

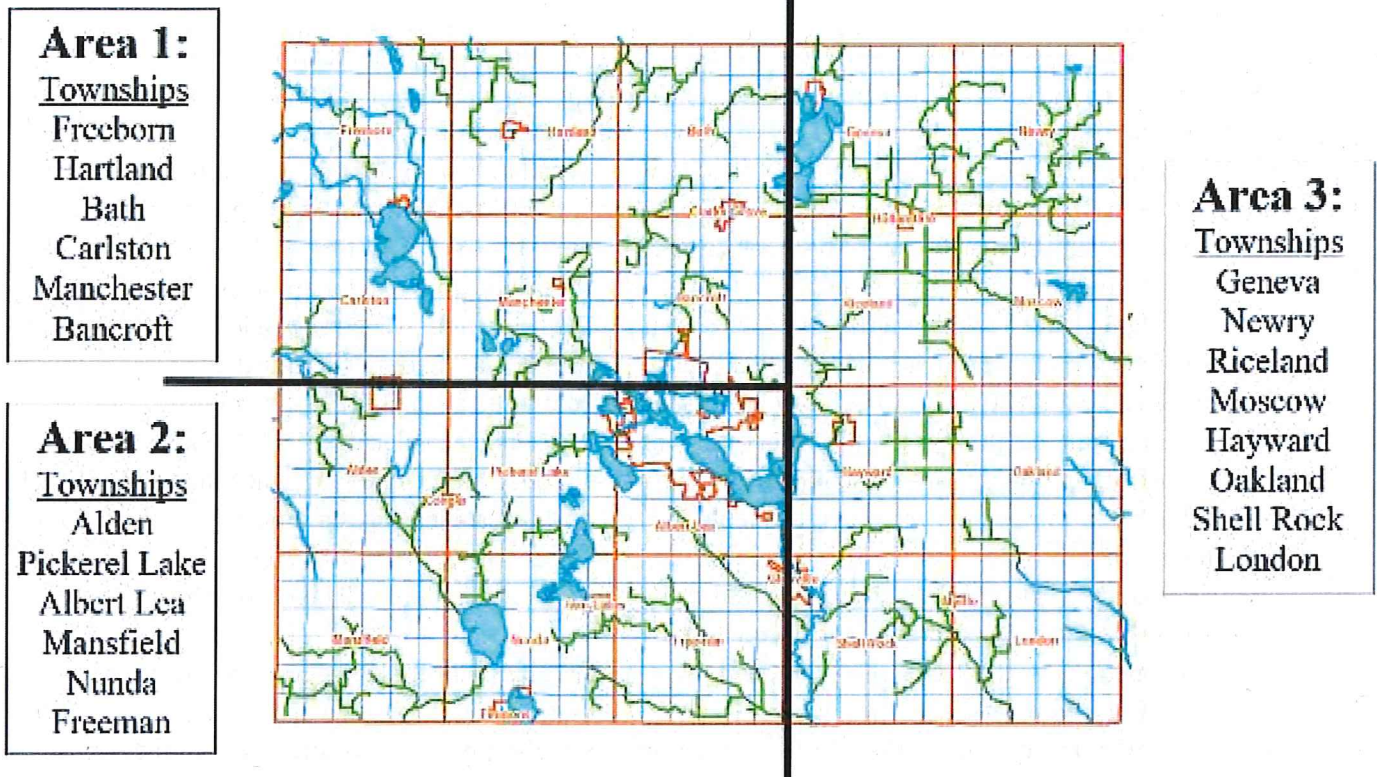
# FREEBORN SWCD MONITORING PLAN FOR BUFFER COMPLIANCE TRACKING

## §103F.48 RIPARIAN PROTECTION AND WATER QUALITY PRACTICES

### 1. COMPLIANCE TRACKING OF ALL PARCELS SUBJECT TO THE BUFFER LAW

All parcels in the county are to be reviewed within a 3 year timeframe. The SWCD will chose how this process is to be completed.

- a. Review of 1/3 of parcels each year (*Include a map*) (Attachment A)



### 2. RANDOM SPOT CHECKS

Random spot checks will be done in addition to the tracking of all parcels within a 3 year span. These checks may be conducted via aerial photo review or on-site review depending on availability of updated aerial photos and the practice that is being checked/access to farms. A combination of both aerial and on-site review may also be used. )

- a. The SWCD will conduct 25-50 parcels on a random spot check each year outside of the scheduled area.
- b. Additionally, the SWCD should review parcels of emphasis more frequently.
  - Previously non-compliant
  - No-till/Conservation tillage or cover crop alternative practice plans
  - Variable width buffers (i.e. Land O' Lakes buffer tool, Decision Support Tool)
  - Other Alternative Practice Plans
  - Cost-share funded projects (years 1,3,9 of contract)
  - Parcels of further emphasis (potential violators)

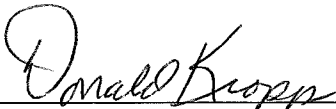
### 3. PROCESS TO HANDLE COMPLAINTS

When a complaint is made to the SWCD about a parcel relating to buffer compliance the steps will be taken below:

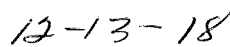
1. Documentation will be taken:
  - a. Date the complaint was made
  - b. Date the buffer was evaluated by the public compliant maker as being out of compliance
  - c. Description of why the parcel is possibly out of compliance
  - d. Landowner of the parcel believed to be out of compliance
  - e. Location of the parcel
  - f. Other details necessary in regards to the parcel possibly being out of compliance
2. The SWCD will then evaluate our files to see what width of buffer was agreed on and make sure there isn't an alternative practice installed on the parcel resulting in a shorter width buffer.
3. If the complaint is regarding invasive plants or noxious weeds the landowner will be contacted by letter to schedule a site visit with the SWCD and County within 30 days to evaluate the severity of the complaint what may be the best solution to eradicating the invasive plants or noxious weeds. As long as the landowner makes efforts to get rid of the invasive plants and noxious weeds there will be no enforcement actions.
4. If there isn't anything that can deem the parcel as compliant the landowner will be sent a letter from the SWCD with board of supervisors approval. The letter will state their parcel may be out of compliance and they must contact the SWCD within 30 days of the letter being sent out to discuss a plan to solve the matter.
5. If the landowner contacts the SWCD office the SWCD and County will make a plan to visit the parcel to site verify the compliance status and if there is a compliance issue present the SWCD and County will make a plan to bring the parcel back into compliance within a reasonable amount of time considering the time of year in which the complaint was made.
  - a. If a re-seeding plan needs to be completed the NRCS seeding standard will be used to ensure the buffer will be adequately re-established with no issues.
  - b. If the landowner is not willing to work with the SWCD at this point the parcel will be sent to the county for enforcement actions.
6. If the landowner does not contact the SWCD office within the 30 day period of the letter being sent out the parcel will be turned over to the county for enforcement actions.

#### SIGNATURE

Requested By:



SWCD Chair Signature



Date