

ERWA Strategic Plan

Adopted 7-11-2016

Purpose

Coordinate actions related to common activities in the Sherburne and Benton County comprehensive local water management plans within the Elk River watershed. *Solicit funding* to support these activities related to water resources.

Reduce property damage and the negative water quality impacts caused by flooding. *Evaluate* the watershed to determine where the flooding potential originates. *Solicit funding* and provide technical assistance to assist property owners with flood mitigation projects.

Protect water resources that meet state water quality standards, *improve water resources* that don't meet state water quality standards and *evaluate the quality of surface water*. *Solicit funding* assistance to promote and assist with the installation of Best Management Practices within the watershed.

Vision

The ERWA vision is to be a highly effective and visible watershed organization, funded by county contributions, state and federal grants and other appropriate sources, implementing conservation projects, improving water quality and reducing flooding, while raising the level of active stewardship among watershed residents.

The Elk River Watershed Association will seek annual project funding, including staffing for the respective SWCDs where appropriate. The Elk River Watershed Association will employ no staff, and will rely on staff from the respective SWCDs.

Goals

- Complete farm environmental assessments, focusing on “Tier 1 & Tier 2” priority areas, as identified in TMDL documents. Provide assistance as necessary to install the best management practices identified.
- Provide assistance to small/hobby farms to install BMPs as identified in county local water management plans.
- Provide outreach activities to increase the visibility of the Elk River Watershed Association.
- Participate in the 1W1P – “One Water, One Plan” planning process when the process is initiated in the area that includes the Elk River Watershed.
- Promote and provide support for the installation of filter strips, buffer strips and managed grazing systems along water courses in the Elk River watershed.
- Address flooding concerns by initiating the following prioritized activities:
 1. Identify focus area (perhaps through a flood mitigation study or other assessment) and identify potential causes of flooding.
 2. Strategically install implementation BMP's (wetland restorations, soil health practices, etc.) where identified as a result of the study or assessment.
- Analyze and assess water quality monitoring data to determine trends and current conditions. Conduct additional water quality monitoring, if found to be necessary to perform this analysis. Improve understanding of water quality trends to make informed decisions about future activities.