

Table 30: Vision, Goals, and Objectives of the Plan**Vision**

The Headwaters of South Skunk River WMA will bring together farmers, landowners, residents, soil and water conservation districts, cities, counties, and other stakeholders through an “all in it together” approach towards watershed management. Education, outreach, and voluntary efforts will be used to improve water quality, increase flood resiliency, and enhance soil health across the watershed.

Goal 1

Generate and maintain full political, technical, and public support across all participating political subdivisions and other stakeholders to ensure plan sustainability.

Objective 1.1

Expand WMA membership to all eligible cities, counties, and SWCDs by the end of 2024.

Objective 1.2

Increase the number of individuals, businesses, nonprofits, government entities, and others that participate in WMA meetings or watershed projects by 10% each year.

Goal 2

Improve water quality to enhance quality of life, environmental integrity, and recreational opportunities, within the watershed.

Objective 1.1

Reduce annual median nitrate levels by 41%, from 8.8 mg/L to 5.2 mg/L, by 2035, based on the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

Objective 1.2

Reduce annual median total phosphorus levels by 29%, from 0.14 mg/L to 0.01 mg/L, by 2035, based on the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

Objective 1.3

Reduce current annual levels of sediment loading* to streams by 10% from 11.5 mg/L to 10.4 mg/L, through reducing in-field erosion and/or stream erosion.

**Sediment loading rates currently measured by TSS sampling*

Objective 1.4

Maintain *E. coli* bacteria levels to ensure no samples exceed 235 organisms/100mL and that the seasonal geometric mean is maintained below 126 organisms/100mL.

Goal 3

More widely and deeply affect water quality improvements in the watershed by increasing individual and community commitment to water quality.

Objective 3.1

Form an education and outreach committee as part of the WMA by the end of 2023. This committee will work with partners to implement the education plan and action items.

Objective 3.2

Set up HWSSRWMA webpages or links on partner websites by 2024.

Objective 3.3

By the end of 2025 hold a minimum of two outreach and education event in the watershed per year (one in Story County, one in Hamilton County).

Objective 3.4

By the end of 2023, expand regular stream monitoring efforts into Hamilton County.