

III. GOALS AND POLICIES

The Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission (Commission) has developed a number of goals and policies that conform to the overall purpose that is specified in Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.201. These goals and policies have also been developed to preserve and use natural water storage and retention systems.

The primary goals of the Commission are to:

1. Protect, preserve, and manage surface water resources.
2. Manage public expenditures needed to study and control and/or correct flooding and water quality problems.
3. Educate and inform the public on pertinent water resource management issues and increase public participation in water management activities.
4. Establish more uniform local policies and official controls for surface water management.

These goals and policies have been developed to address issues related to water quantity, water quality, recreation, fish and wildlife, enhancement of public participation, information and education, public ditch system management, groundwater management, shoreland management, wetland management, and soil erosion management. Outlined below are the policies that have been developed for each of the above areas of concern. The standards associated with these policies are outlined in **Appendix F**.

A. **WATER QUANTITY**

Policies:

1. The Commission adopts the current FEMA study and the elevations outlined in the Flood Hazard Study for Pioneer Creek, Spurzem Creek, and Lake Robina Tributary.
2. The Commission shall establish floodplain management standards.
3. The Commission shall establish water quantity management standards.
4. The Commission shall develop standards to reduce the severity and frequency of flooding and high water by preventing the loss of floodplain storage below the established 100-year flood elevation.
5. The Commission shall develop standards to reduce the severity and frequency of flooding and high water by avoiding the loss of wetland storage.

SECTION III

6. The Commission shall develop standards to reduce the severity and frequency of flooding and high water by minimizing development in 100-year floodplains.
7. Relevant floodplain management costs shall be borne by the effected communities in the watershed in an equitable manner, as determined by the Commission.
8. The Commission prefers that stormwater rate control is provided through the use of regional stormwater retention systems when is it reasonable and practical to do so. The Commission also supports on-site retention systems when regional systems are not reasonable and practical.
9. The Commission shall encourage infiltration of precipitation and runoff where feasible and practical.
10. The Commission shall develop standards to manage stream flow volumes to reduce erosion and prevent stream degradation.
11. The Commission shall establish a water quantity-monitoring plan.

B. WATER QUALITY

Policies:

1. The Commission adopts the DNR model shoreland ordinance.
2. The Commission adopts the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Best Management Practices.
3. The Commission shall establish standards for stormwater treatment practices to address degradation of lakes and streams.
4. Wetlands will be managed in accordance with the local Wetland Management Plan.
5. The Commission will establish a comprehensive water quality-monitoring plan for area lakes and streams.
6. The Commission will establish water quality goals for judging the adequacy of its water quality protection programs.
7. The Commission shall promote the management of stormwater runoff quality on a regional basis in areas where it is reasonable and practical to do so. The Commission shall also manage stormwater runoff quality on a site-by-site basis when regional methods are not feasible.
8. The Commission will coordinate with other agencies' efforts in monitoring, maintaining, and improving surface water quality within the watershed.

SECTION III

9. Upon request from a member city, the Commission shall provide services to assist the member cities in obtaining National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II permits once this program is implemented by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.
10. The Commission shall establish manure management standards.
11. The Commission shall establish setback, fencing, and other standards for livestock operations located on or near wetland, lakes, or streams.
12. The Commission shall review the progress and policies related to Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL's) as they become available.

C. RECREATION, FISH, AND WILDLIFE

Policies:

1. The Commission encourages fish and wildlife habitat protection and enhancement opportunities as part of surface water management practices.
2. The Commission will work with and support to the maximum extent practical the efforts of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the US Corps of Engineers, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Hennepin Conservation District, and Three Rivers Park District and other appropriate agencies in promoting public enjoyment and protecting fish, wildlife, and recreational resource values in the watershed.

D. ENHANCEMENT OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, INFORMATION, AND EDUCATION

Policies:

1. The Commission shall establish a Commission-based public education program regarding watershed management practices. Information about this program can be found in **Appendix G**.
2. The Commission encourages member cities to develop water resource public education programs.
3. The Commission will work with and support to the extent deemed necessary the efforts of the Hennepin Conservation District, Department of Natural Resources and others to develop and enhance public education programs.

E. PUBLIC DITCH SYSTEMS

Policies:

SECTION III

1. The public ditch systems within the Commission will be managed by Hennepin County, which is the public ditch authority. The Commission may consider other management options in the future.

F. GROUNDWATER

Policies:

1. The Commission will promote and coordinate with other agencies the continuation of existing groundwater monitoring, inventories, and/or permitting programs.
2. The Commission will assist member communities or other governmental agencies in resolving groundwater quality problems to the greatest extent feasible and practical.
3. The Commission shall encourage groundwater infiltration and recharge where feasible and practical.

G. WETLANDS

Policies:

1. The Commission shall act as the Wetland Conservation Act's Local Government Unit (LGU) for those communities that choose to utilize this service.
2. The Commission will protect and manage wetlands in conformance with the State Wetland Conservation Act (WCA).
3. The Commission will support the local cities' efforts to become qualified to assume the LGU role to manage wetlands.
4. Before consideration or approval of a wetland replacement plan or use of wetland banking credits, the Commission will ensure that the applicant has exhausted all possibilities to avoid and minimize adverse wetland impacts according to the sequencing requirements of the Wetland Conservation Act.

The order of descending priority for the location of replacement wetland, including the use of wetland banking credits, is as follows:

- a. On-site;
 - b. With in the same subwatershed;
 - c. Within the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed; and
 - d. Outside the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed within Major Watershed Number 18, Major Watershed Number 19, or within the County.
5. The order of descending preference for the wetland construction methods is as follows:

- a. Restoration; and
- b. Creation

H. EROSION

Policies:

1. The Commission shall develop and implement standards to minimize erosion due to development activities.
2. The Commission will coordinate, where appropriate, with other agencies' efforts to implement Best Management Practice regarding erosion and sedimentation control.
3. The Commission will identify locations for erosion control improvement projects.
4. The Commission shall coordinate with the Hennepin Conservation District and the Natural Resource Conservation Service to provide technical assistance and cost share programs regarding erosion control for farmers as funding becomes available.