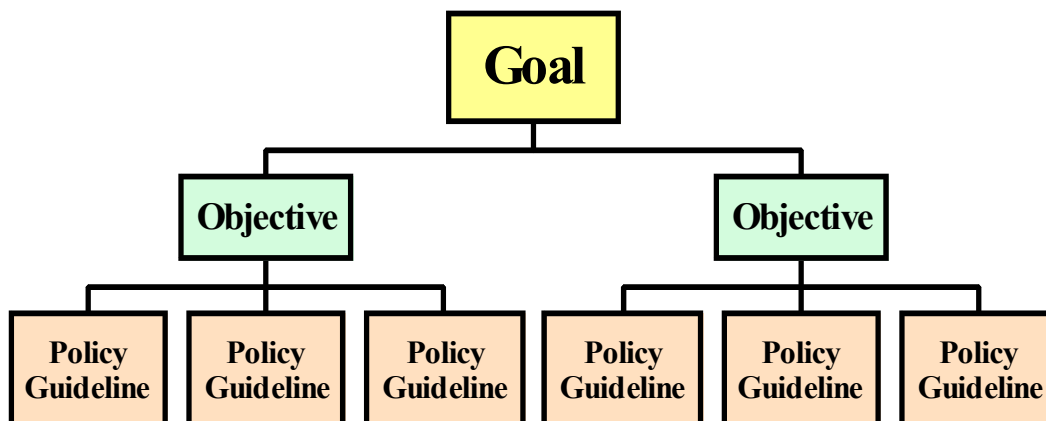
Throughout the Overall Plan, goals, objectives and policy guidelines are defined in the following way (also see Figure 5A).

Goal: This is an idealistic statement intended to be attained at some undetermined future date. Goals are purposely general in nature.

Objective: Objectives are action-oriented and can be measurable if a date, dollar amount, etc. is included. Objective statements always begin with an action verb. There may be more than one objective for a goal.

Policy Guideline: These statements support the action of the objective. The statements are recommendations often qualified by the word “should”. Policy guidelines can be used to create action work plans.

**Figure 5A
Goal, Objective & Policy Guideline Hierarchy**



GOAL 1: TO IMPROVE STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION, COOPERATION AND COORDINATION IN IMPLEMENTING THE DISTRICT'S INITIATIVES.

Objective A: Meet on an as needed basis with State and local units of government.

- Guideline 1: A contact person should be identified for each relevant State and local unit of government.
- Guideline 2: Meetings should be held as needed with each level of government to discuss important planning issues and to determine what opportunities exist to solve any conflicts and to share resources.
- Guideline 3: Technical assistance and guidance should be exchanged between local units of government in the development of water management plans, regulatory programs and other planning documents.
- Guideline 4: Comments and recommendations should be provided to State and local units of government on projects that have the potential to impact the water resources of the District.
- Guideline 5: As requested, the District should review and provide comments on permit applications filed with State agencies.

Objective B: Assist in the coordination of administrative activities between the District and local units of government.

- Guideline 1: Local controls, including ordinances and rules, should be periodically assessed for effectiveness, consistency and coordination, as they relate to water resource management.
- Guideline 2: When appropriate, authority and responsibility should be transferred to other local units of government for watershed management activities.
- Guideline 3: The District should adopt, by reference, the applicable and compatible provisions of county, city and township ordinances and plans.

Objective C: Appoint a Citizens Advisory Committee to address specific problems, issues and opportunities, as necessary.

- Guideline 1: Citizen Advisory Committee members should be selected based on expertise, credibility and objectiveness.

Objective D: Keep the public advised of important planning issues and events.

- Guideline 1: The media should be given a contact to receive agendas and should be notified of meetings and important planning issues.
 - Guideline 2: The Internet and other multi-media should be used, when feasible, to keep the public informed on District activities and issues.
 - Guideline 3: Public meetings should be held as needed to identify issues and to discuss the nature of important planning issues.
 - Guideline 4: Residents should have ample time to provide input into important District decisions.
 - Guideline 5: Data and other public information developed by the District should be made available to all those who request it.
 - Guideline 6: The District should actively pursue environmental education and outreach projects in conjunction with existing environmental education entities.
- Objective E: Utilize long-term planning and partnerships to cost-effectively fulfill District goals and address water resource management issues.
- Guideline 1: Appropriate financing mechanisms should be utilized to finance all District activities, including but not limited to mechanisms and procedures outlined in MN. Statutes 103D and 103B.
 - Guideline 2: Non-tax levy funding should be actively pursued in order to reduce the tax levy financing burden on the residents of the District and where appropriate seek partnerships and cooperative agreements to finance projects.
 - Guideline 3: The District should continue to apply for grants and other aid to support funding of targeted water resource management projects.

GOAL 2: TO ENSURE THAT AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF SURFACE WATER IS AVAILABLE FOR AGRICULTURAL, COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL, NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATIONAL PURPOSES, WHILE MINIMIZING FLOOD RELATED DAMAGE.

Objective A: Maintain the public drainage system to District and State specifications.

- Guideline 1: The District should continue to enforce the provisions of the Minnesota Drainage Code.

- Guideline 2: The benefits of a drainage system should be redetermined when they do not reflect current value or conditions.
- Guideline 3: A vegetative cover should be maintained on all ditch banks and slopes.
- Guideline 4: Overland flow of water into ditches should be avoided or filtered.
- Guideline 5: Evaluation of environmental review criteria related to a proposed drainage system project should be conducted after the project is initiated by petition, but prior to the public hearing stage.
- Guideline 6: The abandonment of public drainage ditches no longer providing a benefit to the public should be permitted.
- Guideline 7: Alternative drainage practices should be promoted to willing landowners as a viable option to replace existing open surface tile intakes.
- Guideline 8: The District should continue to implement the drainage coefficients outlined in the *Minnesota Drainage Guide*.

Objective B: Utilize both structural and nonstructural measures to stabilize hydrographs and reduce downstream flooding.

- Guideline 1: The District should strictly regulate the construction, alteration, repair and removal of water control structures.
- Guideline 2: The construction/installation of bridges, cables, culverts and pipelines should be regulated to maintain the integrity the District's waterways.
- Guideline 3: Upland storage areas should be preserved and, when possible, restored to slow surface runoff, stabilize stream hydrographs and reduce downstream flooding.

Objective C: Preserve existing wetlands through education and regulation and provide technical assistance to landowners desiring to restore wetlands.

- Guideline 1: Degradation of wetlands should be prevented by managing or buffering the direct and indirect activities that impact their quality.
- Guideline 2: Existing and future wetland inventories should be utilized to identify priority areas for wetland preservation and restoration.
- Guideline 3: Wetlands should be preserved through regulatory controls and conservation programs.

- Guideline 4: Opportunities should be sought to create new wetlands and restore previously impacted wetlands.
- Guideline 5: Wetland restoration programs should be promoted to willing landowners.
- Guideline 6: The establishment of exotic and invasive species in wetlands should be prevented.
- Guideline 7: Support the use of the wetland banking program in the District.

Objective D: Educate residents, as well as units of government, on the necessity of stormwater management and related District rules and regulations.

- Guideline 1: The public and governmental units should be informed of the District's stormwater management rules and regulations, as well as other applicable State and Federal regulations.
- Guideline 2: The District should provide assistance to the public and governmental units on the appropriate design requirements for stormwater management practices.
- Guideline 3: A working relationship with cities should be established and cultivated to explore opportunities to expand stormwater treatment to all urbanized areas of the District.
- Guideline 4: Efforts to educate the public on the need for stormwater management should focus upon the importance of minimizing imperviousness.
- Guideline 5: When feasible, stormwater management should be integrated with the functions and values of wetlands.
- Guideline 6: Permanent and temporary water retention and settling basins should be designed to enhance surface water quality.
- Guideline 7: Infiltration methods and techniques should be incorporated into District stormwater management projects and should be periodically studied and researched.

Objective E: Through land use controls, protect floodplain areas from encroachment to minimize flood-related damage.

- Guideline 1: The 100-year flood elevations should be well defined for all water bodies within the District by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Guideline 2: Water quantity control practices should be required on all new developments and redevelopment to preserve existing 100-year flood elevations.

Objective F: Continue surface water quantity monitoring efforts within the District.

Guideline 1: Water quantity monitoring programs within the District should be annually reviewed to assess achievement of water quantity standards and effectiveness of best management practices (BMPs).

GOAL 3: TO DECREASE THE NUTRIENT AND SEDIMENT CONCENTRATION OF SURFACE WATER TO THE 50TH PERCENTILE OF THE WESTERN CORN BELT PLAINS ECOREGION.

Objective A: Through education, encourage landowners to implement BMPs to protect the water resources of the District.

Guideline 1: The District, contractors and city and county staff should be educated on proper BMP installation and maintenance.

Guideline 2: Best management practices (BMPs) should be encouraged along all waterways and watercourses, with special emphasis on private and public ditches.

Guideline 3: The District should support and provide assistance, as available, to lake associations and other watershed related organizations on promoting and demonstrating lakescaping and other BMPs that reduce the movement of sediment and nutrients into lakes.

Guideline 4: District residents should be educated on issues related to nutrient and sediment reduction, as well as other sources of nonpoint source pollution.

Guideline 5: The District should annually review the effectiveness of conservation efforts and discuss anticipated future program needs.

Objective B: Utilize programs and regulations to protect water resources from potential pollution sources.

Guideline 1: Adequate erosion control measures should be incorporated into the designs of all proposed projects.

Guideline 2: All contractors, including “do-it-yourself” projects, should be held accountable for minimizing water runoff and soil erosion.

- Guideline 3: Erosion should be prevented during and after construction projects and ditch maintenance activities.
- Guideline 4: Support efforts by local units of government in the District to develop, adopt and administer performance standards that protect water resources.
- Guideline 5: Hazardous waste should be properly disposed of through the utilization of County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facilities and other regional collection facilities.
- Guideline 6: Abandoned above ground and under ground storage tanks should be filled or removed.
- Guideline 7: Feedlots and ISTSs should be held accountable to County and State regulations.
- Guideline 8: Municipal sewer systems should be held accountable to State and Federal discharge requirements.
- Guideline 9: New commercial and industrial development should be encouraged to locate within areas served by municipal sewer and water.
- Guideline 10: Unrestricted access of livestock to waterways should be prevented.
- Guideline 11: The District should notify the respective County when a ISTS failing to properly treat sewage is discovered.

Objective C: Continue surface water quality monitoring efforts within the District.

- Guideline 1: Water quality monitoring programs within the District should be annually reviewed to assess achievement of water quality standards and effectiveness of best management practices (BMPs).
- Guideline 2: The District should support the MPCA in the development of TMDL studies for impaired waterbodies and watercourses.
- Guideline 3: Agency, organization and volunteer efforts to monitor lakes and streams should be supported.
- Guideline 4: The District should support the MPCA in the development of management plans for lakes and streams.

GOAL 4: TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES AND RECREATIONAL AMENITIES OF MULTI-PURPOSE CORRIDORS.

Objective A: Protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat through established programs and principles.

Guideline 1: The District should support State and Federal agencies and organizations in identifying important conservation corridors before they are irreversibly fragmented because of development.

Guideline 2: Fish and wildlife habitat should be protected and enhanced through partnerships between local, State and Federal agencies, sportsman groups and other organizations.

Guideline 3: District residents should be educated on the relationship between fish and wildlife habitat and water quality, as well as opportunities to enhance and/or protect habitat through voluntary conservation programs.

Guideline 4: The District should support the DNR in the development of management plans for lakes and streams within its boundary.

Guideline 5: Stream impediments should be removed based upon sound ecological principles.

Objective B: Increase ecosystem stability by managing natural resources for biodiversity.

Guideline 1: Concepts of biotic diversity should be incorporated into projects when feasible (e.g. use of native grasses for buffer strips).

Guideline 2: Exceptional or unique resources identified by the County Biological Survey should be protected.

Objective C: Support efforts to maintain and improve recreational opportunities within the District.

Guideline 1: The District should provide technical and financial support, as available, to entities applying for grants and other available aid to fund recreational opportunities.

Guideline 2: Encourage the DNR and other applicable governmental units and organizations, to provide the public open and unimpeded access and use of all navigable public waters within the District.