Steamboat on the Upper Mississippi River, circa 1910
Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

Section 3 – Upper Mississippi River Issues and Needs Identification

The needs identification process for the Upper Mississippi River Basin Water Quality Plan consisted of two separate activities to identify the water quality issues facing the Upper Mississippi River Basin. As the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency was beginning the Upper Mississippi River Basin Planning process, the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board completed the revision of the State Water Plan, *Watermarks 2000*. The public input meetings on the State Water Plan identified needs and issues for inclusion in the Upper Mississippi River Basin Water Quality Plan.

Additionally, the MPCA conducted stakeholder surveys in four of the five planning areas of the Upper Mississippi River Basin. The issues identified were then used to develop goals and implementation strategies for the Upper Mississippi River Basin Water Quality Plan. The Crow River Watershed Planning Unit also conducted a separate needs identification process, which the MPCA incorporated into this Basin Plan.