

SECTION 8: IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANNED MEASURES

Programmatic Action Plan

Section 5 of this report includes an itemized action plan (see tables at the end of Section 5) for each of the six goals established by the Steering Committee. This implementation plan identifies the objectives and action items, assigns a priority order ranking using a low/medium/high system, identifies the responsible party or parties involved with the implementation of the actions, and outlines both the technical and financial assistance for each action item. Goal #1 is to sustain the financial and institutional capacity of a stakeholders group and to increase the collaboration of both urban and agricultural stakeholders to eliminate program duplication, reduce costs, and identify effective solutions. The objectives and action items outlined in goal #1 are to be accomplished within the short term. Goal # 3 is to reduce the concentration levels of *E. coli* so the primary and secondary contact waters within the Watershed do not pose an adverse human health impact. By the year 2027, surface waters within the Elkhart River Watershed will comply with State water quality standards of 235 cfu per 100 ml of *E. coli*. The objectives and action items outlined in goal #3 are meant to be accomplished within the long term. Goals # 2, 4, 5, and 6 are meant to be accomplished throughout 20 years with a linear approach. Goal #2 is to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation so that surface water functions and aesthetics are improved and protected. By the year 2027, surface waters within the Elkhart River Watershed will comply with the Steering Committee's target based on the recommended water quality threshold of 80 mg/L TSS. Goal #4 is to reduce the amount of nutrient loading (phosphorus and nitrogen) so that surface water functions and aesthetics are improved and protected. By the year 2027, surface waters within the Elkhart River Watershed will comply with the Steering Committee's target based on the recommended water quality threshold of 10 mg/L of nitrate/nitrite and 0.3 mg/L of phosphorus. Goal #5 is to increase preservation, restoration, and appreciation of open space, and maintain proper balance between the many diverse landuses in the Elkhart River Watershed. Goal #6 is to develop an outreach and education program that keeps stakeholders involved in issues in the Watershed, and coordinate volunteer activities that benefit the health of the Elkhart River Watershed.

Interim Measurable Milestones

Table 55a through f in Appendix A lists the measurable milestones for each of the six goals identified by the Steering Committee. Each goal is divided into three categories consisting of: Short Term Milestones and Measurable Goals, Medium Range Milestones and Measurable Goals, and Long Term Milestones and Measurable Goals. These milestones have been suggested in order to help track the process of implementing action items within the Elkhart River Watershed.