CLAY COUNTY

LOCAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN Update

2006-2015

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Presentation Outline

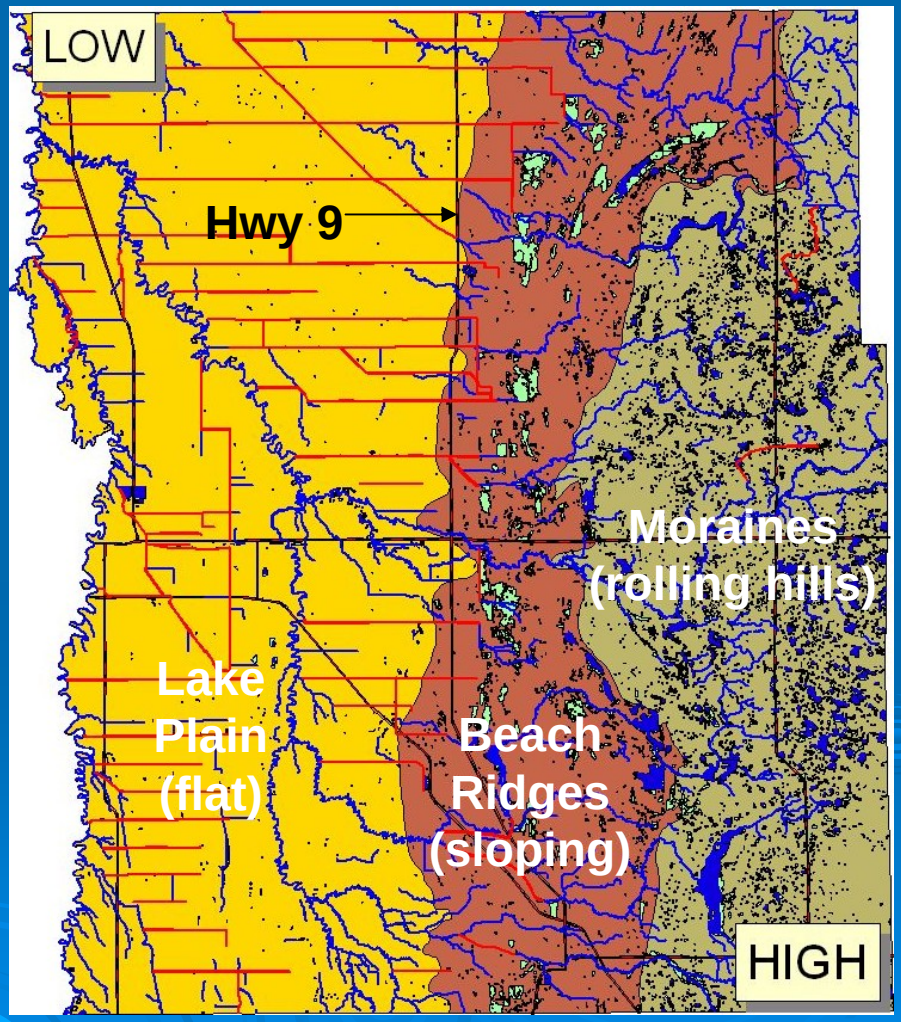
This presentation will address the following

1. History and Highlights of “water planning”
2. Timeline of Local Water Management Plan (LWMP) Development
3. Development of the LWMP
   - Gathering input & prioritizing concerns
   - Summary of Priority Concerns and Objectives
   - Assessments, goals, objectives and action items to address these concerns
   - State review and County adoption

A “primer” on Clay County

Plan development is grounded on existing factors;

- Geomorphic features are a result of glaciers
- Hwy. 9 divides County in half - Lake Agassiz Lake Plain (west) Lake Agassiz Beach Ridge & Moraines (east)
- Elevation Difference from SE to NW is over 650’ (majority in the E½)



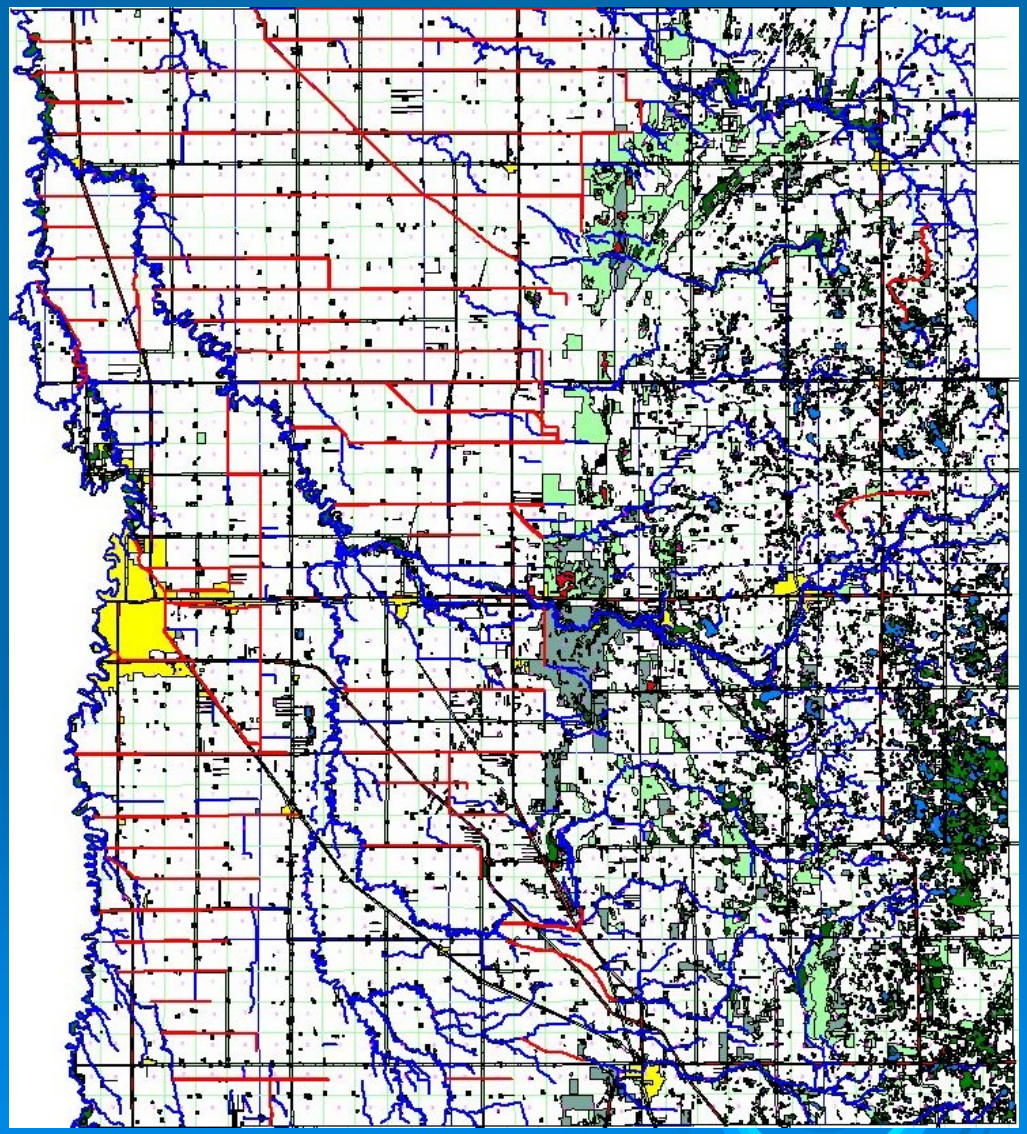
“primer” Continued

- Metro Area Population is about **160,000** (includes Moorhead, Dilworth, Fargo, & West Fargo)
- County population is roughly 51,200
- Moorhead is the largest of 15 towns with a population of about **32,000**, followed by Dilworth, Barnesville, Glyndon and Hawley

“primer” Continued

- Clay County is about **1,053** square miles in size. Land use is comprised of;
  - Cultivated Land = **81.4%**
  - Grassland, hayland & pasture = **7.9%**
  - Forested Land = **4.4%**
  - Urban & rural development = **2.5%**
  - Wetland = **1.6%**
  - Water = **1.1%**
  - Brushland = **0.9%**
  - Mining = **0.2%**

Land Use Map



West half of the County Is almost exclusively farmland

East half is mixed land use

Natural features reside primarily in the east half of the county with most areas along the glacial beach ridges

Program History

Comprehensive Local Water Management was passed into law in 1985 (MN Stat. 103B.301 to 103B.355) with the purpose of;

- Identifying existing and potential problems and opportunities for protection
- Implementing actions to address these issues
- Working towards effective environmental management in the County

CLWM Strengths

- A localized effort to understand the amount, characteristics and distribution of water resources (and land resources)
- Allows local decision makers to make intelligent, informed decisions to address water resource problems
- Advisory Committee is the local decision making body governing LWM

Program History

- The first generation Local Water Plan was adopted on June 12, 1990
- The second generation Local Water Plan was adopted on December 17, 1997
- 1999 – the Clay SWCD becomes Local Government Unit for CLWM
- Current plan expires December 31, 2005 (includes a 2 year extension)

Past Accomplishments

- Staffing: 25% FTE pre 1997, >50% thereafter
- Projects:
  - Nitrate Study of private domestic wells and subsequent county-wide Nitrate Testing Clinics
  - Initiation of abandoned well sealing c/s program resulting in 190 wells sealed through 2004
  - Digitization of the soil survey (maps and tabular data)
  - Buffalo Aquifer Clean Water Partnership Project
  - Clay/Wilkin Co. – 2000ac X 2000 Buffer Strip Project
  - Secured two competition-based MN Challenge Grants (Wetland Management 1999 and Watershed Erosion Assessments 2001)

Past Accomplishments

- Education:
  - "Paint the Drain" campaign for marking Moorhead storm sewer intakes
  - Annual Water Festivals for area 4th graders
  - River Watch – high school student based water quality monitoring program
  - Envirothon – High School student team-based environmental competition
  - Classroom presentations
  - Water resource / conservation articles

Past Accomplishments

- Inventories:
  - Feedlot locations (added to ordinance)
  - Underground storage tank locations
  - Flood Damaged sites (following 1997 & 2000 floods)
  - Private wells with high nitrates
  - Conservation practice potential (in targeted watersheds)

Overview of LWM Update Process

The LWM Advisory Committee is responsible for spearheading the Update process

- Phase 1: Priority Concerns Identification and Documentation
- Phase 2: Priority Concerns Review & Comment
- **Phase 3: Plan Development**
- **Phase 4: Public Hearing & Plan Approval**

LWM Advisory Committee

Kevin Campbell (Commissioner*)
Frank Kimm (Citizen)
Steve Dalen (SWCD*)
E. Robert Olson (BRRWD)
Gerry Van Amburg (BRRWD)
Bob Wright (WRWD)
Kevin Kassenborg (SWCD)
Tim Magnusson (County)
Bruce Jaster (County)
Cliff McLain (MPS)
Bob Backman (RiverKeepers)
Greg Hoch (Concordia College*)

Pete Waller (BWSR**)
Bruce Albright (BRRWD Adm.)
Mark Aanenson (WRWD Adm.)
Rick Abrahamson (Extension)
Brian Winter (TNC)
Bob Merritt (DNR)
Jack Frederick (MPCA)
Sharon Lean (NRCS)

* New members as of 2005
** The BWSR is the state oversight agency for LWM

Priority Concerns Development and Ranking

- Priorities were reviewed from recent, existing federal, state and local planning efforts and documents
- Current concerns were gauged through surveys in paper and electronic format by citizens, farmers and township supervisors
- Agencies and interest groups were invited to submit priority concerns
- LWMP Advisory Committee ranked the most prevalent priority concerns and selected four to focus on in the next ten years

Priority Concerns

The Advisory Committee rankings were tabulated resulting in the following:

1) Water Quality

2) Natural Resource Enhancement and Protection

3) Erosion

4) Flood Damage Reduction

LWM Plan Development

The third generation LWM Plan will include;

- An assessment of each Priority Concern
- Development of Goals, Objectives and Action Items to address each Priority Concern for a five-year implementation timeframe (another implementation plan will be developed for the last five years of the plan timeframe)

Priority Concern 1. ***WATER QUALITY***

GOALS

1. **Address Federal Clean Water Act "Impaired Waters" and degraded waters**
2. **Attempt to limit future impacts to water quality**
3. **Protect groundwater quality**

Hawley HS River Watch crew

Priority Concern 2. ***NATURAL RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT & PRESERVATION***

GOALS

1. **Focus efforts by region**
2. **Focus on riparian corridors**
3. **Challenge ALL county landowners to "do their part"**

Priority Concern 3. ***EROSION***

GOALS

1. Address soil erosion county-wide
2. Reduce streambank and in-stream erosion

Priority Concern 4.
FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION (FDR)

GOALS

1. Commit to county involvement in the FDR process

2. Involve all communities in the FDR process and strategies

Public Hearing and Plan Approval

- LWMP Update public hearing is scheduled for September 20, 2005, 8:50AM at the County Board Room
- The LWMP is submitted to the state for state agency review in mid September
- The BWSR Board acts on the LWMP and notifies the county of its decision in early December
- The county adopts the plan at its December Board Meeting

Closing Remarks

Clay County faces exciting yet challenging times. The environment in which we live and work in is dynamic – needs of society evolve, conservation priorities shift, and funding sources fluctuate.

The Clay SWCD eagerly awaits these challenges in the coming decade of

Local Water Management.

Comments?

If you have comments on the future of Local Water Management in Clay County, please submit comments **in writing** to:

The Clay SWCD

1506 30th Ave S, Suite B

Moorhead, MN 56560-5150