



Growth And Change

With the approach of the new millennium, Minnehaha County will be expected to address quality of life and public expenditure issues resulting from a growing population and economic base. It is important, therefore, that a process be in place to ensure that proper and timely decisions are made in allocating the county's finite physical resources among competing land uses.

Growth presents many opportunities but with it comes the certainty of change. Rural water systems have been constructed, supplying safe and dependable water to farms and rural residences. In some instances, concentrations of faulty septic systems have been replaced by sanitary districts to eliminate groundwater contamination and health risks. Township supervisors are confronted with the complexities of urban type issues, including demands for improved roads and better maintenance. Building expansion is fueling the need for additional sources of construction aggregate. Municipal facilities such as well fields, sanitary landfills, and wastewater treatment operations have expanded into

the rural area. The cumulative effect of these changes has had far reaching impacts on traditional agricultural areas.

Uncontrolled growth is generally accompanied by sprawl, scattered development, conflicting land uses, costly public services and improvements, and environmental damage. Significant strides have taken place in the last 20 years to minimize the negative impacts associated with growth. This plan is intended to strengthen the county's planning efforts by providing information and direction to decision makers for managing anticipated growth and making change a positive experience for county residents.