

North & East Metro Groundwater Management Area

Implementation Activities Update: November 2019 – May 2020

Objective I. Groundwater use in the GWMA does not harm aquifers and ecosystems and does not negatively impact surface waters.

- Ramsey County in collaboration with the DNR Geologic Atlas Unit has initiated work to update Part A of the County Geologic Atlas with the Minnesota Geological Survey (Plan part I.4.e.ii).
- DNR Water Monitoring and Surveys Unit performed a baseflow analysis on Valley Creek to include in the model for the 3M settlement project (Plan part I.1.a.i).
- DNR Water Monitoring and Surveys Unit received a request for additional lake gages to be installed for water level monitoring in Washington County (Plan part I.1.a.ii).
- DNR Water Monitoring and Surveys Unit will be adding observation wells in the North and East Metro GWMA (Plan part I.1.a.iii).
- DNR Hydrogeology Unit staff have refined the transient groundwater flow model with data from community population projections through 2040 (Plan part I.1.c.i.).
- The DNR developed a new groundwater brochure for educational and outreach purposes. It is titled, “Managing Minnesota water: balancing use and natural resource needs” and covers the basics of groundwater management. The brochure has been distributed at events throughout the state (Plan part I.4.d).
- In March 2020, the president of the National Theater for Children Company (NTC) gave a presentation to the Promoting Water Conservation Partnership, including NE Metro staff. This international organization, based in Minneapolis, provides k-12 educational live performances, graphic novels, print curriculum, digital games and activities on many STEM disciplines including the water cycle and water conservation (Plan part I.4.d).
- DNR Water Monitoring and Surveys Unit continues to refine website for reviewing observation well hydrographs, water quality data and reported permitted use data (Plan part I.5.a).
- DNR staff continue to review municipal/public water supply plans to address the potential of groundwater appropriations on nearby surface waters (Plan part I.6).

Objective II. Groundwater use in the GWMA is reasonable, efficient, and complies with water conservation requirements.

- DNR water supply plan template for municipal/public water suppliers includes a section on numerous water conservation strategies to implement over the 10-year plan implementation period (Part plan II.1.e).
- Municipal/public water suppliers completed year 3 of reporting water conservation and efficiency accomplishments in the DNR Water Conservation Reporting System. Commercial, Industrial and Institutional water appropriation permittees began reporting in 2019. In January 2020, small communities serving under 1,000 people began reporting water conservation and efficiency efforts (Plan part II.2.b.).
- The DNR continues to help municipal/public water suppliers evaluate their municipal water conservation and efficiency reports, provide an analysis of their accomplishments, and find areas for improvement (Plan part II.2.b).
- The Annual DNR Water Conservation Report (a product of the permittee reporting in the DNR Water Conservation Reporting System) contains success stories and lessons learned from around the state and is posted on the DNR Water Conservation Webpage (Plan part II.2.a.)
- DNR uses social media to post on water topics such as Fix-A-Leak Week, Imagine A Day Without Water, World Water Day, and other water-related topics (Plan part II.2.c).
- The DNR continues to work with organizations on a Promoting Water Conservation Partnership to increase water efficiency and conservation throughout the entire state. Community representatives within the NE Metro GWMA regularly participate in these discussions. The group meets five times per year (Plan part II.2.a. and II.3).
- DNR water supply plans in the North and East Metro GWMA continue to make good progress on plan completion, review and approval. DNR staff may need an extra year to complete final approval of all plans due to DNR groundwater staff and municipal/public water supplier reviews and revisions (Plan part II.4.a.).
- DNR Groundwater Technical and Analysis Unit staff continue to review community water supply plans in the North & East Metro GWMA. Groundwater technical staff perform their review as it relates to groundwater levels, water quality concerns and connections to surface waters (Plan part I., II., III.).

Objective III. Groundwater use in the GWMA does not degrade water quality

- DNR Geologic Atlas Unit staff continue to support the 3M settlement project with geological information of the area for project managers and scientists (Plan part III.4.).

Objective IV. Groundwater use in the GWMA does not create unresolved well interferences or water use conflicts.

- The DNR has not received any well interference complaints in the past five years in the GWMA (Plan part IV.4.).

Objective V. All groundwater users in the GWMA have the necessary permits to use groundwater.

- DNR water appropriation website includes a method to contact staff about unpermitted water use (Plan part V.1.d).
- DNR water use permitting staff completed 53 permitting actions with the majority (38) of requests for temporary water use under the DNR General Permit No. 1997-0005 (Plan part V.1, V.2.a., and V.3).
- In January 2020, DNR staff presented at the MN Water Well Association during their annual convention in St. Cloud. The presentation focused on examples of well interference resolution with high capacity water users and private domestic wells (Plan part V.1.c.).