

**PRAP****Performance Review and Assistance Program****2010 Level II Review: Aitkin County Local Water Management** (*Aitkin 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 **Aitkin County** local water management program in concert with the review of the Aitkin 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 county's program. The water plan task force, county board and staff are responsible for taking any actions they decide are necessary in response to the recommendations in this report.

**Aitkin County Local Water Management Summary of Performance Review Results****What BWSR Found**

Aitkin County is making good progress implementing the provisions of the local water plan for which they are responsible. The county's water plan task force provides a forum to discuss citizen concerns, program priorities, and actively supports the education of Aitkin County's citizens regarding the protection of water resources.

The county program staff benefit from a strong working relationship with the Aitkin SWCD, to which they have delegated the water planner responsibilities and the oversight of the water plan task force.

**Action Items**

There are no action items (immediate steps needed to correct operational deficiencies).

**Commendations**

The Aitkin County water plan task force and staff are commended for meeting these high performance standards.

- ★ Public drainage records modernized
- ★ Non-state \$ leveraged with all state funds
- ★ Comparison of planned with actual program expenditures
- ★ Water quality trends tracked for priority water bodies
- ★ Obtain stakeholder input: within last 5 yrs
- ★ Partnerships: liaison with SWCDs/WDs and cooperative projects/tasks done
- ★ County local water plan on county website
- ★ Water management ordinances on county website

BWSR has suggested additional tracking of public education and outreach efforts.