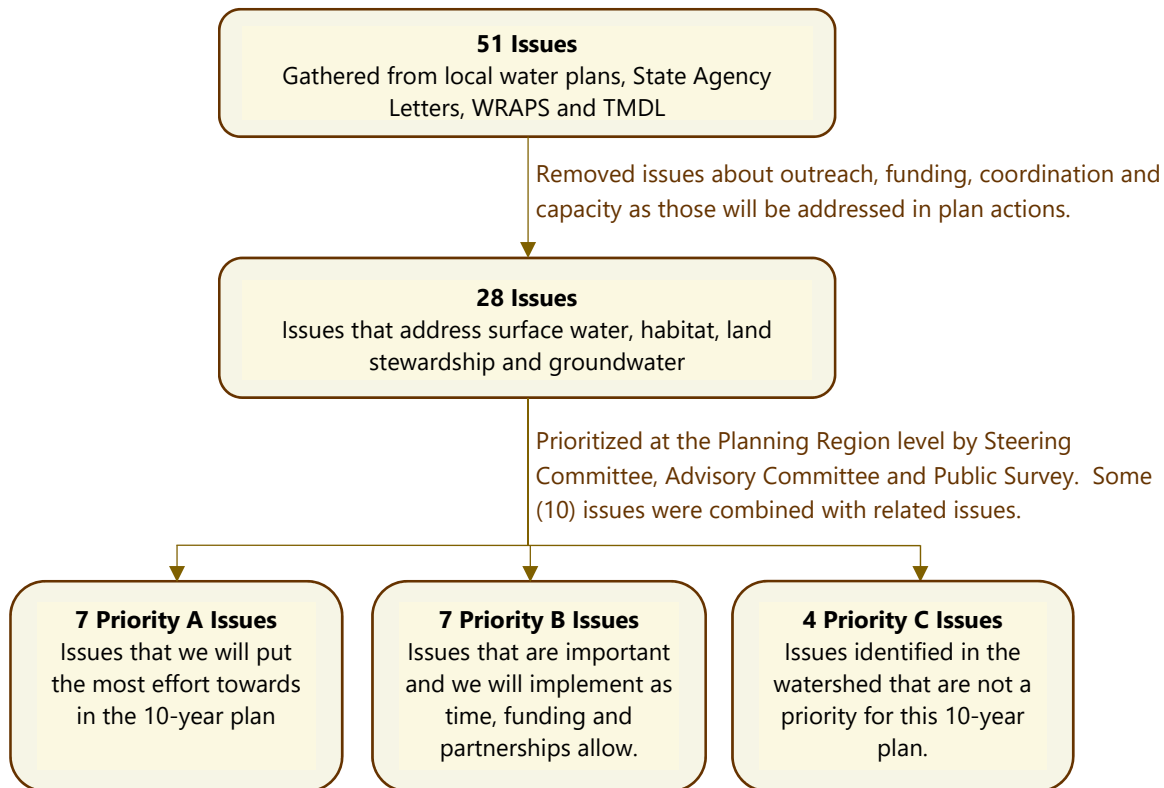


Issue Prioritization

The One Watershed One Plan process requires thoughtful consideration of issues and resource concerns identified in the watershed and priority issues and resources that will be addressed in the plan. The issues for the Wild Rice – Marsh Watershed were generated and prioritized with a variety of input from the general public, the Advisory Committee, State Agencies, and existing local and regional plans (Figure below).

















All of these efforts have resulted in the draft issues table in the following two pages. The priority A and B issues will have goals written for them in the next step of the planning process. Issues are prioritized by their importance in each planning region: high, medium, low. The “Notes” column has comments of what all is included under that issue statement so the information is carried through to the next step of the planning process. The “Notes” column will go away in the final plan.

Priority A Issues

Priority A are the most important issues that we will put the most effort towards in the 10-year plan. They had a “high” ranking in at least one planning region.















Planning Region Prioritization Key:  = high priority;  = medium priority;  = low priority.

Category	Resource	Planning Region Prioritization	Issue Statement	Notes
 Land Stewardship	Land, water, habitat		Increased flooding has economic, environmental, social, and health and safety implications.	Economic impacts; #1 rank public issue
 Land Stewardship	Agricultural land		Decreased soil health can impact agricultural productivity and water-holding capacity.	Cover crops, no till, etc.
 Surface Water	Rivers, Streams, Lakes		Increased phosphorus loading contributes to elevated concentrations in lakes and streams, causing eutrophication.	
 Surface Water	Rivers, Streams, Drainage Systems		Wind and water erosion of cropland and upland delivers sediment to streams and drainage systems.	Address DO impairments here; #3 rank public issue
 Surface Water	Rivers, Streams, Drainage Systems		Altered hydrology associated with a change in the water quantity, timing, and variability of flow in water courses, impacts stream geomorphology and is a stressor for aquatic life.	Environmental impacts
 Surface Water	Rivers, Streams, Drainage Systems		Riparian instability impacts stream, riverbank and drainage system channel integrity .	Environmental and hydrologic impacts
 Habitat	Wild Rice		Wild rice needs continued protection for habitat, cultural, economic, and wildlife benefit.	Continue funding for RIM wild rice protective easements

Priority B Issues

Priority B issues are important and we will work on them as time, funding, and partnerships allow. They received a “medium” ranking in at least one planning region.

Planning Region Prioritization Key:  = high priority;  = medium priority;  = low priority.

Category	Resource	Planning Region Prioritization	Issue Statement	Notes
	Drinking Water		Groundwater is vulnerable to contamination from numerous sources.	Includes nitrates, arsenic, pesticides, protection through well-sealing, DWSMAs
	Forests, Grasslands		Terrestrial habitat , including forests and grasslands , is degraded or at risk of degradation, which impacts species richness, diversity and ecologically sensitive resources as well as water quality.	Combined forests and uplands, address terrestrial invasive species, pollinators, here.
	Aquatic Habitat		Insufficient protection of high-quality stream systems, and reduced connectivity and degradation of stream habitat quality impacts fish and other aquatic species.	Includes bio-stressors, protection, dams, culverts
	Unique Features		Sensitive and ecologically significant resources such as beach ridge areas and calcareous fens need continued and increased protection from degradation.	Prairie core and corridor from Prairie Plan. This was brought up at public kick-off.
	Lakes		Development pressure on lakes affects riparian habitat, shoreline erosion and runoff.	Impervious surface, shoreline buffers, 2nd tier development
	Streams		Increased bacteria (E. coli) loading contributes to elevated concentrations in waterbodies, which can impact aquatic recreation.	Septic systems, pasture management, bacteria impairments
	Wetlands		Wetlands are in continued need of protection and restoration which helps with precipitation storage, maintaining lake water levels, and habitat.	Continue to enforce WCA, restore wetlands where possible; #4 rank public issue

Priority C Issues

Priority C are issues that were identified in the planning process but will not be a priority in the 10-year plan.

- Increased **nitrogen** loading contributing to elevated concentrations in waterbodies.
- Groundwater **sustainability** is vulnerable to overuse and loss of recharge.
- **Aquatic Invasive Species** (AIS) impacts on habitat, recreation, and economic development. *[note: this is an issue, but it is already addressed by the county AIS plans and AIS funding].*
- **Increased access** to public land and public waters.