

Priority Level	Description
A	Highest priority issues to address during the 10-year lifespan of the plan. These are issues that are currently a high priority, being addressed through current efforts, and also ranked highest during the prioritization process.
B	Medium priority issues to address during the 10-year lifespan of the plan. These are a combination of issues that 1) are being addressed through current efforts but did not rank as high during the prioritization process, and 2) issues that are not currently focused on, but have been elevated based on the results of the prioritization process. Also included in this category are issues that have the potential to increase in priority, once additional information is obtained.
C	Lesser priority issues that will not be directly focused on during the 10-year lifespan of the plan. These are issues that have not been a current focus and also ranked low in the prioritization process. Also included in this grouping are issues that are primarily the responsibility of other entities outside of the planning partners. These entities include State of Federal agencies, and their actions may serve to benefit some of these issues, however, this plan and the direct actions of the planning partners, resulting from the plan, will not focus on these issues.

Final Planning Team Prioritization

Priority Level	Issue Statement
A	Increased erosion and sedimentation from upland sources in excess of natural rates.
	Altered hydrology associated with a change in the water quantity, timing, and variability of flow in water courses, which impacts stream geomorphology and is a stressor for aquatic life.
	Increased surface runoff contributes to flood conditions which has economic, environmental, social, and health and safety implications.
	Instability impacting stream and river bank and channel integrity.
	Increased phosphorus loading contributing to elevated concentrations in waterbodies approaching (protection) or exceeding (restoration) water quality standards for aquatic life.
	Decreased soil health and its impact on agricultural productivity, water quality and water-holding capacity.
B	Reduced integrity, health, and functionality of high-value wetlands.
	Increased nitrogen loading contributing to elevated concentrations in waterbodies approaching (protection) or exceeding (restoration) water quality standards for aquatic life and drinking water.
	The need to prioritize protection of surface water and groundwater drinking water supplies.
	Low dissolved oxygen conditions in streams not attributable to natural conditions.
	Lack of public awareness and understanding of water issues like drainage, erosion, salt application, chemical contaminants (e.g. fertilizers, pesticides, household waste, prescription drugs) and legacy contaminants (e.g. mercury and PCBs).
	Increased bacteria (E. coli) loading contributing to elevated concentrations in waterbodies approaching (protection) or exceeding (restoration) water quality standards for aquatic recreation.
	Instability impacting public drainage system performance.
Instability impacting lake shore integrity.	

Priority Level	Issue Statement
C	Groundwater is at risk of being depleted because of overuse and loss of recharge due to pressures from agriculture, development, and industry.
	Lack of consistent and dedicated funding to implement programs of common good to make improvements and manage water resources effectively.
	Resilience planning for the increased frequency of extreme weather events that exacerbate flooding, agricultural, commercial, and residential damages and hinder the operational capacity of entities involved in water resource management.
	Reduced stream habitat quality not attributable to natural conditions as a primary stressor on bio-impaired surface waters.
	Coordinated approach to flood management and planning in accordance with Flood Damage Reduction principles.
	Degradation and fragmentation of terrestrial habitat and the impacts on species richness and diversity as well as water quality.
	Resilience planning for the increased probability of prolonged drought and its impact on agricultural, aquatic and terrestrial habitat, surface and groundwater supplies.
	Sustainable and coordinated approach to planning and management of groundwater resources and their interconnection to surface waters.
	The impacts of increased development on shoreland stability and surface water quality.
	Comprehensive monitoring and data collection including surface and groundwater quality, flow and stage monitoring, volunteer monitoring, and digital elevation data.
	Outdated benefit determination for many agricultural drainage systems.
	Terrestrial invasive species impacts on areas with high quality vegetation.
	Coordinated approach among LGUs to administering statutory obligations.
	Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) impacts on habitat, recreation, and economic development.
	Suitable recreational access to lakes, rivers, and streams.
Emphasis on wild rice habitat enhancement, protection, and restoration for cultural, economic, and wildlife benefit.	